



President's Ponderings

HELLO HEAVY LOVERS AND WELCOME TO

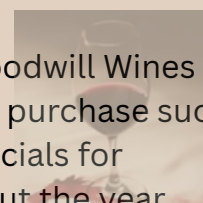
May

Hello - yes I know I am not technically “the president” but buckle up, buttercups, because you are about to get a dose of pure, unadulterated Diesel. Yes, the Diesel. Buster wanted this gig but apparently being adorable and having a way with words (not to mention that I’m the only “Shire” here and we all know Shires are the pinnacle of equine perfection) qualifies me more for this prestigious role. I’m thinking if I play my cards right, I could snag this permanently. Now for the one or two people who’ve somehow managed to avoid my legendary presence (seriously, how?) Let me introduce myself. I am Diesel The Magnificent.



April was very busy. It was a whirlwind of chocolate-induced chaos, thanks to that long-eared, carrot obsessed delivery guy.

We also had some fund supplements thanks to Goodwill Wines and the people that jumped on the wine wagon to purchase such great wine at decent prices. Keep watch on our Socials for further Goodwill Wine events to be held throughout the year. The next one is scheduled for June.



April again gave us that special day where we gave a massive tribute to my great great uncle Wally. Wally was a Waler. He was very proud of being in the Light Horse and serving Australia during the big war overseas. He used to speak of desert endurance and regale us with brave war stories. I am indeed very proud of my uncle Wally and I therefore asked Clyde to look at an article on the Walers.

Enjoy the May edition!

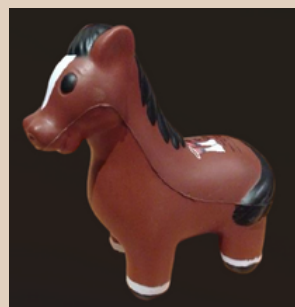
Webshop Special



MAY ONLY!

For the month of May, you will be able to procure yourself one of these hoodies - (just in time for the colder months) for the May only price of \$50.00 (normally \$60).

This is only for May and remember if you spend \$50 you get an "I support HHH" bumper sticker for free and if you spend \$100, a squishy squeeze cutie is all yours!



Rescue Roundup

Direct Rehoming



Happily we have no “ins” this month and sadly no “outs”.

However, we would really love to help this lovely girl find her forever home.

Say “hi” to Bella. She is a stunning chestnut Arabian mare, rising 8 years young, is a blank canvas ready for love and connection.

With a truly sweet and gentle nature, Bella thrives on human companionship and will happily be right by your side (or in your pocket if you’ll let her).

Originally intended to be started under saddle, a change in circumstances (two shoulder injuries for her current owner) means Bella is now searching for her perfect forever home.

Whether as a cherished companion or with the potential to blossom under saddle, Bella promises to bring joy and affection to the right person.

Finding the right home is paramount for this special girl. Serious inquiries only from those who can offer a loving and suitable environment.

*** If you are interested in contact details for the owner, please DM through the Heavy Horse Heaven FB page or email info@heavyhorseheaven.com.au***



Paddock Chat



Ok guys listen up! Diesel is trying to take over the President's role.



You mean he wants to be a Karen?!?

Diesel isn't the only ambitious one but we really need our support stable!



Wait for me Billy! I'll help!!
Whoah this thing goes so fast!
Hey Billy - Heeelllp!!!!



How do I wash behind my ears??



Harrumph, I got the purple shirt and I got the "bend over" just right - what am I doing wrong?



Hold your....horses, I'm coming (see what I did there?)



All good buddy, I got your back (and your ears lol).

Kazz! Kazz!
Hey Kaaaazz! Help!!
Can you please call Matt and tell him he was right?

(So I can't do it myself - So what?)

Some curious minds are speculating whether Clyde Stale is actually Karen Hood writing under a different name. While Karen is undoubtedly a brilliant and highly skilled individual, the approximately 40 hours a month required to produce the Herald simply wouldn't fit into her already packed schedule. Therefore, we can definitively say that Karen Hood is not Clyde Stale. Think of it like the Stig from the old Top Gear: some whisper he's an equine enigma, a mysterious horse, others claim he's a stalwart steward – but all we know is, he's called "Clyde Stale." 😊

SUPPORT STABLE

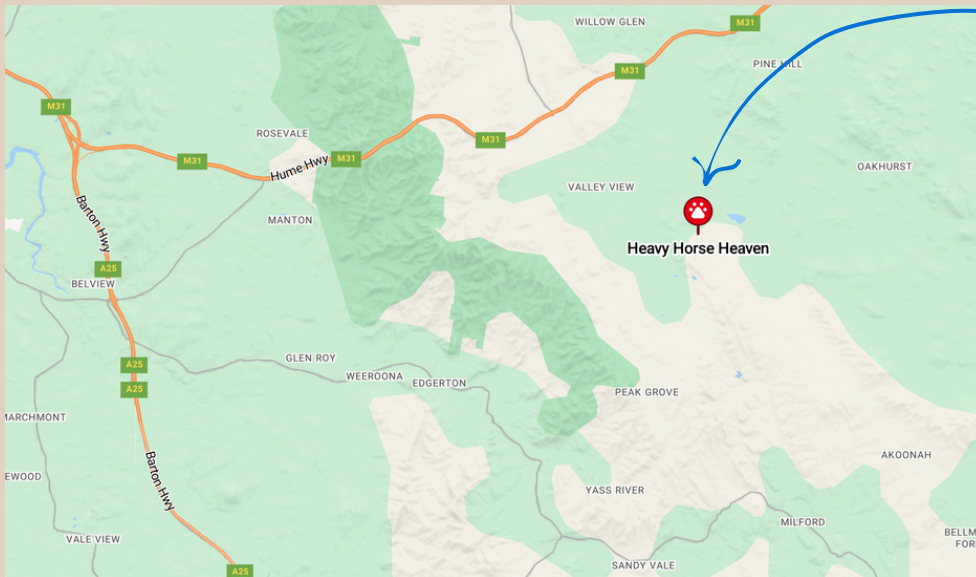
A major shout out to our team of volunteers who (rock) and come out here in all conditions to look after our guests who can't look after themselves. A hearty and warm welcome to all the new guys too - we hope you keep coming back.

Join the HHH Family

If you, or somebody you know, would like to come out here on Sundays and connect with like-minded people and benefit from hanging with these big softies, you can apply directly through our website:

<https://www.heavyhorseheaven.com.au/volunteer>

Alternatively contact Karen at info@heavyhorseheaven.com.au



141, Elms Road, Lade Vale NSW



DID YOU KNOW

Misconceptions about Horses

As in most areas of our lives, there are misinterpretations some people hold about horses. Horses are complex animals with their own language and communication methods. By debunking these misconceptions, we can build stronger, more respectful relationships with them. here are some.

"The horse is being stubborn/naughty."

Often, what appears as stubbornness is actually fear, pain, or confusion. Horses don't act out of spite.

"Tail swishing always means the horse is annoyed by flies."

While that's a common reason, tail swishing can also indicate discomfort, pain, or frustration.

"Bucking is always a sign of bad behaviour."

Bucking can be a natural expression of excitement, but it can also signal pain (e.g., from an ill-fitting saddle) or fear.

"Pawing means the horse is impatient."

Pawing can indicate anxiety, frustration, or even colic.

"A lowered head always means relaxation."

While it can, it can also be a sign of conflict or uncertainty.

"Treats will spoil a horse."

Used correctly, treats can be a powerful tool for positive reinforcement.

"Horses always know when they have done something wrong."

Horses learn through association. It is up to the human to give clear and consistent signals.

"Colour affects temperament (e.g., chestnut mares are always difficult)."

Temperament is individual, not determined by coat colour.

"Big ears mean a horse is more intelligent."

This is simply not true. Ear size has no correlation to intelligence.

"White hooves are weaker."

Hoof colour has no effect on hoof strength.

Special Story

Wally Waler's War

In the vast, sun-drenched plains of Queensland, a young Waler colt named Wally roamed free. He was a sturdy foal, with a coat the colour of sun-baked earth and a spirit as wild as the outback wind. Wally spent his days galloping across the grasslands, his hooves thundering a rhythm of freedom, never imagining the path that lay ahead. The winds of change swept across Australia in the early 20th century, carrying whispers of a distant war. The call for King and country echoed through Australia, and with it came a need for strong, reliable horses. Wally, now a spirited four-year-old, was among those chosen.

Wally's recruitment was a mix of chance and destiny. A local grazier, Dave, recognized Wally's exceptional stamina and temperament. "This one's got heart," he'd said, watching Wally effortlessly navigate a challenging obstacle course. "He's a true Waler." Dave knew the Light Horse needed horses like Wally – tough, resilient, and capable of enduring hardship. So, Wally's peaceful life took an unexpected turn. He was brought to a remount depot, where he joined hundreds of other Walers. The air buzzed with nervous energy – the whinnies of unfamiliar horses, the commands of the handlers, and the scent of leather and polish. Wally, despite his initial apprehension, displayed a remarkable calmness. He seemed to sense the gravity of the task ahead. The training was rigorous. Wally learned to respond to the bugle calls, to navigate unfamiliar terrain, and to remain steady amidst the chaos of simulated battle. He formed an unbreakable bond with a young trooper named Robert, a gentle soul with kind eyes and a reassuring voice. Robert hailed from the tranquil rural locale of Lade Vale in New South Wales, a place of rolling hills and open skies. Robert understood Wally, sensing his strength and his occasional stubbornness.

The journey across the ocean was a harrowing experience. Packed into the hold of a transport ship, Wally endured weeks of confinement, the constant rocking of the vessel, and the stench of sickness. Many horses didn't survive the voyage, but Wally's resilient constitution saw him through. When they finally arrived in the Middle East, the harsh reality of war hit them. The scorching heat, the endless desert, and the distant rumble of gunfire were a stark contrast to the familiar comforts of Australia. Wally, however, adapted quickly. His Waler heritage had prepared him for this unforgiving environment.

Wally's adventures in the Light Horse were a testament to the courage and resilience of both horse and rider. He carried Robert through countless skirmishes, his speed and agility often proving the difference between life and death.

Wally's finest hour came at the Battle of Beersheba. After a grueling night march and a day without water, the Light Horse prepared for a desperate charge. Wally, despite his exhaustion, responded to Robert's urging with unwavering courage. He thundered across the open plain, a wave of horseflesh and determination, breaking the Turkish lines and securing a vital victory. The ground shook beneath Wally's hooves as he galloped, the roar of battle deafening, but his focus remained true.

Special Story

Wally Waler's War cont.

Robert was injured during a reconnaissance mission. Enemy fire pinned them down, and Robert's leg was badly wounded. Wally, sensing his rider's distress, stood his ground, providing cover as Robert struggled to remount. Then, with Robert clinging to his back, Wally carried him back to the safety of their lines, dodging bullets and navigating treacherous terrain.

Wally endured long patrols across the desert, carrying Robert for days on end with minimal water and food. His stamina and endurance became legendary within their unit. He faced sandstorms that stung his eyes and nights so cold they chilled him to the bone. Yet, he never faltered.

Through it all, the bond between Wally and Robert deepened. They were more than just rider and horse; they were comrades, their fates intertwined. Robert trusted Wally with his life, and Wally, in turn, gave Robert his unwavering loyalty. Robert would spend hours grooming Wally, tending to his every need, and whispering stories of home, of the peaceful valleys around Lade Vale. Wally would nuzzle Robert in return, his large, brown eyes reflecting a deep affection.

Wally Waler survived the war, carrying Robert through to the end. He was one of the lucky ones. When the war was over, Robert couldn't bear to leave Wally behind. With the help of some fellow troopers, Robert brought Wally back to Australia, back to the familiar soil of New South Wales. They returned to the quiet beauty of Lade Vale, where Wally spent his days grazing in the peaceful pastures, the memories of the desert campaigns slowly fading into the rhythm of rural life.

Wally lived out his days in the peaceful countryside, a living testament to the courage and endurance of the Waler horses that served in the Australian Light Horse. His story, like that of many other Walers, became a legend, a reminder of the vital role these magnificent animals played in shaping Australia's history.



Special Story

Wally Waler's War cont.

While Wally's story was a nice story, it is just that - a story.

The Waler horses, the sturdy and resilient mounts of the Australian Light Horse, faced a sad fate after their service in World War I. Due to strict quarantine regulations and the prohibitive costs of returning them to Australia, the vast majority of these brave animals never made it home.

Here's a brief overview of what happened to them:

- **Only One Returned:** Sadly it wasn't Wally. Out of the approximately 136,000 Walers sent overseas with the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), only one horse, Major General Sir William Bridges' mount "Sandy," was repatriated to Australia. This was due to a special request and his significant connection to a respected figure.
- **Sold or Gifted:** Many of the best Walers were either sold to the British Army, often for service in India, or were gifted to officers. Their hardiness and suitability for harsh conditions made them highly valued.
- **Used for Other Purposes:** Some Walers were sold to Belgian farmers for agricultural work or even for horse meat.
- **Humanely Destroyed:** Horses deemed unfit for further service due to age, injury, or illness were often humanely put down. This was a heart-breaking reality for the Light Horsemen who had formed strong bonds with their animals.

The Australian Government's decision not to bring the horses back was a source of great sorrow for the soldiers, who had relied on and cared for these animals through the hardships of war. The bond between the Light Horsemen and their Walers became a significant part of Australian wartime history and folklore, highlighting the sacrifices made by both humans and animals.

Today, the Waler breed has survived through horses that remained in Australia. Dedicated breeders are still working to preserve and promote this iconic Australian horse.



Taking the Leap

The Long Haul: Understanding the Time Commitment of Rehoming Heavy Horse Heaven Guest

As I think I keep saying, rehoming a rescued horse, is a deeply rewarding experience. However, it's crucial to understand the significant time commitment involved. These guys often come with unique needs, requiring dedicated care and attention to ensure their physical and emotional well-being. Let's look closely into the daily demands of rehoming, focusing on daily care, exercise, social interaction, and health monitoring.

The Scale of Commitment:

Heavy horses, are physically imposing. Their sheer size necessitates more extensive care than smaller breeds (did I hear you say "Duh"?). As obvious as it sounds, unfortunately, some of the horses we rescue are here because previous owners underestimated the commitment involved. The significant time required for everything from feeding and grooming to scheduling appointments with farriers and vets can be substantial. Rescued heavy horses often carry the added burden of past neglect or mistreatment, requiring extra patience and understanding.

Feeding: Heavies consume substantial quantities. Preparing and distributing hay can be a time-consuming process. If your neigh baby requires supplements or for their feed to be managed, this also need to be factored into your time. During winter some horses need extra feeding. Many additional feeds will need to be soaked for various amounts of time and that's more time, out of your time. Monitoring feed intake and ensuring adequate hydration is crucial, particularly for horses recovering from poor conditions.



Grooming: Their thick coats and large hooves demand thorough grooming. Regular cleaning prevents skin problems and allows for early detection of injuries or health issues. You will need to allocate time for grooming.



Taking the Leap

Cleaning stalls or paddocks is physically demanding. Regular mucking out and bedding maintenance is important for hygiene and comfort. This task alone can consume a significant portion of your routine.



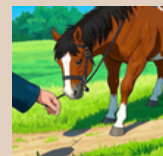
Exercise: Many rescued horses require gradual exercise programs to rebuild muscle and stamina. Largely this will have occurred prior to rehoming, as that is a major part of our rehabilitation, but some may require ongoing hand-walking, lunging, or controlled riding sessions. Expect to dedicate time to exercise. Heavy horses can be prone to joint issues, so careful monitoring of their movement and condition is important.



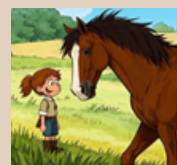
Paddock Time: Providing ample turnout time in a safe paddock is essential for physical and mental well-being.



Building Trust and Bonds: Rescued horses may exhibit fear or mistrust due to past experiences. Again this will largely have been addressed prior to any horse being considered for rehoming, but some will require ongoing patience and consistent handling to build trust with you.



Companionship: Horses are social animals and thrive on interaction. Spending quality time with your rescued heavy, whether through grooming, hand-walking, or simply being present, is essential for their emotional well-being.

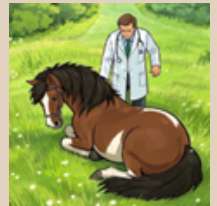


Taking the Leap

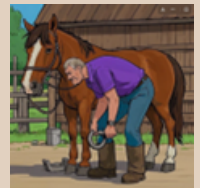
Health Monitoring: Regularly observing your horse's behaviour, appetite, and physical condition is crucial for early detection of health problems. This includes checking for lameness, skin abnormalities, and changes in demeanour.



Veterinary Care: Rescued horses may require specialized veterinary care, including dental work, and treatment for pre-existing conditions. Scheduling and attending appointments, as well as administering medications, adds to the time commitment.



Hoof Care: Heavy horses hooves need regular, and professional farrier care. Due to their size, and the power of their hooves, this is very important. Again, scheduling and attending appointments adds to your time commitment.





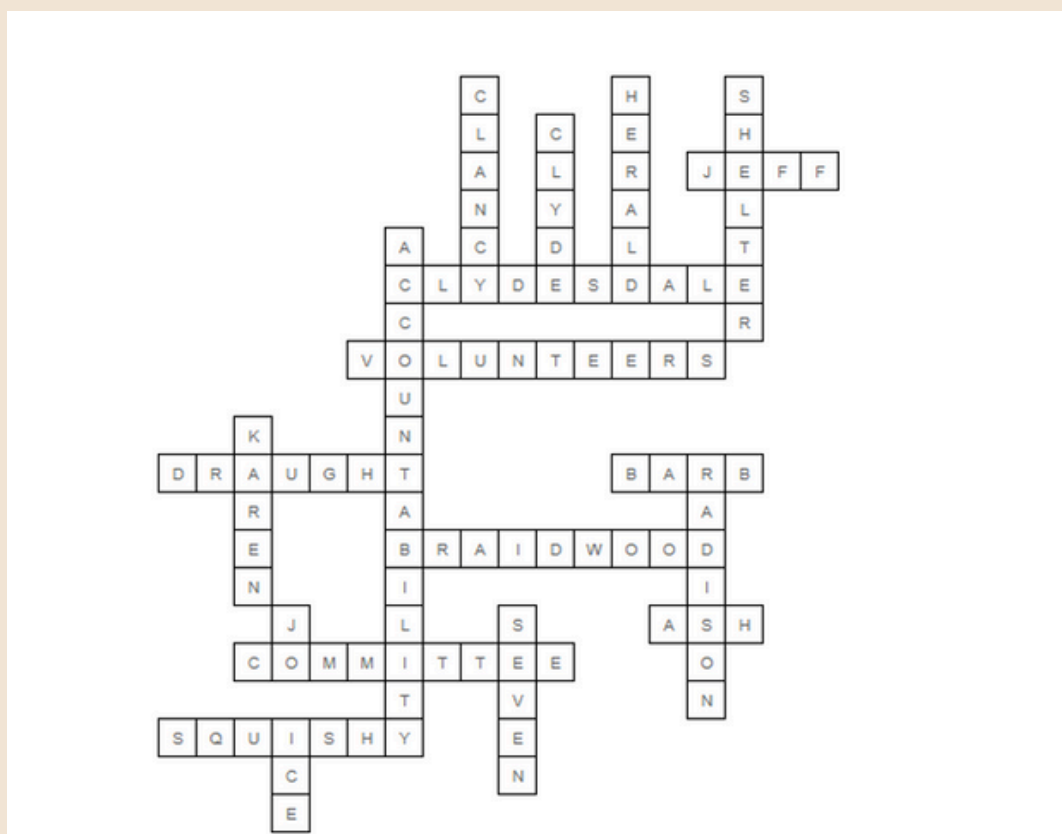
Hoofbeat Herald

READER PUZZLE



There are 10 minor differences between the two pictures - can you find them all?

APRIL READER PUZZLE SOLUTION





UPDATES



Remember baby Mem?



Look at her now! Up close and eating out of a bucket like any self-respecting baby.

JUNE SUBMISSIONS

If you would like to have something included in the May issue of Hoofbeat Herald, please submit by Thursday 29th May 2025 via newsletter@heavyhorseheaven.com.au

We value your feedback!

Only 11 out of nearly 300 Hoofbeat Herald readers responded to our recent survey, and your insights are crucial to ensuring we're delivering content you love. We've included the survey again in this May edition. Please take just two minutes to share your thoughts so we can make the Hoofbeat Herald even better for you.

Click here for [Reader Survey](#).

Late message from Kazz: Diesel!!! When I told you to “watch the fort for a minute” I didn’t mean take over the empire. I’m still boss ok?