



PHHWV Norman, Tilly and Winney on the road to recovery

<https://www.phhwv.org.au/>

Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Inc. (PHHWV) is a non-profit organisation committed to providing hope for equines through education, rehabilitation and advocacy.

PHHWV PURPOSES

- To provide assistance to horse owners through education, advice and support to rehabilitate their own horses.
- To rescue and rehabilitate any horse found abandoned, sick, injured, mistreated or neglected or likely to become in such condition in the imminent future.
- To provide emergency care, treatment and assistance to horses.
- To educate the community on the plight of neglected horses; and
- To contribute to the development of improved government legislation and policy relating to the welfare of horses.

A very big thank you to all our volunteers who make this possible.

Committee

Executive

Rhonda Petschel, President
Renee Neubauer, Vice President
Cassandra Male, Secretary
Shirley McPherson, Treasurer

Ordinary

Silvija Footner
Toni Harris
Angela Smith
Vaso Elefsiniotis
Tessa Reimers
Maria Auhl
Jenni Cooper

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President's report



AUTUMN
NEWSLETTER
2025

So now we look out onto a parched landscape. Even with a few cooler days, the ground is releasing heat and the flora is in a holding pattern. Ava, Harmony and Snip are telling me they need hay so like a good guardian I oblige – I am quite busy filling the slow feeders with the small bales. I have certainly kicked into gear to make sure I have a supply, as I am suspecting there will be little pick before spring. I am sure no one would be surprised that this challenging weather increases the number of horses finding themselves in need of Project Hope's support.

Angela our 1300 coordinator, and Jennifer, Alan and Jenni, our Horse Report Coordinating team have been very, very busy working collaboratively with Racing Victoria, local councils and the RSPCA, and I am so very proud of their work. Take a look at the horse reports and you will understand the variety we are talking about.

In January we dedicated a weekend in the Gippsland area with the Members Picnic in Warragul, and the newly-branded Horse Welfare Champion Training in Traralgon (previously known as Horse Representative training). It was so much fun to meet up with new and longer-term members at both these events. Our longer-term members are really that - been with us for many years and have made and are making a wonderful contribution. It was great to catch up with friends and to put a face to a name with others. The updated Horse Welfare Champion Training is more involved - presenting the 5 Domains of Animal welfare, talking with the members about how we can support the regions to contribute to the Horse Reporting coordination, projects to advance horse welfare standards, fundraising, and of course the ever-important Horse Representative who visits reports. We have had great feedback on the training and are working with a member regarding suggestions for fundraising.

We have been developing a fundraising plan and I have been on a steep learning curve. It is interesting that many of us (including me initially) believe that grants and philanthropic supports are easily available and applications successful. I have learnt that this is not the case. There were no grant opportunities in 2025 for horses, and from philanthropic sources only the smallest proportion is allocated to animal welfare overall. One philanthropic organisation advised us that of their available finances, 4% went to animal welfare, 20% of applications were successful and the average funding provided, under \$70,000. The majority of funding goes towards social welfare and health programs in the human sector. I mention this, as we now understand just how important shaking tins at competition days are, and our raffles. On a big thank you note, our events coordinator Mandi and social media "guru" Renee are tireless in their work, making a huge contribution. So I ask us all to put our thinking caps on and see if we can start selling muffins, or put on a soup day at lunch. It is exciting to see more horse clubs offering us the opportunity to fundraise at the gates on their competition days - a new activity that has taken off.

With considerable commitment to weekly working sessions, our Governance and administration is in the final stages of being more streamlined. A big shout out to volunteers Cassandra and Gina who have contributed their expertise to this, and Maria has continued her work on our statistics and data. I personally think this work is imperative for our organisation's long-term efficiency and viability, and volunteer efforts. To improve horse welfare it is so very important we unite and contribute. The committee is dedicated to membership engagement and there are great plans afoot to give our members the opportunity to contribute. If you ticked a box offering assistance let's get in touch. I have one little idea that if every one of us found a new member what a difference it would make! I am on the lookout amongst my friends.

Operation Reconnect continues, so if you have a Project Hope horse we look forward to catching up, hearing stories and taking the opportunity to thank you for your dedication. Thanks to Kathryn, Karen and Gina for leading this project and our members who volunteer to coordinate in their region.

Project Hope's operational year ends on the 28 February, so the team will be swinging into writing reports and collating all our works for the annual report. Keep an eye out for the date and place for the AGM. Thank you to absolutely everyone for your dedication to the lives of horses.

Till next time,

Rhonda Petschel
President
Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Inc.

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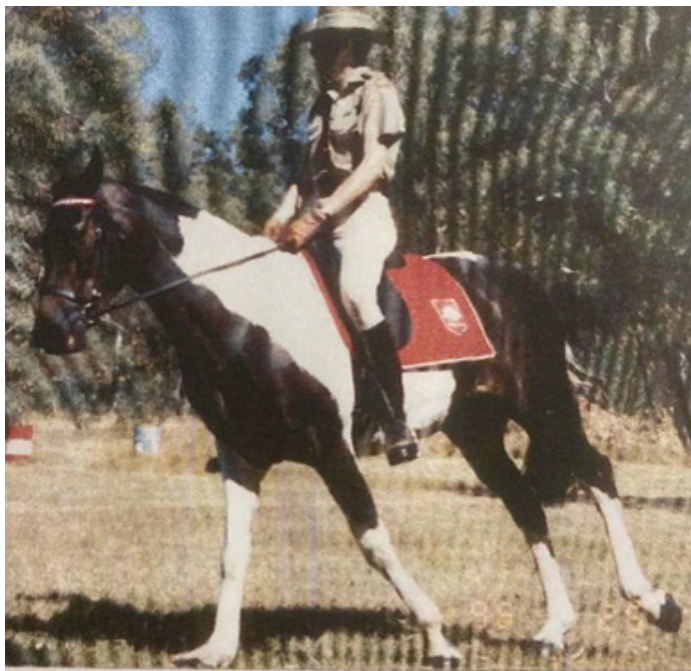
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Merchandise

Bulletin Board



MEET OUR MEMBERS



Sting and I warming up at the National Capital Horse Show - resulting in us being awarded Champion Ridden Mare. We were riding as representatives of the Australian Army Equestrian Association.

By Peta

Since childhood, I have been active in the welfare of domestic and wildlife and continue to be a member of several wildlife and landcare organisations. I joined Project Hope many years ago - prior to current records, I believe - as its ethos reflects my beliefs. But my horse rescuing activities began long before my membership.

My first rescue was a 3 year old pinto mare who was considered too savage to be safe or redeemable and she was on her way to the knackers. She cost me 'meat money', and it took almost 2 years of multiple, slow, daily interactions to gain trust enough for her to allow me to ride her, and over time she became a loyal one-person horse that I trusted with my life - although she was never a boring ride! Over the next 30 years we successfully competed in HRCAV, breed, endurance and open ridden events. But until the day she died at age 38, she would become agitated when approached by any man wearing a hat and carrying anything in his hand...

Jazz, Saxon & Oskar - contented retirees at dawn

“There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man – and woman.”

Interspersed with many professional moves around the world and Australia as a member of the Australian Defence Force, I found, rescued and rehabilitated and occasionally rehomed several forgotten horses, including a 10 day old warmblood colt. He has grown into my beautiful 18hh Oskar, who is now in his early 30s and sharing his retirement with Saxon, an ex-racehorse I found whilst cattle droving in central Queensland, and my two Shetlands: TH (Tiny Horse) and Madam (by name and nature).

Since settling on a small acre farm in the Mitchell Shire in 1997, I have provided short and long term care to several aged PHHW horses. Over the years, they have included:

- Amos, who found his forever home in Carlsruhe
- Bobby Bones, who died here of extreme old age
- Charlie Bones, who also died here in his late 30s
- Molly, who had to be euthanised because of ill health
- Harry, who was euthanised after suffering catastrophic leg injuries
- And we have recently welcomed Jazz into our herd, who will hopefully enjoy a long and relaxed retirement.

Although currently unable to offer as much active support to PHHW as I would like, giving a home to elderly horses and being instrumental in them enjoying their last years in comfort and peace gives me a great deal of personal satisfaction.

As quoted by Sir Winston Churchill: 'There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man' – and woman.



MEET OUR MEMBERS



Suzanne: *We obviously weren't too big on safety in the 70s - no hat. How things have changed!*

By Suzanne

I admire PHHWV from afar as I live in the city and no longer have direct involvement with horses. The only way I feel I can contribute is by supporting the wonderful work you all do. I have the utmost respect for your tireless work.

I was a keen rider in the early 1970's, subscriber to RIDER magazine and took part in pony club and gymkhanas. I still have friendships with my riding companions 50 years later, some of whom are still riding.

I don't think your love of horses ever leaves you. How can it?

JOIN
NOW

&
improve
the lives
of horses

Become a Member

Renew Membership

\$50
per year

PH Jazz

www.phhwv.org.au

SAVE THE DATE

2025

MAY

SUN 25

PHHWV ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WANGARATTA PERFORMANCE ARTS & CONVENTION CENTRE
33-37 FORD STREET, WANGARATTA VIC

11-1 PM

GUEST SPEAKER: VETERINARIAN SABINE WARE
TOPIC: MANAGING PAIN FOR HORSES

JOIN US FOR AN INSIGHTFUL DISCUSSION ON EQUINE WELFARE, CONNECT WITH FELLOW SUPPORTERS, AND BE PART OF PHHWV'S FUTURE.

↙

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE



MEMBER NOTICES

Volunteering is a wonderful way to enjoy developing new skills and to contribute to a community of people with common philosophies. It is very rewarding to contribute to positive change in society. For the organisation, succession planning is a must so, as we prepare for the new Project Hope year, it is an opportunity to invite our members to join the committee. To ensure the ongoing growth of PHHWV all committee positions are active roles.

Firstly, PHHWV administration/executive roles:

President: if you have a strong interest in horse welfare, governance and leadership we invite you to consider this role. If you do want change for the quality of lives of horses and believe in the contribution Project Hope provides, it is definitely the one for you.

Vice President: For this role you bring your expertise and also contribute to the governance and leadership of the organisation. This can be a great opportunity to work closely with the Executive in preparation for stepping into the President role.

Secretary: An integral role, if you are interested in administration and excellent record keeping, it is very rewarding. If you would like to get to know the organisation you are welcome to start as assistant secretary.

Governance Coordinator: If you are a believer in strong policies and procedures and have clear and succinct writing skills this would be the one for you.

Minute Secretary: This role may be a great way to learn about the machinations of the organisation, either the governance, the horse welfare or the full committee that represents the membership. The Horse Welfare Working Group and Full Committee have one meeting per month (approx. 2 hours) and Governance approx. every two months, or as required.

Horse Reports Secretary: This is an administrative role where you organise the administrative process for gathering of data, reports (for committee and newsletter), surrender and short-term care leases. Strong spreadsheet/google sheet knowledge necessary for this role.

ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Project Coordinator: This role would start with completing an audit of the councils/shires across the state to get an understanding of the requirements for horse ownership and to compare this with dog and cat ownership. If there was a member happy to complete shorter projects, we may well have more ideas.

Secondly, PHHWV operational roles:

Fundraising Coordinator: The organisation needs a dedicated person to upskill themselves on fundraising, to research opportunities for grants, sponsors and philanthropy, to develop relationships with those supporters plus support our members local efforts. This is quite a dynamic role and if you have strong planning and communications skills this would be the one for you.

Horse Reports Regional Coordinator: We currently have a lead Horse Report Coordinator and two Regional Horse Report Coordinators in the Ballarat and Wangaratta region. We are looking for members in regions across the state. PH is a membership-based organisation and this role provides an opportunity for you to get to know the Project Hope community in your region. As you get to know local members you will be able to develop a profile of our capacity in the region. Across the state we have volunteers who visit horse reports, providing short term care or long term care. Beyond your local members you work with the full horse report coordinating team and committee.

Volunteer Coordinator for the Horses: This role would support the membership secretary and the Horse Welfare Working Group, contacting members who volunteer for short term care, organising property checks and profiling their capacity for taking on short term care horses. This will assist with:

1. Helping the organisation record our true capacity for taking on surrenders – understanding the profile of the horse/s our members are prepared to take into care.
2. Set things up that we are ready to go as soon as a surrender is required.

You would work closely with the Database Coordinator.

Events and Education: This would be a team position working with our current Events and Education Coordinator: creating a plan to develop a variety of events to extend our reach into the horse community. This role would preferably be in the west/northwest area of Victoria.



MEMBER NOTICES



FEEDXL.COM
START FOR FREE

FeedXL
Horse Nutrition Calculator

At FeedXL we're dedicated to educating horse owners so that they understand nutrition better and can make informed feed choices.

USE THE FEEDXL NUTRITION CALCULATOR SO YOU CAN FEED WITH CONFIDENCE KNOWING YOUR HORSE IS GETTING EVERYTHING THEY NEED BALANCE YOUR HORSE'S DIET

BE PART OF

Project Hope Horse Welfare are very excited to announce that FeedXL have generously offered us a sponsorship. This means that we can access the FeedXL Horse Nutrition Calculator and confidently figure out what to feed horses that come into our rehabilitation program. Being able to BALANCE a horse's diet is key to having them well on their way to better health and wellbeing.

FeedXL offer a START FOR FREE option <https://feedxl.com>.

We encourage horse owners and carers to use FeedXL to improve health, gain peace of mind, reduce feed costs, and improve performance. Start your free session now. In 3 simple steps, you can find the right balanced diet for your horse.

Renee Neubauer
Vice President

Explore Project Hope's Updated Website!

We're constantly improving our website, so if you haven't visited in a while, now's the perfect time to take a look!

Featured Resource: Download our 7-Point Emergency Plan [here](#) or click on the poster.

Scan the QR code to visit our site instantly.

Stay informed, stay prepared, and explore all that PHHWV has to offer.



7 POINT Horse Emergency Plan

How will you keep your horses safe?

Safety around paddocks and stables - Natural disasters - Animal & plant diseases - Transport

In a major emergency, there may be nobody to help you, no power, no communications, no emergency services, no veterinarian, no daylight. What is your plan?

- 1 CHECK OVER YOUR PROPERTY FOR RISKS, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP YOUR HORSES STAY SAFER.**
 - Know yourself - you live with horses, you know your horses.
 - Know your property and horses to reduce risks in emergency situations.
 - Know and train multiple access and egress points from the property, and for horses which way, emergency internal gates to give the horses access to areas.
 - Know emergency evacuation routes to areas.
 - Use when displayed, including from the gate, water, pump, location, chemical storage.
 - Have horses trained around buildings, escape routes, water, escape routes accessible.
 - Remember routine checks for electrical & gas safety, water damage.
- 2 FLEXIBLE PLANS FOR STAYING, FOR EVACUATION AND MANAGING QUARANTINE.**
 - My written plans are displayed in the home, stable yard, in the car and shared with neighbours. Digital copies are shared.
 - Two sub-allocation, practical and tested plans, at least one a year.
 - There are emergency evacuation procedures outside of my geographic area to evacuate horses to short term accommodation, e.g. in the car and horse trailer.
 - I know what part of my plan can be continued early in the night before a high risk day, or when a new horse is to arrive on the property.
 - I have discussed with family various emergency strategies and have tested documentation, travel and arrival arrangements to adapt to new plans.
- 3 IDENTIFICATION**
 - All horses have permanent identification. If microchipped, details are up to date on the relevant database. (Includes recent photographs, written descriptions, blood of major emergency, and temporary ID e.g. name tags, stable markers and visible colour on the tail).
 - Have proof of evidence for horse ownership.
 - My property is clearly identified from the road, an agreement paddock has (C) or (P) or (N) or (S) or (T) or (U) or (V) or (W) or (X) or (Y) or (Z) or (AA) or (AB) or (AC) or (AD) or (AE) or (AF) or (AG) or (AH) or (AI) or (AJ) or (AK) or (AL) or (AM) or (AN) or (AO) or (AP) or (AQ) or (AR) or (AS) or (AT) or (AU) or (AV) or (AW) or (AX) or (AY) or (AZ) or (BA) or (BB) or (BC) or (BD) or (BE) or (BF) or (BG) or (BH) or (BI) or (BJ) or (BK) or (BL) or (BM) or (BN) or (BO) or (BP) or (BQ) or (BR) or (BS) or (BT) or (BU) or (BV) or (BW) or (BX) or (BY) or (BZ) or (CA) or (CB) or (CC) or (CD) or (CE) or (CF) or (CG) or (CH) or (CI) or (CJ) or (CK) or (CL) or (CM) or (CN) or (CO) or (CP) or (CQ) or (CR) or (CS) or (CT) or (CU) or (CV) or (CW) or (CX) or (CY) or (CZ) or (DA) or (DB) or (DC) or (DD) or (DE) or (DF) or (DG) or (DH) or (DI) or (DJ) or (DK) or (DL) or (DM) or (DN) or (DO) or (DP) or (DQ) or (DR) or (DS) or (DT) or (DU) or (DV) or (DW) or (DX) or (DY) or (DZ) or (EA) or (EB) 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or (IX) or (IY) or (IZ) or (JA) or (JB) or (JC) or (JD) or (JE) or (JF) or (JG) or (JH) or (JI) or (JJ) or (JK) or (JL) or (JM) or (JN) or (JO) or (JP) or (JQ) or (JR) or (JS) or (JT) or (JU) or (JV) or (JW) or (JX) or (JY) or (JZ) or (KA) or (KB) or (KC) or (KD) or (KE) or (KF) or (KG) or (KH) or (KI) or (KJ) or (KK) or (KL) or (KM) or (KN) or (KO) or (KP) or (KQ) or (KR) or (KS) or (KT) or (KU) or (KV) or (KW) or (KX) or (KY) or (KZ) or (LA) or (LB) or (LC) or (LD) or (LE) or (LF) or (LG) or (LH) or (LI) or (LJ) or (LK) or (LL) or (LM) or (LN) or (LO) or (LP) or (LQ) or (LR) or (LS) or (LT) or (LU) or (LV) or (LW) or (LX) or (LY) or (LZ) or (MA) or (MB) or (MC) or (MD) or (ME) or (MF) or (MG) or (MH) or (MI) or (MJ) or (MK) or (ML) or (MM) or (MN) or (MO) or (MP) or (MQ) or (MR) or (MS) or (MT) or (MU) or (MV) or (MW) or (MX) or (MY) or (MZ) or (NA) or (NB) or (NC) or (ND) or (NE) or (NF) or (NG) or (NH) or (NI) or (NJ) or (NK) or (NL) or (NM) or (NN) or (NO) or (NP) or (NQ) or (NR) or (NS) or (NT) or (NU) or (NV) or (NW) or (NX) or (NY) or (NZ) or (OA) or (OB) or (OC) or (OD) or (OE) or (OF) or (OG) or (OH) or (OI) or (OJ) or (OK) or (OL) or (OM) or (ON) or (OO) or (OP) or (OQ) or (OR) or (OS) or (OT) or (OU) or (OV) or (OW) or (OX) or (OY) or (OZ) or (PA) or (PB) or (PC) or (PD) or (PE) or (PF) or (PG) or (PH) or (PI) or (PJ) or (PK) or (PL) or (PM) or (PN) or (PO) or (PP) or (PQ) or (PR) or (PS) or (PT) or (PU) or (PV) or (PW) or (PX) or (PY) or (PZ) or (QA) or (QB) or (QC) or (QD) or (QE) or (QF) or (QG) or (QH) or (QI) or (QJ) or (QK) or (QL) or (QM) or (QN) or (QO) or (QP) or (QQ) or (QR) or (QS) or (QT) or (QU) or (QV) or (QW) or (QX) or (QY) or (QZ) or (RA) or (RB) or (RC) or (RD) or (RE) or (RF) or (RG) or (RH) or (RI) or (RJ) or (RK) or (RL) or (RM) or (RN) or (RO) or (RP) or (RQ) or (RR) or (RS) or (RT) or (RU) or (RV) or (RW) or (RX) or (RY) or (RZ) or (SA) or (SB) or (SC) or (SD) or (SE) or (SF) or (SG) or (SH) or (SI) or (SJ) or (SK) or (SL) or (SM) 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or (XI) or (XJ) or (XK) or (XL) or (XM) or (XN) or (XO) or (XP) or (XQ) or (XR) or (XS) or (XT) or (XU) or (XV) or (XW) or (XX) or (XY) or (XZ) or (YA) or (YB) or (YC) or (YD) or (YE) or (YF) or (YG) or (YH) or (YI) or (YJ) or (YK) or (YL) or (YM) or (YN) or (YO) or (YP) or (YQ) or (YR) or (YS) or (YT) or (YU) or (YV) or (YW) or (YX) or (YY) or (YZ) or (ZA) or (ZB) or (ZC) or (ZD) or (ZE) or (ZF) or (ZG) or (ZH) or (ZI) or (ZJ) or (ZK) or (ZL) or (ZM) or (ZN) or (ZO) or (ZP) or (ZQ) or (ZR) or (ZS) or (ZT) or (ZU) or (ZV) or (ZW) or (ZX) or (ZY) or (ZZ)
- 4 GRAB AND GO KIT**
 - These designed an emergency kit which is easy to use.
 - My written plans are displayed in the home, stable yard, in the car and shared with neighbours. Digital copies are shared.
 - My horse trailer and trailer, strong container (chilling, heat, to use and protection) are positioned ready to be loaded.
- 5 TRANSPORT AND HORSE TRAINING**
 - Horse transport is registered, road worthy and safe for horses e.g. floors.
 - The emergency plan identifies horses to evacuate by transport, on horse or ship.
 - My horse trailer is different transport types, on any day, in any weather, at night, for different people.
 - If my horse is involved in a road crash, including if the transport tips over, I am aware of ways to keep people safe and the horse safe until help arrives.
 - My horse transport vehicle safety travel and contains info about my horses and emergency contacts.
- 6 TRAINED PEOPLE**
 - I can observe behaviour cues from horses, and know their social requirements.
 - I can identify handle horses safely, including how to move around a recreation horse.
 - I am aware of horse my horse, when administering medication differently.
 - I have a range of horse restraint and restraint systems.
 - I have strategies for the containment of horse horses.
 - I am aware of large animal rescue techniques, and how to call for help.
 - I am confident to apply first aid to my horse.
 - I can conduct first aid to my horse after the disaster, with many injuries, horses or respiratory issues not becoming a problem for several days.
- 7 HELPING OTHER HORSE OWNERS**
 - I help build stronger connections for connecting with like-minded people to share information, knowledge and skills.
 - Position of plans and feedback is regularly undertaken amongst horse agencies, club members and horse owner organisations.
 - I can emergency services are advised about gatherings of horses and people.
 - After a disaster, accident or emergency I can connect with neighbours and networks including that you help first aid and a competent factor for a successful recovery and, healthy people can further help horses.

IN THE CASE OF EMERGENCY dial 000

VETERINARIAN CONTACT

DISASTER RESILIENT AUSTRALIA

Government of South Australia

HorseSA

The project was funded under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program by the South Australian State Government and the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs.

Disclaimer: These and findings associated with this information are not intended to represent the views of State and Commonwealth funding bodies.

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www.horsesa.com.au
Information is a guide only
Not independent advice for your own situation.



Events

BAIRNSDALE SHOW NOVEMBER 7

By Lynne

This was a great show and not too hot like last year. We made sure we had a gazebo and there was a Clydie with a 6 week old foal there too, who drew a lot of attention. The ponies were very popular and a good talking point to draw attention and raise awareness about Project Hope. We really enjoyed the show and there was a good amount of interest in Project Hope.



MEMBERS PICNIC JANUARY 18



By Renee Neubauer

Picnic in the Park was certainly a wonderful idea to bring our members and supporters together. The weather was kind and the picnic was held in the loveliest of locations - beside a lake with plenty of shade trees and awesome people. It was a very relaxed and casual day. Each of us brought a plate of food to share while we chatted for hours.

We presented Anita (our out-going Horse Records Entry wiz) with a lovely surprise of flowers from the committee. Anita worked meticulously to ensure that all the records and lease agreements were always in place.

Some travelled for over four hours to attend the event and for this we are very grateful - it shows that the people mean as much to you as the horses you help. It was lovely to see a few bring their family members plus their fur family.

We will hold more of these events, so keep your eyes out for future details.

Thank you from all the committee.



Events

TRARALGON HORSE WELFARE CHAMPION TRAINING JANUARY 19

By Cassandra Male

On Sunday 19th January, we held a Horse Welfare Champion day in Traralgon. We had a fantastic response to this training day with over 15 registrations before we closed the booking. Unfortunately a few people had to cancel before the day, however we still had a very respectable attendance of 7 people, including two non-members.

It was a fantastic day with lots and lots of discussion about horse welfare and how our local community can contribute to positive horse welfare plus how we can raise awareness and fundraise for Project Hope.

We received great feedback from attendees and hope to put on some more events in Gippsland soon.



TIN-SHAKING CONNECTIONS @ THE MAD SERIES TTT FEBRUARY 8-9

By Mandi Herauville

On a very cool summer weekend in Gisborne South PHHWV volunteers manned the gates of The Mad series TTT events on Sat 8th February (Kyneton DARC) & Sunday 9th February (Gisborne DARC), from 7.30am to approximately 1pm to promote the work we do, make new connections, and collect donations for Project Hope on entry to the event. We would like to thank Ree from Gisborne DARC for organising this weekend, and we raised almost \$500 of vital funds for our work.





Join PHHWV at the East Gippsland Field Days!

Dates: April 11-12, 2025

Location: Equestrian Expo, East Gippsland Field Days, Bairnsdale Aerodrome.

Thanks to Sue-Ellen from EGFD, Project Hope has been generously provided with a free site and portable fencing yards to showcase some of our wonderful rescue horses! Our Bairnsdale volunteers, Lynne & Kristen, will be attending with two PH ponies and a PH horse to help spread awareness about horse welfare. We're looking for local Gippsland volunteers to help host our stand for a few hours, chat with the public, and share PHHWV's mission. It's a fantastic opportunity to raise awareness and connect with the community!

Interested in helping out?

Contact: Mandi Herauville

Events & Education Coordinator, PHHWV.

M: 0409 932 447

E: mandi@phhvw.org.au

Or register your interest on our website here:

<https://www.phhvw.org.au/get-involved/volunteer-at-an-event/>
looks like it's going to be an amazing show!



horse education

HEALTHY LANDSCAPE EQUINE LAND MANAGEMENT COURSE

By Tessa Reimers

Project Hope members Mandi, Toni and I attended a four-hour theory session one Friday afternoon in early February. The course has been designed to assist horse owners to improve their skills and knowledge about grazing—resulting in an increase in soil health and perennial pasture species, including native species while maintaining the health of their horses.

It was great to meet fellow horsey people and property owners in the area mainly near Gisbourne. Who would have thought that talking about grass could be so interesting and create many passionate debates? If there weren't horses to be fed and hours of travel home I'm sure the group could have kept going into the evening!

Our presenters, Jason McAinch (MRSC) and Justine Image (of Sentient Design) kept us informed and entertained. 'What do prawns have to do with horse grazing?' I hear you ask... It's a case of you had to be there! Needless to say, we learned that Jason likes prawns very much and broccoli not at all, but if you strip fenced him in, he would eventually eat broccoli. Just as my naughty boy PH Aster likes tomato plants even though they are not good for him!

There was a quick introduction and run through 'benchmarks' - the Five Domains Model was central but also the thinking around 'Friends, Forage and Freedom' was applied.

Then there was a talk from Justine about operational issues with properties, including topics on running a herd, shelters, water, individual feeds (Toni's suggestion to bring back the individual nose bags was a hit!), manure on paddocks and in yards, hard surface areas (building and benefits), areas for health treatments, fire plan, systems (central point and track), and finally but importantly in our current climate, hay.

Jason took on the technical aspects about grasses, weeds, soil and pasture generally. His experience is in dairy farming but pasture for horses is also clearly a passion. I was left with questions, possibilities and a hunger for more. And I have a new-found optimism. So, now I'm dividing my land into at least 30 sections, photographing patches of ground, digging down a few feet in one area and counting the leaves on my grasses (four is good, and a height between a stubby on its side and a stubby upright is a tolerable additional measure).

For me it reinforced what a long game good pasture is. I learned that with all my property's limitations (one being it's not my property but a rental), the most limiting factor was my discipline and determination. Imagination and creativity might play a big role too.

I can't wait to see Justine's property on February 21st, and other participants' properties in the practical parts of the course. We were left with



horse education



homework and lots of tracing paper to map out and assess our own properties. Before the course we completed a survey and provided an aerial photo of the land. On the day we were presented with a large photo of the property with vegetation class (I am grateful that they sourced a better more up-to-date photo than I could via a special app – I could even see 3 little beings in the paddock – PH Midnight, PH Aster and PH Aztec).

Even with my ground having bare soil patches (to be avoided at all costs), which nearly brings me to tears at the moment, addressing these issues and planning for improvement with this group will be fun. I expect I will learn and find motivation and a clear path forward in the remaining 2 sessions (21st Feb and 7th March). Thank you - Jason, Justine and MRSC!

Some useful links from the course:

5 Domains Model:

<https://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/advice/the-5-domains-of-animal-welfare>

The 3 Fs - Friends, forage freedom:

<https://www.equinebehaviorist.ca/post/the-3-fs-friends-forage-freedom-pt-1>

Enhancing farm dams:

<https://www.sustainablefarms.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Enhancing-Farm-Dams-guide.pdf>

Regenerative agriculture 101:

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/regenerative-agriculture-101>



horse reports

By Jenni Cooper, Horse Reports Coordinator

The following is a summary of welfare concerns received from members of the community about a horse or horses that PHHWV has then investigated. This season has been particularly challenging.

Campaspe

PH received a report about emaciated horses with no grass and no indication of supplementary feed. A PH representative visited but couldn't assess the paddocks due to overgrown vegetation and didn't feel comfortable entering. The reporter was informed, and the case was referred to the RSPCA for action.

Cardinia 1

PH received a call about a horse owned by an elderly relative who couldn't care for it due to health issues. The owner was moving into an aged care home and selling the property, so couldn't keep the horse. A PH representative visited and spoke to the reporting relative, who confirmed the horse was at least 26 years old and had ongoing health problems. After further discussion, it was decided that the kindest option for the horse was to have it euthanized on the property when it was sold.

Cardinia 2

A property owner contacted PH about a tenant being evicted for not paying rent. The owner mentioned several ponies on the property. While the RSPCA was aware, they couldn't intervene as the ponies were adequately cared for. PH suggested the owner obtain a lien to take ownership of the ponies, but it's unclear if this happened. A PH representative attended and took an inventory of the horses, while local Horse Representatives monitored their welfare to ensure they had access to water and feed. Over time, most ponies were given away by the owner's agent, leaving four. The RSPCA then removed the remaining ponies.

Casey 1

PH received a report about an emaciated horse with neglected hooves on an unoccupied property. The reporter had spoken with the owner multiple times about the horse's condition. When they later found the horse without water, PH advised them to report it to the RSPCA immediately.

Casey 2

PH was notified about eight underweight horses. A PH representative visited and found some horses slightly thin with overgrown hooves, but there were round bales in the paddock. Smaller ponies were in good condition but needed hoof care. While on-site, a person delivered a large amount of hay. The owner was notified to contact PH if assistance was needed.

Casey 3

A report was made about horses with neglected hooves and low water levels in their dam. A PH representative confirmed some hooves needed attention, and the dam was low. PH contacted the owner, who assured them the horses were checked daily and that they were monitoring the water situation.

Central Goldfields

PH received a report about some horses who did not have adequate feed or water. PH spoke with the RSPCA who are now managing the case.

Corangamite

Someone contacted PH about surrendering a horse but provided little information, only stating that the horse had escaped and was now on a neighbor's property. PH attempted to follow up twice but received no response.

East Gippsland

PH received a report about two abandoned horses with little food. A relative of the horse owner was feeding them when possible. A PH representative confirmed there was no grass in their paddock. The horses were surrendered to PH and moved to a short-term care home.



horse reports

Golden Plains 1

PH received a report about an emaciated horse. A representative visited and left a note for the owner, who later responded. The owner, an experienced horse person, explained that the elderly mare had recently lost her paddock mate and had lost weight, but was being monitored.

Golden Plains 2

PH was contacted about two thin thoroughbreds, one of which was lame. The owners were inexperienced with horses. A PH representative visited, took photos, and spoke with a neighbour on the owners' behalf. Initially, surrendering the horses was discussed, but the owners later decided to keep them after arranging for a vet and dentist. PH advised that supplementary feeding was needed due to limited grass. The knowledgeable neighbor is assisting the owners to ensure proper care and a long-term home for the horses.

Golden Plains 3

PH received a report about underweight horses needing hoof care. The reporter had been providing hay and recommending farriers but saw no action. A PH representative visited and found both horses in good condition with recently trimmed hooves. The owner had also scheduled a dental check. No welfare concerns.

Greater Geelong

PH received a request for help with a pony's eye ailment. PH arranged for a vet, who provided treatment. Since the pony was difficult to handle, the owner asked PH for further assistance. A PH representative advised the owner to seek help from a local horse trainer as the pony was dangerous to handle. The owner agreed to do so.

Hume 1

PH received a report about emaciated horses in a paddock with poor fencing. A PH representative will visit and provide a report.

Hume 2

We were notified about an emaciated horse without visible access to water. The RSPCA was also contacted. A PH representative spoke with the owner, who explained the horse was elderly and had access to supplementary feed and water.

Hume 3

We received a call about two ponies with severely bad hooves, rendering them unable to access water. The reporter also mentioned two other horses and some cattle on the property. The reporter contacted the RSPCA, who said DEECA was responsible and advised them to report the case to DEECA. After doing so, the reporter received an email from DEECA saying the case was referred to the RSPCA. The reporter then reached out to Project Hope, and a horse representative visited the property, leaving a note on the gate. The horse owner then surrendered the ponies to a local person, who asked Project Hope for help. The RSPCA closed the case, and PH agreed to provide assistance for a veterinary and dental care assessment for the ponies and horses.

Latrobe 1

PH received a report about a skinny thoroughbred in a paddock with no grass or supplementary feed. A PH representative visited and found the horse slightly underweight but not alarming. The case will be monitored. The horse shares the paddock with another on restricted feeding.

Latrobe 2

A property owner reported an abandoned horse on their land. PH sent a lien document to the owner to fill out, allowing us to take ownership of the horse, as the owner didn't want it. A PH representative visited the property and noticed the horse needed a hoof trim and veterinary care, which the owner agreed to pay for. Racing Victoria was contacted for help and asked for the horse's microchip number. The owner, with help from the PH representative, will arrange this.

Macedon Ranges 1

PH received a message from an Equine Rescue Centre about a horse abandoned on a local property. The Centre arranged transportation for the horse to a new home. A PH representative went to the property, managed to catch the horse, and safely loaded it onto the truck. The horse was then taken to its new long-term home.



horse reports



Macedon Ranges 2

A Horse Representative informed PH about an emergency horse surrender due to neglect. The emaciated mare was taken in by PH and placed in a short-term home. After a veterinary assessment, euthanasia was deemed the most humane option due to the horse's age and condition.

Macedon Ranges 3

A reporter informed PH about an abandoned horse on their property. PH explained the surrender process, and the caller decided to surrender the horse to the RSPCA.

Macedon Ranges 4

PH was informed of an abandoned 7-year-old Thoroughbred. The property owner cared for the horse and has now completed a lien to legally surrender it. A PH representative assessed the horse, noting an ongoing hoof issue but a good temperament. Awaiting surrender approval. Case pending.

Melton 1

A person contacted PH about surrendering their horse after unsuccessful rehoming attempts. A PH representative discussed the situation given they remained the horse's advocate but agreed to visit and assess the horse. Before the visit, the owner made contact and advised they had found a great home for the horse.

Melton 2

A horse owner sought advice about their three elderly, unwell horses. After discussing options with a PH representative, they initially planned to euthanise two but later changed their mind. The PH representative had agreed to be present for support, but the owner decided to not euthanise the horses for now.

Mitchell 1

PH was contacted about two horses on a property. A PH representative found one emaciated elderly horse with missing teeth and another in poor condition. The property owner was not the horses' owner but had allowed them to stay after the owner relocated.

After speaking with PH, the owner agreed euthanasia was the most humane option. PH assisted with the arrangements.

Mitchell 2

PH received a report about an emaciated horse with no food. A representative was scheduled to visit, but the reporter later informed PH that the horse had been removed, with no knowledge of its whereabouts.

Mitchell 3

Project Hope received a report about a neglected pony which was surrendered to PH and is now in a long-term home.

Mitchell 4

PH was notified about horses losing condition in a paddock with little feed and no visible hay. The paddock was dusty and full of manure. A PH representative visited and left a note for the owner, who later responded. The owner admitted inexperienced people had been looking after the horses, but they were now back under their care. PH offered assistance, but the owner did not require it. They said that they would be providing round bales of hay soon. PH will monitor the case.

Mitchell 5

PH received a report about a horse with a nasty shoulder wound. A PH representative left a note for the owner, and the RSPCA later confirmed contact. A colleague of the owner arranged a vet visit at PH's expense since the owner couldn't afford treatment. PH requested surrender of the horse, but the owner has not responded. The RSPCA will continue monitoring its care.

Mount Alexander

PH was notified about multiple thin horses in a nearby paddock. The reporter was advised to inform the RSPCA and send photos to PH. Further investigation revealed the owner was struggling financially, and the reporter has since allowed them to graze the horses on their land at minimal cost. The reporter was advised to contact PH if further assistance was required.



horse reports



Pyrenees

A horse owner reported having two skinny thoroughbreds and being reported to the RSPCA. They asked to surrender the horses to PH. A PH representative confirmed the horses were very thin with no feed in their paddock. PH contacted Vic Racing, which offered minimal financial assistance for their rehabilitation if we took the horses into our care. The horses were surrendered and placed in short-term care.

Strathbogrie

PH received a report about emaciated horses, possibly young, in a paddock with little or no grass and no supplementary feed. PH representatives will assess their condition.

Wellington

PH received a report about three emaciated thoroughbreds whose owner could no longer afford their care. The horses were surrendered to PH and are now in short-term care, undergoing a vet-advised rehabilitation plan. Once recovered, they will be placed in long-term homes.

Whittlesea 1

We received a report about horses in a paddock with little grass and no extra feed. A PH horse representative visited the property and left a note, but no response came. A follow-up visit showed minimal water, no extra feed, and no sign anyone had helped. After talking with the local council, PH was told to contact the RSPCA. The RSPCA inspector then visited, provided water, and arranged feed for the horses.

Whittlesea 2

PH received a report about an emaciated mare with a foal at foot. A representative observed the property, noting padlocked gates and little feed. The case was referred to the RSPCA.

Yarra Ranges

PH was informed about several thin ponies visible from the road. After contacting the reporter, the case was referred to the RSPCA.

Contact us with any concerns about the welfare of horses and ponies. Our trained members follow up the reports, visit the property to talk to the owners, look at the horses and check their surrounds.

PHHWV representatives look for signs of a horse not thriving including inspecting the paddock for safety, checking on a horse's condition, and ensuring there is access to water and shelter.

PHHWV has no power to help unless owners are cooperative. Some horse owners lack the knowledge or means required to have a horse. When we look at the horse with them, we share our knowledge and experience to improve a horse's health.

When a horse is at serious risk we ask for permission to rescue the horse on the spot. If surrender is refused, we contact RSPCA Vic. as it has the authority to remove a horse.

If you are concerned about a horse, contact us on 1300 881 606 or report online here:
<https://www.phhwv.org.au/education-and-health/report-neglect-or-abuse/>



HORSES FOR LEASE



Felix

Introducing Felix – a 3yo, 8hh, black Mini gelding. Felix may be small, but he has a big heart and a personality to match!

When he arrived, his hooves hadn't been trimmed in over two years, he was obese with a hard cresty neck, and his body condition score was 5—putting him at serious risk of laminitis. Felix was right on the verge of foundering. His hooves were hot, and he struggled to move.

Thankfully, a dedicated PH member has nursed Felix back to health with careful management, a restricted diet, and essential supplements. CEN Nutrition also provided a 'survival kit' to support his recovery.

Felix has had his dental work, hooves trimmed, and microchipping done—all without sedation! A real champ according to his carer. At just three years old, he has a long, happy life ahead of him.

He's now ready for a Long-Term Lease. Felix needs a home with knowledgeable care especially around laminitis preventions, plenty of love, and ideally, horse companions. Located in Surf Coast Shire. If you're interested, email info@phhvw.org.au.



Sasha



HOME FOUND

Meet Sasha – A Pony with a Big Heart. Sasha is a 25yo, 7.2hh Palouse mini mare who will bring joy to anyone she meets. Despite enduring over a decade of neglect and isolation, she is now thriving thanks to dedicated care.

Her rehabilitation included full vet, dental, and farrier treatment. X-rays revealed severe hoof issues, but with regular trims, she is now moving well and pain-free. She has also been diagnosed with PPID (Cushing's) and takes daily Pergolide with no issues. A long-neglected dental problem has been treated, allowing her to eat comfortably, though she will need six-monthly check-ups.

Sasha needs a home with pony companions and an experienced owner who can manage her ongoing care. She is not for riding but would make a perfect companion for a child to pamper or an adult-only home where she can be cherished.

She has formed a deep bond with her current carer and is also known online, appearing in Amber Matthews' TikTok and Instagram videos. Sasha is now ready for a long-term care home. If you're interested, please email us. Located in Mornington Peninsula Shire.



HORSES FOR LEASE



Thorfinn

Thorfinn is a 17yo Thoroughbred gelding, standing approximately 16hh, looking for a companion home where he can be his big boisterous self with a human to give him love and some mates to play with.

We had hoped that Thorfinn would be rehomeable as a riding horse, however due to an old injury that occasionally flares up, he has not been assessed for riding and at this stage will be rehomed as a companion only.

Thorfinn is a big, confident horse who's easy to handle but needs someone experienced with OTT types. He's the paddock boss and has a habit of chewing fences, (not windsucking), although this has improved with time. He's had a dental, vaccinations, and vet & farrier care and is now ready for his Long-Term Carer!

Located in the Wellington Shire. Interested? Get in touch today!



Winney

Presenting Winney, a 9yo, 15.2hh Bay Thoroughbred mare.

One of three horses taken in from the same property in January, Winney is doing well following rehab. She had a vet check in February, and is in great condition. Her hooves have been trimmed, and a dental visit is next. Winney is rideable and she has now progressed into being at a Racing Victoria approved re-trainer facility and going through the RESET program.

If you are interested in Winney as your next riding horse, please mail info@phhwv.org.au.



HORSES IN REHABILITATION



Henry

Meet Henry, an 18yo, 15.2hh Chestnut Thoroughbred gelding.

Once a prized horse, he was part of Melbourne Polytechnic's thoroughbreds at Northern Lodge, where he was a favourite in their track training program. Sadly, when the training center closed, the horses were dispersed.

Henry has faced some challenges since but has now found a safe place with Project Hope. He is a true gentleman, both under saddle and on the ground, with a big heart deserving of a kind and caring owner. Given his age and recent experiences, we will carefully assess the best home for him - he may be suitable for light riding after full veterinary, dental and farrier care.

Located in Mitchell Shire.



Delight

Meet Delight – a gentle soul looking for a fresh start.

Delight is a 20yo, 15hh Bay Thoroughbred gelding with a calm and gentle nature. Though much loved by his previous family, their inexperience put his health at risk.

Now in short-term care, he is receiving proper nutrition and already showing improvement. He is very polite with other animals, easy to handle, and enjoys human company—especially if apples are involved! Despite being underweight, he is responding well to care, and if his strength and muscle tone improve, he may be assessed for riding. His kind temperament also makes him a great candidate for a therapy horse.

Once fully rehabilitated, Delight will be available for Long-Term Lease. Express your interest now by emailing info@phhvw.org.au. Located in East Gippsland Shire.



HORSES IN REHABILITATION



Tilly

Tilly a 13yo, 15.2hh, Bay Thoroughbred mare. Tilly is coming along nicely after just over a month in care. She has put on weight, had her hooves trimmed and the vet is happy with her rehabilitation. She is still on two feeds a day along with hay and a large green paddock to graze in. The dentist will be visiting soon and her coat is starting to shine.

One of three horses taken into care from same property, Tilly will be undergoing extensive veterinary, dental and nutritional plans. More details to come.

Norman

Meet Norman, a 13yo, 15.2hh Bay Thoroughbred gelding.

Norman is making great progress in rehab. After nearly two months in care, he's steadily gaining weight, and the vet is pleased with his condition. He has had his hooves trimmed, and a dental check-up is scheduled.

Norman is one of three horses rescued from the same property in January, along with Tilly and Winney featured in this newsletter. All are receiving veterinary, dental, and nutritional care to restore their health.

Updates to come!



HORSES IN REHABILITATION



Kippa

Meet Kippa, a 16yo, 13hh Chestnut Welsh x Arab x RP mare.

Kippa was surrendered along with another horse, Henry, and we're still learning about her history. Her Short-Term Carer describes her as a "sweetheart" and a "bit special," confident that she will find a loving home once she's ready.

Kippa is a lovely pony with so much to offer. Located in Mitchell Shire.

For more info or to express interest, email info@phhvv.org.au.



Black Arazi

Introducing Black Arazi a 17yo, Brown Thoroughbred gelding. Sire My Patriarch (GB)1990, Dam Ciceray (NZ) 1998.

Arazi is receiving care with one of our members, including veterinary, dental, nutritional, and hoof management assessments. Arazi will be looking for his long-term carer once all his assessments are made .

If you're interested in providing a forever home or would like updates on Arazi's progress, please contact info@phhvv.org.au.



HORSES IN REHABILITATION



Rudy

Meet Rudy – a senior Horse on the mend.

Recently surrendered from a well-meaning but inexperienced home, Rudy is now in the early stages of rehabilitation.

He has undergone vet, dental, and farrier care, revealing some long-overdue health needs. His fecal egg count was high (2320 Strongyles), and he has an ulcer in his right eye that requires regular treatment. He is receiving small, frequent feeds and a five-day drenching course to help him recover.

Under the care of a dedicated short-term carer, Rudy is getting the attention and support he needs. Once his assessments are complete, he will be available for a Long Term Lease.

Located in the City of Ballarat.



Raven

Meet Raven – a special mule in need of training.

Raven is a 9yo, 12hh grey mule Jenny who arrived completely unhandled. She requires foundation training to become comfortable with basic care and handling.

Despite her lack of prior experience, she recently had her first-ever hoof trim - a great step forward in her journey. With patience and the right guidance, Raven has the potential to thrive.

More updates to come as she progresses!

Find out more about each of our horses and leasing arrangements via our website here:
<https://www.phhwv.org.au/our-horses/>

If you are interested in giving a Project Hope horse a long term care home, get in touch with us by emailing info@phhwv.org.au



horses farewelled

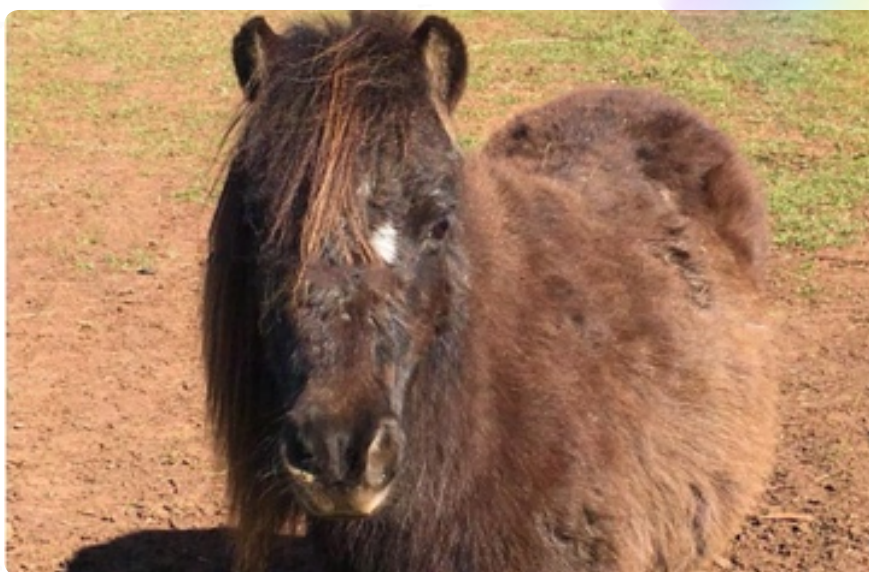


It is never easy. This season we farewell PHHWV Buck and Mary, and send our heartfelt wishes to their rescuers and carers. RIP.

Buck



Mary



PHHWV Merchandise



Show Your Support with PHHWV Merchandise!

Looking for a way to support Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria while sporting some great gear? Check out our exclusive PHHWV merchandise!

PHHWV T-Shirts – Comfortable, stylish, and perfect for every horse lover! Wear your support proudly and spread awareness wherever you go.

Our PHHWV T-Shirts are made from soft, breathable cotton with a generous length for a comfortable fit. Even in black, they remain cool and lightweight—perfect for warm weather! Ideal for everyday wear, work, or equine events, these shirts let you show your support for Project Hope while staying stylish and comfortable. Wear yours with pride and help spread awareness.

PHHWV Car Air Fresheners – Keep your car smelling fresh while showing off your love for horses. A must-have for every supporter on the move! Our new air fresheners will certainly make your car, boat, office or even your horse float smell fabulous. The scent is Ocean Breeze. Perfect for friends and family.

Every purchase helps fund the rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming of horses in need. Get yours today and make a difference.

Order now: <https://www.phhvv.org.au/products/categories/>

Thank you for supporting PHHWV and helping us give horses a second chance!



PHHWV Bulletin Board

Hope for Horses Christmas 2024 Raffle was a huge Success!

Thanks to your incredible support, our Christmas raffle raised an amazing \$2,790! We are truly grateful to everyone who purchased tickets and contributed to this success.

A special thank you to our generous sponsors – Scoot Boot, Cristina Wilkins of Horse and People, CEN Nutrition, and Melody Horrill – for donating such fantastic prizes. Congratulations to our lucky winners: Kerry, Jo Anne, Laina, and Shelley!

Looking ahead, we are now preparing for Project Hope's Mother's Day Raffle, and we need your help.

If you'd like to actively support PHHWV and donate prizes, please reach out to Renee Neubauer at vicepresident@phhwv.org.au. Donations that can be posted at a reasonable cost are ideal, such as:

- Prepaid Eftpos cards
- Vouchers & gift cards
- B&B accommodation
- Movie tickets
- Digital subscriptions
- Travel & flight tickets

Your generosity makes a real difference, and we thank you for your ongoing support!



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PHHWV Tilly and Norman

