

PROJECT HOPE

HORSE

WELFARE VICTORIA

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022

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



PHHWV Redmond - We don't know about tomorrow, said the horse, all we need to know is that we love each other. - The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy.

www.phhvw.org.au

president's report

The frosty mornings with iced over troughs and slippery mud have not slowed the activities in the Project Hope camp. On 1 June, Dr Lesley Hawson presented a Webinar on “Managing the Overweight Horse”. This was followed closely by a presentation at Smythesdale Pony Club on 18 June where Lesley impressed upon the audience that although horses can be dangerous, 60% of accidents are preventable. As prey animals, horses are wired for predators and on constant alert, and can go to high alert way more quickly than we can. Like Matt Damon’s character in The Bourne Identity describing everything he is taking in around him, horses are surveying and assessing potential danger all the time.

We had another very successful Winter Appeal led by Julia Edwards, and the funds raised have and will be applied to rehabilitating the horses surrendered into our care. Thank you to all those who donated.

Discussions have commenced with Harness Racing Victoria following a higher than usual number of surrendered Standardbreds. We are hoping to explore how we may be able to develop a relationship and means to support re-homing these horses.

Our first ever fundraising dinner was held at Arilla Restaurant in Boneo Park Equestrian Centre on 13 August with guests entertained by Josh Gibson, former AFL footballer now Camp Drafter and Stella Stevenson, Thoroughbred Traceability Officer from Off The Track. Please see page 5 for a full report.

An unfortunate development that we have seen over the past year is the increase in enquiries and horses surrendered where their owner had passed away. This has prompted us to encourage horse owners to look at their estate planning and consider what provisions can be made for their horses in the event of their death. Please see page 20 for more information.

Coming up, we have much preparation to do ahead of Equitana and I ask anyone interested in being on the Equitana Event Team to send an email to info@phhvw.org.au. Equitana will run from Thursday 10 November until Sunday 13 November. Project Hope will have a presence in the Breed Village with our PHHWV horses, as well as a stall in the Pavilion and education sessions about equine welfare.

As always, we gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our members and donors and thank you for your continued support.

Kathryn Wren
President

Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Inc.

Mobile: 0421 337 432 Email: kathryn@phhvw.org.au

Contents

- President’s Report 2
- Committee 3
- PHHWV News..... 4
- PHHWV Events..... 5
- Fundraising Update..... 7
- Grassroots Update 8
- PHHWV Therapists 9
- Helping Horses10
- Member Focus 11
- Equine Pain.....12
- Horse Reports13
- Horse Updates14
- Horses for Lease..... 17
- PHHWV Memoriam.....19
- Your Will.....20
- PHHWV Thank You21

Committee

President

Kathryn Wren

Vice-President

Rhonda Petschel

Secretary

Tricia Hartshorn

Treasurer

Shirley McPherson

Ordinary Committee

Noelle Vine

Toni Harris

Angela Smith

Silvija Footner

Renee Neubauer

Contact PHHWV

Phone: 1300 881 606

Email: info@phhvw.org.au

GPO Box 1991

MELBOURNE VIC 3001

www.phhvw.org.au

phhww committee



President
Kathryn Wren



Vice-President
Rhonda Petschel



Treasurer
Shirley McPherson



Secretary
Patricia Hartshorn



Committee
Toni Harris



Committee
Silvija Footner



Committee
Angela Smith



Committee
Noelle Vine



Committee
Renee Neubauer

We are very excited to be attending Equitana this year!

We will have members presenting our displays in two locations, both indoors and outdoors. In the Breed Village, a different one of our dear horses will be on show on each of the four days of the event, accompanied by their Long Term Carers.

We will also have a stall in the Epsom Pavillion. Make sure you pay us a visit!

We are also thrilled that Rhonda Petschel will be presenting sessions on Horse Representative training in the Godolphin Theatre on both the Saturday and Sunday.

We will be sending out an email shortly requesting assistance. If you are able to help, please raise your hand and be a part of this wonderful event.

PROJECT HOPE
HORSE
WELFARE VICTORIA

EQUITANA
MELBOURNE
10 - 13 NOVEMBER 2022

Joke of the Week



ACCOUNT AUDITOR

Is there a member amongst us who could assist with an audit of our accounts?

If you think you could help, please email Project Hope Shirley at: treasurer@phhww.org.au

xmas party



On a very cold Macedon Ranges Sunday. With a hint of snow in the air, here I am about to mention the "C" word! Christmas! I know it is still a few months away but one idea for a Christmas get together will require a bit of organising. There are two options to consider this year and I'd be very grateful for your feedback:

Which PHHVV 2022 Christmas Party event would you prefer to attend?

- A trail ride/lunch in the Macedon Ranges.
- Lunch at a restaurant in Melbourne CBD.

Look out for the Survey sent by email, or send your response to: toni@phhww.org.au

PHHWW FUNDRAISING DINNER

By Kathryn Wren, Angela Smith & Tricia Hartshorn

The PHHWW Inaugural Fundraising Dinner held at Arilla Restaurant at Boneo Park Equestrian Centre on the Mornington Peninsula on 13 August 2022 was a sell-out success. The smiles on all the faces of those attending made the many hours of work from numerous people leading up to the event well worth the effort. The purpose of the evening was to raise awareness about equine welfare issues in the community, engage with existing PHHWW members as well as gain new members, and of course raise funds to enable PHHWW to continue doing its work. We were pleased to welcome many of our members from the Mornington Peninsula and thank those that organised a table of guests. We were also delighted to welcome many non-members to the event and enlighten them about the workings of PHHWW.

Our special guest was Josh Gibson, retired AFL player, Campdrafter, TV celebrity and currently playing a key role in the making of a new equine related documentary. Josh grew up in Blackburn and played football for North Melbourne and Hawthorn during his distinguished AFL career. Leigh Wren, Kathryn Wren and Rhonda Petschel conducted a Q&A session with Josh, which was both engaging and interesting. It was obvious from his responses that Josh has a deep passion for both horses and equine welfare.



The event was sponsored by the Off The Track Program run through Racing Victoria and we were fortunate to have Stella Stevenson, Thoroughbred Traceability Officer, give an insight about the work they do. She spoke of how the program endeavours to improve the lives of thoroughbreds after their racing careers by promoting post-racing pathway options. We look forward to strengthening the relationship between PHHWW and OTT to ensure support is provided to thoroughbreds in need.

The on-line Silent Auction was a great hit. This proved to be our main fundraising activity and we are incredibly grateful to those that donated items, as well as those that bid. In particular, we wish to thank Kerry and Steve Buckley, Beverley Baker, Miriam Heatherich, Gavan and Sally Spring, Faye Kontos, Dawn Hamilton, Lara Tweedie and Miriam Orwin for kindly donating items to be auctioned.

Justine and the team at Arilla Restaurant were amazing to work with and really helped us to pull off the night. A special thank you to Shirley McPherson (who unfortunately could not attend) and Silvija Footner (who flew over from Adelaide) both of whose efforts in the lead up were outstanding and deserve a very special mention. Also, a big shout out to Leigh Wren for stepping in as Master of Ceremonies and providing a huge amount of support in organising the event. Thank you to all involved and we look forward to our next one!



CENTRAL VICTORIA EQUINE MARKET – LANCEFIELD

By Toni Harris

Having booked an outside area for the PHHWW marquee several months ago, I was rather anxious at the beginning of the week wondering if we would be snowed in or rained on. As it was, the rain gods were on our side and we had a glorious sunny day. This was our first opportunity to put up for sale the amazing array of horse gear that had been most generously donated by Anne and Steve Dale. Members Tricia, Katherine and I had spent many hours in the lead up to the show sorting through everything and pricing it. My horse float and car were full to overflowing as we left my property for the venue. I reckon it was heavier than floating two Clydies! Given the goods were all donated we could afford to be generous with our prices and this proved to be a very successful tactic because the float was virtually empty on the return journey. Our 'world famous' hay bags were a sell out! A very lovely lady from another stall (unfortunately I didn't get her name) donated two brand new cotton rugs to us at the end of the day. As we found at the last CVEM, the camaraderie was great and although absolutely exhausted by pack up time, it was well worth the effort.

Grateful thanks to members Rose Caunt, Katherine Evans, Rhonda Petschel, Noelle Vine, Tricia Hartshorn, Monika Heller for all their help.



fundraising update



**Molly says
“Thank you!”**

WINTER APPEAL

By Julia Edwards

Thank you to all the people who donated to our Winter Appeal. Its been a very wet, windy and cold winter and every dollar that you donate is goes to good use in feeding, rugging and providing quality care for our PHHWV horses.



Please help us keep horses like Molly warm this winter.

Molly is a 14-year-old Standardbred mare. Thanks to Project Hope, she now has a loving forever home but that was not always the case.



Molly was surrendered nearly two years ago to Project Hope due to her owner abandoning her on a property in north-east Victoria. They found someone with land and promised to return and take her with them. This never happened and is the plight of many horses like Molly.

After two years of being left on her own, the property owner found out about Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria, and Molly was surrendered into Project Hope's care.

There are many horses that have been abandoned, with no one caring for them, hungry, cold and not receiving the care they deserve. This year already a further 12 horses have arrived into Project Hope's care.

In Winter, the costs to rehabilitate and maintain our horses in good care increases by almost double. Your donation can help us to provide the level of support that our horses deserve.

Molly now lives with her long term carer and is happy to be brushed, saddled and rugged. She still has issues with working on her feet at times, but it is getting better. She receives consistent care and training and is in a safe and loving environment.

With your donation, Project Hope can rehabilitate and rehome these gentle giants that make affectionate and loyal horses for those seeking a trusty equine companion. Please help us to cover their needs this Winter.

Where your money goes...

- U \$25 will cover a worming treatment
- U \$60 will cover farrier treatment
- U \$150 will pay for a warm winter rug
- U \$200 will pay for transport & relocation
- U \$600 will fund the initial vet care and urgent medical provisions
- U \$800 will fund a three month rehabilitation program
- U \$1,000 will fund ongoing support to transition a horse to long term care
- U \$2000 to re-train and rehome a Standardbred in long term care



During 2021

- H 14 Horses have been surrendered into short term care
- H 190 Horses remain in the care of a Project Hope Member volunteer to undertake caretaking duties
- H More than 30,000 Project Hope member volunteer hours

grassroots project

GRASSROOTSAKA “HOPE HORSE WELFARE PROJECT”

By Rhonda Petschel

With the support of Animal Welfare Victoria, department of the Victorian Government, Hope Horse Welfare project has had a busy year from August 2021 to August 2022. The grant provided financial support for the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of the horses over the year plus events in the regions of Smythesdale/Central Victoria and Shire of Baw Baw. All events were open to our members and the community. These included:

- Open Days to provide the opportunity to talk about horse welfare with the community
- Horse training days to assist people to learn the skills to work with horses who have experienced trauma and
- Education seminars:
 - Recognising a horse in trouble
 - Managing the overweight horse
 - Safety Awareness training around horses

Project Hope also provided Horse Representative training in the 2 regions.

During the year 23 horses were rescued and provided with rehabilitation with 11 of those being rehomed. These events would not have been successful without the local knowledge and contribution from our members. It was great team work and an opportunity for us to get to know one another. The Open Day at the Shire of Baw Baw was linked to the Farm World Equestrian Expo and at Smythesdale it became a partnership with the Smythesdale pony club.

The horse training days were presented by Ian Shaw and were highly regarded by both the participants with horses and fence sitters. Ian has been an active member for some years and has advocated for these training days for almost as long. We thank Ian for sharing your expertise and commitment to horse welfare. And for your commitment to Project Hope. We will definitely continue these training days in the future.

Dr Lesley Hawson spear headed the education project, she too has been a long term member who advocates for providing science based information to horse owners. The education seminars were presented as face to face sessions and webinars and all this information is now in the education section of the website. We thank Lesley for sharing her expertise and her long term commitment to Project Hope. Lesley continues to guide our education program so we will all keep a look out for new topics in the future.

The Horse Representative training provided opportunity to discuss the status of horse welfare in Victoria and across the world, the link between community and horse welfare, Project Hope's model and the practical skills required to help horses in trouble. It is always well attended and this year was no different. The attendees at the least walked away having had the opportunity to discuss horse welfare, hopefully a better understanding of how Project Hope works and what our horse representative do when they are called out to visit a report. Some have decided to become horse representatives and are already active in the field. Another opportunity to talk all things horse!

So, we have helped many horses and had great fun getting to know one another whilst spreading the word. Ian and Lesley have provided education and skill development at the cutting edge of horse welfare and equals anywhere in the world. We are all learning together and while we work with the community, horse welfare will continue to improve. This project has met every purpose Project Hope Horse welfare is committed to. Thank you to the efforts of every member that made everything happen – you should be very proud.



Rhonda and PHHWV Honey

CENTRE FOR EQUINE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

By Denise Cornall

Captain Hook (aka Captain Carrot), who we now call “The Captain” and his paddock mate “Star” were looking for a new home and arrived at our property in January 2020 just before Covid changed our lives. The ponies have become an important part of our family that includes 7 horses. They have settled into key roles as part of the HorseTime Therapeutic Team.

To give some background- I became aware of the wonderful work of PHHWV when they assisted in the recovery and rehoming of horses in the aftermath of the 2009 Kinglake fires. At this time, my work as an osteopath/physiotherapist in this community took a new direction as many clients presented with musculoskeletal problems that were clearly associated with trauma- physical and emotional, which was held or trapped in the body. Looking for new ways to assist with trauma recovery, I undertook training with the Centre for Equine Experiential Learning (EEL) and my horses happily stepped up to this work.

HorseTime involves sharing time and space outdoors with a herd of horses who are at liberty to participate (or not). Through observation and guided interaction, the aim is to gain information and insight about ourselves and our own lives. Unlike people who are constantly thinking and planning, horses live in the present- mostly in a state of relaxation but always aware of their environment and ready to move in order to keep the herd safe.

Captain and Star are especially popular with children where a key aim is to help develop a child’s confidence and sense of self: physical awareness, emotional regulation, and relationship skills by learning things like, “How do we greet and behave around a horse if we want to feel safe and become friends?”

HorseTime involves individual and small group sessions and one of the regular events is called a “Waterhole”- symbolic for a gathering of different beings in nature. This is an invitation to join others for a 2-hour session where we share a guided mindfulness meditation experience with the horses. At some of these past sessions, participants have made donations to PHHWV and I hope to do more in the future.

If interested in learning more, please refer to my website www.rebalancing.com.au

Warm Regards,
Dr. Denise Cornall and the herd.



RUBY - A SAD STORY WITH A HAPPY ENDING

By Noelle Vine & Tricia Hartshorn

PHHWV became aware of Ruby's plight when the new owners of the property on which she had been living on a Macedon Ranges property, called PHHWV for assistance. Hard to believe but Ruby had been on the property for thirteen years and was only alive because of caring neighbours. She was extremely traumatised from her past and not trusting of people. The new owners recognised this little girl needed special care but did not have the knowledge to help her. So they contacted PHHWV which resulted in one of our dedicated representatives went out to see what could be done to help. It was clear she needed treatment for hoof and mouth issues. A plan was hatched to firstly gain her trust so that she could eventually be moved and treated. Locally based PHHWV members together with the property owner started to regularly feed her and just generally hang out with her until she was more comfortable. Member Monika worked her magic using the Trust Technique which is very good in these types of situations. Monika went every day to work with Ruby and on one visit met a local woman, Mandy, who said she had been trying to catch Ruby for ages to get a head collar on her so that she could be moved to her property up the lane. It was then we heard the full extent of Ruby's past experiences which, suffice to say, would have been highly traumatic including seeing her foal shot in front of her. The team knew that they would never get Ruby on a float let alone into a head collar and decided the only option was to walk her up the lane to Mandy's property and a plan was hatched. The day dawned for this massive undertaking and the weather could not have been worse! Howling gale and heavy rain. Several locals came out to help by blocking off the lane and Ruby, lured by a bucket of feed, after a few hiccups was eventually encouraged to leave the property where she had been for thirteen years and where she knew her foal was buried, in fact she kept hesitating at the gate of the property looking towards the grave site. I don't think there would have been a dry eye as she tentatively made that journey which was only metres in length but a marathon for Ruby and her loyal team of supporters. Everyone held their breath as she slowly made her way up the road to her new home. A brilliant outcome. Ruby will not become a PHHWV horse but will be remembered fondly by all involved in her rehoming.

Special thanks to Jessica Smith and her Mum, Toni Harris and Monika Haller.



MEET PHHWV'S YOUNGEST MEMBER

By Trish Hartshorn

I'm sure there are easier ways to get to Gordon from Woodend (I took the scenic route) but the unmade roads and potholes were worth it to meet our youngest Project Hope member, Amelia Kirk and her Dad Duane. Amelia is 15 but with a maturity way beyond her years. She is neurodiverse and no longer attends mainstream school but has a passion for horses and what she doesn't know she researches. She's like a sponge thirsty for more knowledge.

Amelia has loved horses all her life and from a very young age spent time around them on her parent's agistment property. 17hh thoroughbreds did not faze her and she could always be found in the paddocks feeding them carrots. Her Dad recalled how Amelia would wake her parents in the wee small hours of the morning by standing at the end of their bed saying 'horsey carrot'!

Amelia has two rescue horses* Lightning an ex-trotter and Misty a mixed breed. Remember she is only 15 now and began rescuing horses when she was 11! So many rescue horses have traumatic stories and Lightning's is certainly up there amongst the worse. Amelia has worked tirelessly for four years to eliminate the memories of the 48 hours she spent on a truck with no water and the physical injuries she had sustained. To this day Lightning is fearful of males. Amelia's perseverance is paying off and is definitely Lightning's hooman now. So much so, she saved Ameila from a magpie attack.

Misty is a 21 year old mixed breed and can be ridden. She spent 11 years in a quarter acre paddock before Amelia can to her rescue.

Amelia is very keen to help PHHWV in any way she can and has put her hand up for Equitana. I am confident the future of PHHWV is in excellent hands with Amelia on board at such a young age.



*Not PHHWV horses

SIGNS OF PAIN IN HORSES

By Dr Lena Clifford, BVSc, PhD, Member IVCA
(This article was published in *Horses and People* January-February 2019. This is an abbreviated version, the full article is available at horsesandpeople.com.au/learn-to-recognise-the-subtle-signs-of-pain/?mc_cid=18bf56d0c4&mc_eid=cf24d45a55)

Horses are instinctively 'stoic'. They do their best to mask all signs of pain in an effort to keep up with and blend in with the rest of their herd. Although they may not scream it loud and clear, horses do display subtle signs they are in pain and/or discomfort. It is our responsibility to learn to recognise these signs and intervene as soon as possible:

Sudden behaviour changes

When a horse changes their behaviour suddenly and nothing much has changed in everyday life it is worth investigating to see if the behaviour change is caused by pain. A horse that is sore might show new behaviour, for example:

- The horse doesn't want to flex when you ask because that movement hurts, rather than 'being stubborn'.
- The horse doesn't want to go forward or faster because the muscles in their shoulders are sore, rather than because they are 'lazy'.
- The horse with a bridle that is pressing on a sore poll may become head-shy rather than trying to 'avoid being ridden'.

High head carriage

A horse who is sore will change their head carriage (head and neck posture) tending to hold it higher than usual. This causes tightness and tension through the neck muscles and puts pressure on the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) and the poll. In turn, this can lead to dental problems as a tight TMJ changes the way of chewing. It might also make the horse head shy, as he/she tries to stop you from touching that sore poll. The higher head carriage can also affect vision and make your horse more spooky.

Tight jaw

A tight jaw can be caused by a high head carriage and it can also be caused by teeth problems and other issues in the mouth area. A horse with a tight TMJ might start playing with the bit more, put the tongue over the bit or become 'hard-mouthed' or heavy in the bridle. Also, a horse with a TMJ issue might refuse to accept any contact with the bit or be inconsistent in their contact.

Worried eyes

When a horse is in pain they tense the muscles around the eyes, particularly the upper eyelid, which gives them a worried look. This can also happen when a horse is

worried about something in the environment in a situation that he/she is not happy about, but in this case, the eyes should relax once the horse settles down again, whereas with pain, the eye lids remain tense.

Inverted or u-neck

A change in the neck muscles can be caused by incorrect training or pain, which will often derive from the front end of the horse. This means that the front feet, legs, shoulders or neck can all cause the horse to change the muscles of the neck. I often see horses develop a u-neck combined with their riders complaining that the horse will not 'stretch out' anymore or accept a contact with the bit.

Uneven shoulders

Uneven shoulders are a big red flag. If your saddle slips to one side all the time or you feel like you are riding longer in one stirrup than the other despite them being the same length, have a good look at your horse's shoulders. An unevenness is caused by the horse getting off one leg and overloading the other. This could be caused by a so-called high heel-low heel syndrome (this is when the horse has one upright foot and one flat foot) or by other pain issues in the front limbs or feet.

Pelvis angle

A horse needs a functional pelvis area to be able to develop propulsion no matter if they are a dressage horse, a campdrafter a show jumper or a trail pony. If a horse is sore he/she can sometimes change the angle of the pelvis, either making it steeper or flatter depending on the way they are compensating or bracing against the pain. This angle change leads to a reduced mobility in the pelvis which changes the way the horse can use himself and causes a lot of sacroiliac (SI) joint problems. However, it is not always a problem in the hindend that causes the horse to change pelvis angle, more often than not it is actually coming from a pain issue in the front of the horse and the change in pelvis angle is the way the horse is compensating for that.

So, what next?

These few hints are guidelines for you as a horse owner to help you recognise when something is wrong with your horse. The conditions listed here are the more common ones we see in our everyday work, but there are many other conditions that could cause your horse to show these changes. Do not be afraid to ask questions and insist on getting them answered. You are your horse's advocate – your horse relies on you to get the help he/she deserves.

By Noelle Vine

LARA

2 T/Breds on an agistment property. The owner of the horses and the owner of the agistment property had a disagreement and the agistment owner banned the owner from the property and told her to remove the horses ASAP. The owner contacted us and I spoke with her and got the contact details of the agistment owner. After many phone calls and an offer to pay for 1 months agistment elsewhere. The horses were finally moved.

FISH CREEK

We received a call from the granddaughter of an elderly couple who have a horse that has been left on their property. The owner has died and the horse has been unattended for quite a while. The owner was a rescue person, who had lots of horses in the area. She also had the 5 Buffalo horses. Photos of the brands were taken and I have been in contact with VicRacing to trace the brands. The horse is 17 and unfortunately we know nothing of its history as it never raced. It can be placed on the VicRacing site as a companion horse.

CASTLEMAINE

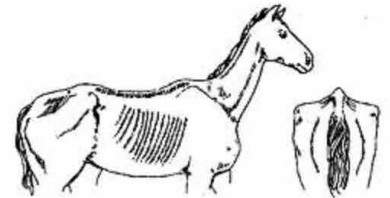
A report from a neighbour concerning seven or eight horses on a property adjoining hers. Horses are in poor condition with three big ones with hips and backbone evident. The smaller ones are not too bad. Owing to aggressive behaviour of owner, the case was forwarded to the RSPCA.

BALLAN

A friend of a deceased person is trying to rehome 4 horses. There is another one that is aged that will be euthanised, and another one that she will take herself. This leaves the four that have had limited handling. No further report as at August 21

In conversation with a gentleman who had lost his friend of 60 years. He promised his friend that he would take care of her animals when she died which include 2 19 year old horses and 2 dogs. He has serious health problems. He knows nothing about horses except what he was told to feed them and regular farrier and dentistry. He has put in a call to his farrier to see if he can help rehome the horses but he is away until the 14th August. In the meantime a PHHW member will check on the horses every couple of days and I will get a round roll for them.

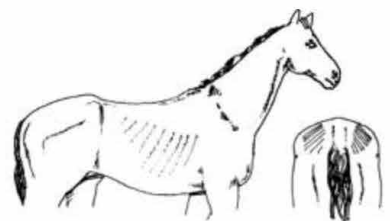
0
Very poor



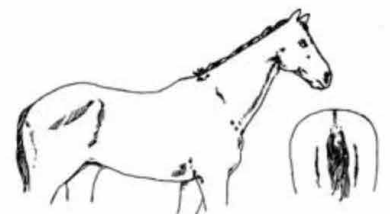
1
Poor



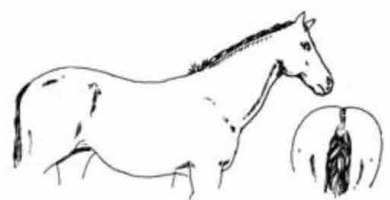
2
Moderate



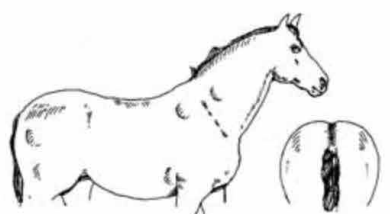
3
Good



4
Fat



5
Very fat



updates

PHHW REDMOND

By Annie Hamer

One of the key requirements for Equine Assisted Learning is the promotion of a calm environment where horses and people come together. Our physical location, with panoramic views of Mount Macedon is an amazingly tranquil space for participants to experience the unique benefits of equine assisted learning. From our paddocks, we have sweeping uninterrupted views of Mount Macedon. About the only things you can hear are the sound of the breeze and the tweeting of the local bird life.

PHHW Redmond (Red) arrived at our property in July last year. He is a Quarter horse X who has really found his calling as a therapy horse. We don't know his full history but he underwent a lot of retraining before he joined our herd. When he first came to us, he was still wary of sudden movements but I could see him begin to relax more and more each day. He is a large horse but a gentle giant - as you can see from the photograph on the front cover. He seems to have a sixth sense for those whose issues runs deep.

The Dalai Lama said, 'If an individual has a calm state of mind, that person's attitudes and views will be calm and tranquil even in the presence of great agitation'. Many participants comment that just standing or sitting with our horses quietly brings them to a state of calm. Being in a natural setting surrounded by the horses and the sound of bird song allows participants to unclutter their minds and just be themselves – to reflect on what it means to be in their 'Window of Tolerance'.



Molly the Mule

THE PONDERINGS OF MOLLY THE MULE CHAPTER 2

By PHHWV Molly the Mule

I kid you not, you need to be very careful what you say around this place! No sooner had I complained about the foot doctor and they bring in the big guns. A US Marine no less. All tattoos and tallness. Pffff! That's the end of my fun on foot doctor day. Of course, I tried my usual tricks but this fella knows his stuff. Had me in an iron grip before I could say Ooh Rah. I went all weak at the knees and totally capitulated. After all, it's not every day that a mule gets up close and personal with a Marine.

Boss Lady when's the foot doctor coming again?

So what has the Singing Nun, whose crazy horse I have to share a paddock with gone and done now? She's got herself a baby. No, not the two legged, rosy cheeked, burping type of baby. A four legged, ill mannered, insufferable 16 month old filly. I did overhear that it took Boss Lady and the Singing Nun four hours to get her onto the float! Lord preserve us. And guess who's expected to be nursemaid? Mois! First up I have to ask if the hoomans on this property know any other letter than M? As if Missy, Mimi, Molly weren't enough we've now got Maggie May! I had to giggle the first day she arrived, quiet as a church mouse. It was a different story the next day when the sedative had worn off. Ha! Had them running all over the paddock trying to catch her. Boy did I giggle. She has a similar aversion to head collars as me it seems. Boss Lady and the Singing Nun tried various tactics but Miss MM was having none of it. But the next time I saw her she was wearing a head collar AND a rug! The rug was miles too big for her and totally covered her ears. Hilarious. She looked like ET. Mind you, and I say this very quietly, I have a grudging respect for her because if that had been me, I would have gone ballistic.

Boss Lady had her flu shot the other day and was soooo tired after it she didn't come with breakfast the next day until 9.00am!!!!!! Well let me tell you my stomach thought my throat had been cut so hungry was I. Generally a quiet sort of mule, I decided it was time to let them have it full pelt. I bellowed so loud the whole neighbourhood could hear me (well that's what Boss Lady said).

The Princess (Mimi) arrived home the other day after her sojourn to the property up the road. Apparently, she is going to be a riding horse. Hmmm! That'll be interesting. Anyway – she returned to the herd and all hell broke loose. The matriarch (Missy) suddenly decided she loves MM and Mimi couldn't get a look in. So, what does Mimi do? Ears back, chin forward and off she goes after MM.

I just stand back and watch – like any good nursemaid ready to wipe the tears and patch the wounds.

So there we all were at the rescue home for deranged horses, settling into the new norm when a kind of madness swept through them all and I found my little old self in the middle of it. Crikey – didn't know which way to run to get away from the thundering hooves and pig-rooting. I was one very hyper Molly let me tell you. Bellebutton was the cause of it all. Typical Thoroughbred airhead. Boss lady says it's her diet. The Singing Nun (on the safe side of the fence I noticed) tried to calm BB down with one of her lilting melodies – big failure! She should have tried the 1812 Overture with all the canons – would have been more appropriate. But what would I know – I'm only a mule.

Assuming I survive the next three months of US Marines, airhead Thoroughbreds and babies I'll be back...



PHHWV Molly the Mule

updates

PHHW BUCK

By Tricia Hartshorn

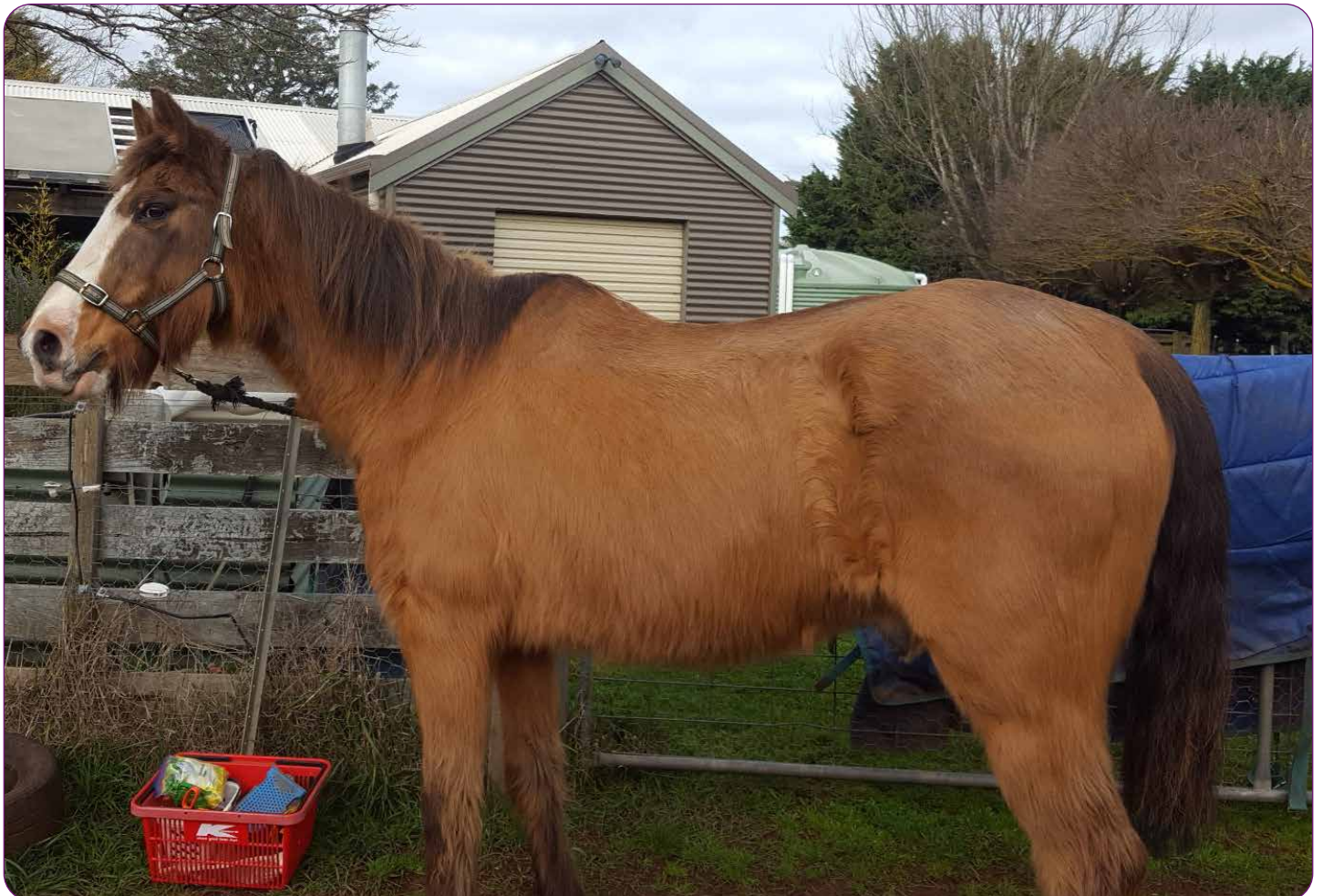
Toni and I visited Project Hope member Maddie recently. The visit was part of my plan to write about our old timers in LTC and Buck certainly fits into that category at 35. Maddie has had him for nine years and he was paddock mates with PH Jack until he was PTS in 2019. Maddie found out about Project Hope whilst working at Equitana in 2013 and promised when she moved to a property with land she would take on a couple of oldies and give them a good home in their twilight years.

Buck was recently diagnosed with Cushings disease and has a daily Pergaloide pill. He now shares his paddock with Mummy Moo and her two calves, Cinnamon and Nutmeg. He might be old but Buck can certainly still 'give it some welly' when he wants to. He flew out the paddock gate like a five year old only hesitating for a second to poke his nose at a Mummy Moo who was in his flight path.

Maddie told me her interest in horses began at the age of six when her parents arrived in Melbourne as £10 poms in the early 1960s.

They saved hard and purchased land in North Croydon which was very rural back then. She went to Sunday School and next door was a stock merchant called Doug Dumalo. He had ponies and the occasional horse in his paddocks. Maddie always went to the fence to pat them and give them a carrot. Her favourite was Black Jack a Shetland pony. Doug let her brush and feed Black Jack and she was even allowed to 'borrow' him and take him home. Black Jack was eventually sold and Maddie 'borrowed' Ginger a chestnut pony. He must have been rather special because he had a sale price of £100 - a great deal of money in 1960. Maddie's parents saved the money to buy Ginger.

With a good diet, good companions and lots of love here's hoping Buck will be around for some time yet.



for lease



PHHWV MIA

Mia is a 15hh, 7 year old, brown Thoroughbred mare. She is still quite green, but very friendly, good natured and quiet around ride-on mowers and dogs. She will benefit greatly from who can spend the time with her.



PHHWV CRESSY

Cressy is a cheeky 14.3hh 8 year old bay Standard Bred X mare. She is easy to catch, trim, float and handle in every way. She has represented PHHWV at two events where she took everything in her stride. She has been started under saddle and has a good basic education on the ground. She is ready to move to an experienced long term home where her education can be continued.



PHHWV BELLEBUTTON

Bellebutton an attractive 8 year old, 16.2hh bay Thoroughbred mare. She is a "clean canvas" having never raced and with little emotional baggage. She is a sensible companion looking for a long-term home.



PHHWV SABRINA

Sabrina is a 14.2hh, 9 year old bay Clydesdale Appaloosa cross. She has had limited training, but is a quiet sensible mare. She is good to catch and have her feet and teeth done.

horses farewelled



PHHWV Oaky (nee. Smopey) - RIP June



PHHWV Oaky (nee. Smopey) - RIP June



PHHWV Mary Lou - RIP August 2022



PHHWV Billie - RIP June 2022

CARING FOR YOUR HORSE AFTER YOUR DEATH

(Note: The following does not apply to PHHWV horses as they are still owned by PHHWV and a STC or LTC lease terminates upon a carer's death).

Project Hope has received a number of calls this year regarding horses who have been abandoned owing to the death of their owner. As we know, many Australians consider their pets a beloved family member yet sadly fail to provide for their pets when it comes to their own mortality. It is a wise move then to think ahead because chances are you will die before your horses do. When making a Will it is just as important to consider your animals as you would your children. After all, they cannot support and care for themselves. If no provision has been made for then it is very likely they will find themselves in the local pound or being euthanised.

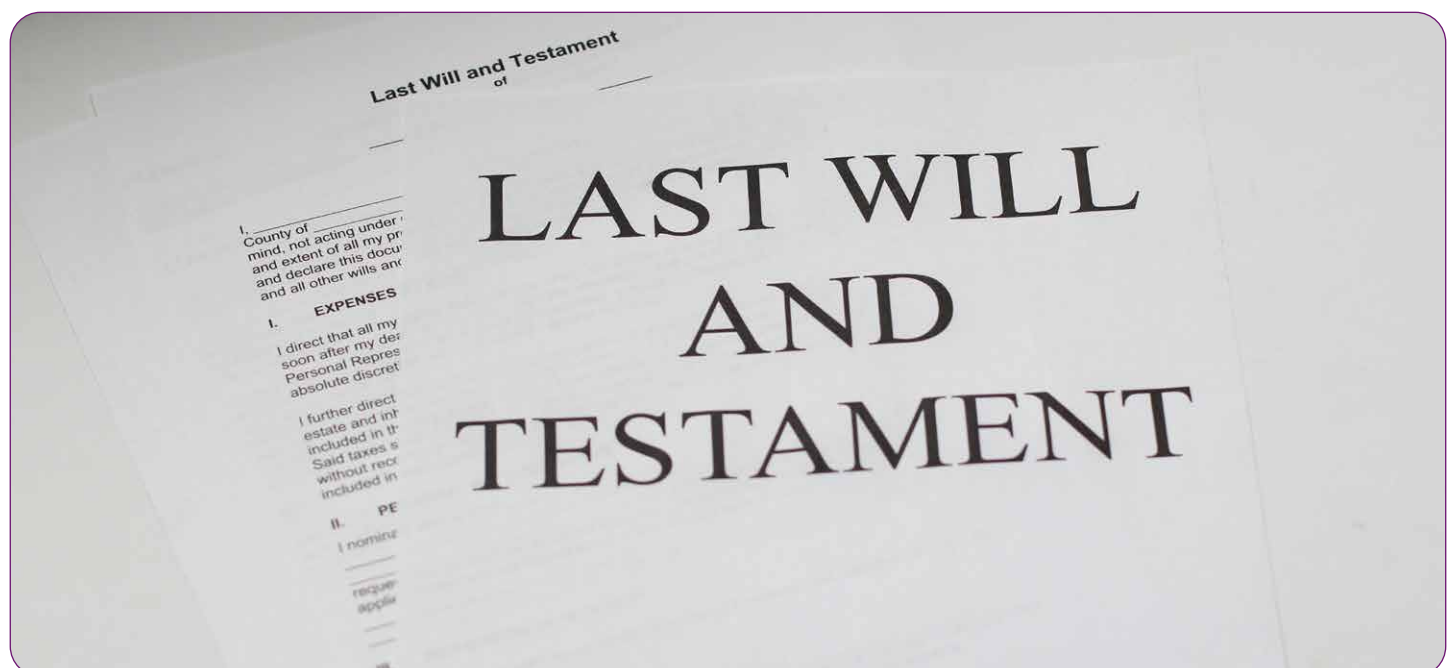
If you do not want this to occur, you should give thought to making a valid Will that makes provision for your horse. If you die intestate (without a Will) your next of kin will inherit your horse as it is considered an asset. If you have no next of kin it will pass to the State Government. Either way, this could be a sorry situation for your beloved four-legged friend/s.

It is of course best to seek legal advice on how to word your Will appropriately but these are a few options you might consider in providing for your horse following your death.

- A trust for the care and maintenance of your horse
- A legacy programme with an animal charity
- A legacy to a friend or family member with a non-binding request that they look after your horse
- Euthanasia

This is an example of a bequest for the ongoing maintenance and care of a horse:

I give and bequeath the sum of \$..... to W.H.O. EVER together with my horse Neddy and any other horse or horses that I own at the date of my death and I express the hope, but without imposing any trust or binding obligation on her, that she will take on the maintenance and care of Neddy and any other horse or horses owned by me at the date of my death.



PROJECT HOPE

HORSE

WELFARE VICTORIA

Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria Inc.

www.phhww.org.au

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

PHHWW Social Media

Don't forget to follow us on social media, we are on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.



Thank you to Scoot Boots for their support.

Scoot Boots are experts in hoof boots for riding, jumping, dressage, rehabilitation & barefoot transitioning. Easy on & easy off. Suitable for all terrains.



We wish to acknowledge the office assistance given by Mark Gepp MP, Member for Northern Victoria.

