

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

From our isolation: Thank goodness for the horses!



Our latest arrival to join the Project Hope herd is little Marnica (left) who, with her paddock pal Renni, is being looked after wonderfully by their Short Term Carer, Monica.



Mini mares Renni and Marnica, happily grazing on their first day.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We can't escape the effect of the fear associated with Covid-19, as we run low on supplies and the uncertainty it brings, but one thing you can be absolutely sure of is the horses have not changed - they still need us and we need them.

Just as a horse is stronger and safer being part of a herd, we are too for being part of Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria. If you have any worries or need help in any way, email president@phhwv.org.au or call 1300 881 606 or 0419 515 931.

The joy, comfort and happiness horses bring to our lives cannot be measured. No need for social distancing from horses; they can't get Covid-19, so if you can, hug a horse. Be happy and be safe.

Angela Smith
President - PHHWV

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NEWSLETTER

UPDATE ON PH OLIVIA

Our President writes: Here is a lovely update on PHHWV Olive (Olivia). She is enjoying all the attention she is getting from the Riding for the Disabled (RDA) team.

The screenshot below is from the RDA Doveton / Myuna Farm newsletter; the other photos are from their Facebook page, where they wrote:

“An update on our gorgeous girl Olivia. We are busy training her and she is taking all the challenges we offer her in her stride. As a rescue from Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria, she is getting a second lease on life. We are confident that in no time at all, she will be giving our smaller riders so much joy & friendship. Thank you, Angela, for sending her our way.”



OLIVIA

And then there she was, our new, gorgeous pony found her way to RDA Doveton. Project Hope (a rescue organisation for horses) contacted us as she has such a lovely personality and is the perfect size for our smaller riders. Our horses were still holidaying with Sally at Tooradin Estate when she became available and Sally was kind enough to spend some time with her before she moved back to Doveton with the others. We are still in the early stages of training, but so far she has been a little gem. she is a bit bossy with the other horses (typical mare) but is otherwise a lovely little pony. As with all new horses, she will only be handled by coaches during her training period. Once we know she is doing well and is ready to take the next step, other volunteers will become more involved. Originally named Olive, it was quickly changed to Olivia and some volunteers have already started calling her Ollie. Whichever name sticks, she will no doubt steal many young hearts with her lovely white mane and cute looks .



Above right: PH Olivia in training for her new life at Riding for the Disabled

Special mention: I feel a bit guilty forgetting a mention when I was just the matchmaker, really it should be [member] Kerryn Brenton being thanked. A very BIG thank you to Kerryn for doing all the leg work, checking on this pony over an extended period, finally securing the surrender and then doing all the rehab needed because of her founder and neglect. – Angela, President, PHHWV.

WE WANT TO CHASE HORSES, NOT YOU!

Dear members, we on Committee have plenty of horse work to deal with, so chasing up unpaid memberships is regrettable, to put it politely. Please check for reminders from us that you are up to date. If you haven't paid your renewal, you may:

- Mail a cheque or credit card details to PH Treasurer: GPO Box 1991 Melbourne 3001
- Ring our Treasurer, Shirley McPherson, with your credit card details on 0423 758 748
- Direct Deposit into our bank account: BSB 033 624 Account 190 675

THANK YOU!

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UPDATE ON PH SAMSON

Rescue Horse Thrives After Victorian Horse Welfare Group Saves His Life

'Rescued Once – Saved for Life'. That's the mantra of Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria. Operating across Victoria for the past 47 years, Project Hope is dedicated to helping horses in need.

Samson was surrendered to Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria as a 12-month-old colt, found by members in a yard with a chestnut mare with no food or water. The vet suggested euthanasia, but Project Hope wanted to give Samson one more week for a second chance. And their hard work and dedication to Samson paid off as he became stronger and stronger.

At two years old, Samson went to his foster carer, Jiyah, for long-term care. At three years, he was 14.2hh and put under saddle with Mark Ashton in the Yarra Valley. After a couple of weeks of riding, he was spelled to allow him to mature and grow. He has now reached the height of 16.2hh. Since being under saddle, Samson and Jiyah have achieved much more than Jiyah ever dreamed.

Prior to having Samson, Jiyah had 2 bad horse-riding accidents and was a little apprehensive but Samson has showed her how to trust a horse again and she has regained her confidence. They have competed and placed in all but 1 competition up to level 2/ EA95. Jiyah and Samson have done straight dressage days, show-jumping days and eventing.



They have been out trail riding up into the high-country multiple times, taken beach rides, been over bridges, through tunnels and riding along roads to go out for breakfast or lunch. Samson will lead any horse through challenging situations, and the bond that Jiyah and Samson have developed make this all possible.

He has taken young children and beginners for rides along the trail without putting a foot wrong. Jiyah says Samson is always up for a cuddle and has learnt the subtle art of raiding pockets for treats. She is adamant that Samson will be staying with her forever and Project Hope agree. Samson is one of many successful cases that Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria has saved.

PHHWV today continues to provide welfare education to horse owners, take in neglected or abused horses, and help

financially to pay for feed or vet bills when owners have nowhere else to turn. The volunteers who carry out PHHWV's mission work tirelessly to ensure that every horse who crosses their path is given a second chance at life. Whether it be volunteering for promotion at events, taking in horses for short- and long-term care, or critical components of the daily running of the organisation, Project Hope would not be able to sustain their mission without its members providing the backbone.

Our former Membership Secretary and Committee member, Jiyah Burgess is the *Equestrian Life* 'cover girl' riding PH Samson, her stellar competition horse. Stars!

To read the story online please click the following link:

<http://www.equestrianlife.com.au/articles/Rescue-Horse-Thrives-After-Victorian-Horse-Welfare-Group-Saves-His-Life>

Equestrianlife

A MULTI-PLATFORM BRAND



SOMEWHERE NEAR YOU ... CHANGING GAIT FROM FULL GALLOP TO PIAFFE

Ultimately, **the Grass Roots Project** plans to contact every horse-riding club and every stakeholder involved with our equine friends and animal welfare across the State. We want every Victorian involved with horses to know about Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria.

Prior to the Covid-19 outbreak, 'Local champions' offered to drive the project in their area. They have been collating contact lists of all horse-related clubs, shire rangers, vets, feed stores, photography clubs (for good quality photographs of our horses), police, and anyone else we can think of. From those lists we will make contact and introduce ourselves to them all. In the long term, our world will recalibrate, and each region will have an Open Day, to be followed up with a Horse Representative training day.

So where are our local champions? (Pre-CoVid 19 pandemic)

UPPER BEACONSFIELD: Long term member Traci generously opened her home in January for an Open Day. It was a fun day with members and interested locals attending, including PHHWV Olivia's carers at Riding for the Disabled, who came to find out more about Olivia's background.

We followed up with a Horse Representatives Training Day, and we are proud to say we now have 10 new representatives in that area. The week after the training, a report from the area came in and the mentor program swung into action with a new Horse Rep. working on their first case alongside a long-term Horse Representative.

Pic top right: There was a lot of horse love about at our Open Day, hosted by Traci. Photographer **Rachel Quagliani** captured some lovely moments, which she kindly donated to Project Hope. Here, our Treasurer Shirley gives PHHWV Opal a kiss



SMYTHESDALE: Our local champion in the area, Claire invited us to the Smythesdale Pony Club's Open Day and car boot sale on March 15th, where we set up our Project Hope stall. **Pic Left:** PH member and Smythesdale PC Committee member, Claire with her two children, both Pony Club members.

The Pony Club had raised funds for PH and presented us with a cheque. We will definitely be visiting again in the future for the Open Day and Horse Rep. Training day.



Pic left: Painted horseshoes donated by member Rose Caunt were popular with young visitors

Right: PH Secretary Rhonda, at left, joins in a cheer for PH with Claire and the Smythesdale Pony Clubbers



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Post-CoVid 19 pandemic:

MACCLESFIELD: Check out 'Animal Art by Shirley' on her Facebook page. This is quite inspirational, and we are so honoured Shirley has chosen us as her charity of choice for 2020. Shirley had organised an Open (studio) Day for her artwork in May. This is now on hold but, in the meantime, we can enjoy her artwork online (Pic left).

BENALLA/WANGARATTA: Wendy has taken up the reins to plan for this area and we look forward to meeting at an Open Day soon.

YARRAGON: Helen has been dedicated to our organisation for many years and it will be wonderful to spread the word close to her home.

BAIRNSDALE: Lynne has also been dedicated to horse welfare and Project Hope for many years and is keen to (continue to) raise awareness in her region.

SO, what we do know is that the two Open Days we held were highly successful. It seems that a day dedicated to horse welfare brings those that truly care about welfare together ... and these are the people we want to join our charter. It may not be this year, but you can bet that whilst we wait to burst out into the community again, we will be preparing in the background.

... how about an open day in your area one day? Give us a call on 1300 881 606 or email us at info@phhvw.org.au and we will go from there. Looking forward to it!

UPDATE ON PH POCKET

Pic right: Some of our horses wait a long time to be adopted into their permanent home (with a Long-Term Carer member) and Pocket's Short-Term Care has been long rather than short. A shout out to Celeste, his patient Short Term Carer!

Now Pocket has at last found horsey heaven in a permanent home at Sally's, where he has new friends and lovely paddocks, stables and shelter to share. And in even better news, Sally is now a Rep. for Project Hope, as well as being a Wildlife Carer. A shout out of congratulations to you, Sally!



RIP PH WILLOW

We are saddened by the loss of **PH Willow** and extend our sympathy and condolences to all who have been involved with her recent life and thank them for their contributions.



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HORSE REPORTS

Baw Baw Shire – Report of a skinny Clydie mare with foal and a young stallion with a hernia in a group of horses. We were not able to find an owner, and this was reported to the RSPCA. Spoke with a neighbour who has also reported these horses, twice.

Casey Shire 1 – Another paddock with a group of underweight horses and two young buckskins. This was another case where we could not get in contact with the owners and have had to report to the RSPCA.

Casey Shire 2 – Our Rep attended a report of an overweight Shetland. The person at the address informed us that the neighbours gave him the pony as they had no feed. He said he also had not much grass, but pony was fat. He does not know much about horses, so he was informed about founder, laminitis and what to look out for and reminded that the pony will need his feet trimmed and offered assistance in finding a farrier, if needed. Advised him to contact PHHWV if any assistance was needed in the future.

Casey Shire 3 – Report of a thin aged mare in a paddock with plenty of grass. Our Rep attended and spoke with owner who showed us they had plenty of hay and feed and confirmed horse was 30 years old. Further talks still happening.

Mitchell Shire – Rep attended property and spoke with the owner. RSPCA had been out already. Horse had been put to sleep earlier that morning as he was 32 years old and had a heart murmur. Our Rep stated that when they have murmurs, they are also anaemic. The owner thanked our Rep for her approach and kindness in the situation.

Moira Shire – RSPCA were called to a property with 10 Shetlands and owner was told to find new homes for them. Another rescue organisation took seven of them and a lady took on three. She approached us and asked if we would take on the two mares and she would keep the stallion and have him gelded. We now have the two mares in short term care, and they have been named Marnica and Renni.

Mount Alexander Shire – Rep attended location and could not find horse, we did some more investigation and found that horse had been put to sleep due to age.

Macedon Ranges Shire 1 – Report of a breeder who had a stallion locked up in a small pen for the last six months with no shelter and no exercise. Photos also revealed that other horses had died. Gates were locked and we could not get access. RSPCA were called and the breeder has now moved the stallion undercover but still in a small yard. PHHWV have written a letter to Thoroughbred Breeders Victoria to request further help.

Macedon Ranges Shire 2 – Report of an underweight horse with feet needing attention. Rep visited and left letter for owner to contact us. Rep explained that the horse was not of a great concern as feet had now been attended to. Owner contacted and explained that they had little experience. Horse Reports Coordinator sent out some pamphlets on caring for aged horses.

Bendigo Shire – Report of three underweight horses. Rep attended and spoke with owner who is a horse trainer. Horses now moved closer to house and are looking in better condition.

South Grampians Shire – Underweight horse in paddock. We have no Reps in this area but spoke with the owner. RSPCA also involved.

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STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Pic right: Straight from the horse's mouth, State MP Andy Meddick learns about horse welfare from Project Hope member Ian Shaw, centre, along with PHHWV Goodboy who is listening keenly, as is the MP's aide, Tam, at right.



Before the Corona Virus stopped us getting out and about, our President Angela and Secretary Rhonda headed out representing Project Hope and meeting up with Andy Meddick, MP in a classic old shearing shed on the beautiful property of PHHWV members Ian and Laine who have PHHWV Goodboy (formerly Perry). Andy has put in a submission for funding from the State Government to assist Project Hope, so we are looking forward to the State budget.

Andy Meddick wrote on the day:

"I had a lovely day today at one of Project Hope Horse Welfare Victoria's member's property in Edenhope (with my staff member, Tam). Project Hope provide a hotline, rescue services and rehoming for horses in need right across Victoria. All funded privately and by donations. With horse welfare and neglect cases sadly increasing, the service they provide across our state is vital. That is why I am proud to be seeking government support for Project Hope in the state budget." We had a great day at Edenhope, thank you to Ian and Laine for your generous hospitality, and Angela and Rhonda." **Pic right:** Goodboy exerts his charm



And while we're there....an update on PH GOODBOY



Pic right: Goodboy (aka Perry) showing signs of the good life he now lives, thanks to Ian.



Pic left: As well as being a model horse with the 'Safe Horse Handling' high school course Ian runs, Goodboy is now also a mentor for the young filly, at left. What a good boy!

PH MEMBER PROFILE: LESLEY HAWSON



It is a privilege being able to have in-depth discussions with our members about their lives with horses. I am grateful to Lesley for our long phone call. Julia

PIC left: Young Lesley on ex-racehorse Lionel

Growing up in the 1960s on the outskirts of Mildura, its red soil plains, acres of unfenced orchards and hot dry summers didn't match at all the English 'Jill gets her pony' books of her childhood, but looking back, Lesley realises how much freedom she enjoyed in her early life with horses. She had an 'obsession' for all animals, which gradually became focussed mainly on horses. Her mother told her that as a tiny child, the sound of

hoofbeats would propel her out of bed to glimpse horses passing by.

When she was 7, her mother bought her riding lessons on the basis that: after a few falls, that would be that. Lesley spent a lot of time riding the various horses owned by the local riding teacher, who could pick up a dropped hanky from a galloping horse, but some days, he ... just didn't appear, so she would spend the 5 hours until her mother returned to pick her up "learning patience, and how to hang around horses".

When she was 11, her godparents gave her their 17yo pony Prince, a sorrel chestnut who "had no stop on him" and she literally tore around the countryside. With two boys and an older girl, she would ride 12 miles to Pony Club, which included drinking from the water channels, stealing the odd piece of fruit in the orchards – and sometimes falling asleep in the saddle on the ride home. Whilst Prince's bolt was "well installed", he also tolerated Lesley vaulting onto him and do failing at Indian mounts.

At 15, with money earned from her dog-minding business, she bought four-year-old Barney, a station-bred thoroughbred, who she spent a lot of time falling off. "How many times did you fall off today, dear?" her mother would ask.

At school she was told she couldn't get into Veterinary Science, but she did get into Science in Adelaide. Her parents then announced that Barney had to go. She rode Barney around the saleyard, in the feeble hope he would be wanted as a quiet riding horse but ... it was at that point she realised an animal has to be 'from cradle to grave'.

After graduating in Psychology and neurophysiology she worked in Industrial Relations but was not happy. Her great partner in life, "darling husband" David could see where she really needed to be and supported her to get into Vet. Science, where she was thoroughly absorbed in a gruelling 5 years of study - and was then offered a Ph. D. in Equitation Science. Not being shy of a challenge, she also had a baby mid-course.



PIC right: Lesley with her anglo arab Charlie, 1994

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Like many, Lesley discovered equitation science after journeying through the natural horsemanship school of thinking. Her Doctoral thesis was about “trying to measure the relationship between horse and rider using the new digital sensor technology” and, as she says, it “illuminated new areas of research”. She credits her supervisors, Professor Paul McGreevy (author of *The Science of Horse Training*) and Dr Andrew McLean, as being great influences.

The year she took on maternity leave meant she could be a veterinarian assistant at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney - an amazing year. While writing up her thesis, Lesley was asked to give a guest lecture to university students of Equine Study – which led to her being a full-time lecturer at tertiary institutions for 6 years. Currently, she is working as a Vet in the Integrity Department of Harness Racing Victoria.

Lesley thinks she probably first heard about Project Hope when she was studying Vet. Science, and had always intended to become involved with an animal welfare organisation. She’s been a generous active member for over a decade, providing urgent help and useful advice when needed.

I was heartened to hear that one of the things she likes about Project Hope is that “everyone is sensible”, adding that “... sometimes, a peaceful release is the best outcome.” This led to a discussion about her putting some of her thoughts and experience into permanent form ... which I very much hope happens soon. Educating humans about horses is such an important part of Project Hope’s work, in various ways.

Back at home, Lesley’s horse herd includes a QH mare, three homebred appy/QH siblings, a baby QH colt and sweet little Caramel, her Project Hope mare who was one of the ‘tragic 100’ rescue.

PIC left: Lesley at a working equitation lesson with Teddy, a quarterhorse X appaloosa she bred.



RIDING HORSES FOR LEASE



PH ECHO - Echo is a good-natured, five-year-old, 15.2hh Thoroughbred x Standardbred gelding. He has been in our care since birth, as his mother sadly died soon after birth. One of our wonderful carers has raised him. He is an intelligent, sensitive and sweet boy. He has commenced training under saddle but now needs an experienced rider to develop into the lovely riding horse he promises to be. Tall, dark and handsome, Echo is quite ‘green’, so further work is required. He is easy to catch, lead, have his feet done and tie up.



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PH MARYLOU - Marylou has been with Project Hope since she was 8 months old. Born in 2016, she is a bay mare, 4 years old, who stands at 14hh. She is easy to catch and have a headstall fitted, will lead and tie up. She has only been floated a couple of times, so she is still nervous with floating. Marylou was put under saddle in 2018 and has been put back out to pasture to fully mature. If you would like a clean slate horse, Marylou is for you. She is very willing to please and loves attention.



COMPANION HORSES FOR LEASE



PH FRED & PH GINGER - Ginger and Fred are a pair, looking for their next home together. Ginger is a roan coloured mare, stands at 10hh and is 15 years old. Little Fred is an all-black gelding, who stands at 8hh and is 21 years old. These two easy going cuties are terrific paddock pals and are looking for a long-term home together and are also happy to share with other horse friends.

PH SONNY - Mystic Park Sonata is Sonny's full name. A purebred Australian pony, he stands at 13.2hh and is 18 years old. He's easy going and a breeze to handle but has not being broken in and has a history of neglect. Sonny is looking for a friend he can be a companion to. If you have that companion for him, get in touch, we'd love you to meet him.



PH ROMEO - Romeo is a 16hh gelded bay thoroughbred. This 20-year-old is so easy to handle, catch, lead, tie-up, trim feet and float. Romeo is a big softie looking for a companion home. He'll fit right in with your family and will thrive in a loving forever home and you'll get nothing but love in return.

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HORSES IN TRAINING FOR LEASE

PH ABBI - Abbi is a sweet-natured, 12hh, four-year-old chestnut Australian pony. She loves being with people and trying new things. Abbi has established ground skills and lunges in a bridle and pony pad with no fuss. She can be quite cheeky but learns quickly with clear guidelines and enjoys the interaction. She's

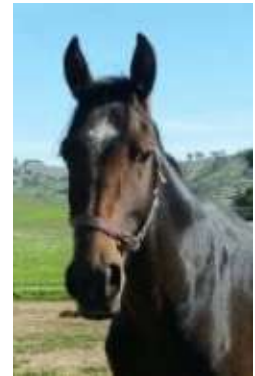
keen to please and ready for her next happy chapter to begin with a loving forever home.



PH MIMI - Mimi is a five-year-old, 15.1hh, dark bay Clydesdale X mare. Currently she is at the trainers, with foundational work being the priority. Her training is expected to take several months. She has been introduced to the saddle and we look forward to a progress report on her ongoing development. Whilst Mimi is in training, she is not yet ready for lease. We'll keep you updated on her progress and will let you know when she is ready to lease.

YOUNG HORSES FOR LEASE

PH CAMPASPE - Campaspe is a five-years-old thoroughbred and has been gelded. He is a quiet boy with no bite or kick and who has been left to grow up. Training for this boy starts right back at the beginning. Are you looking for a project to work with, then get in touch and find out how you can get to meet him.



THANK YOU

Project Hope gratefully acknowledges the support – in kind and financial – that we receive from our own wonderful members, as well as from members of the public, including public figures such as MP Mary-Anne Thomas, whose office in Gisborne kindly prints our newsletter.

