



HOOFBEAT HERALD

Issue 4 January 2025

President's Ponderings

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you all had a very merry Christmas and managed some quality time with family. A slightly thinner issue this month as we took a bit of a break for Christmas.

There are still some calendars available but don't delay if you would like one as today is January 1! Remember, proceeds go to HHH. You can order through our website.

<https://www.heavyhorseheaven.com.au/product-page/2025-hhh-calendar>

The calendars are \$25 each including postage.



(Photograph is an example only – and is not featured in the calendar)

Though November 30th, gave us 26.5mm of much needed rain, the next day which was a volunteer day, the temperature reached 38 degrees. The following Sundays were 27, 36, 30.5. So it's a massive effort for our volunteers to get out there in the heat to provide care and assistance to the guests.

You guys are worth your weight in oats! Thank you all so much for making 2024 such a successful year for HHH despite the sometimes difficult conditions.

Submissions for the February newsletter are due by Monday, January 28, 2025 at 12:00 PM (midday).

Between issues keep up with what's going on via our socials. Insta: @heavyhorseheaven FB:

<https://www.facebook.com/heavyhorseheaven>

Rescue Roundup (Or “ins” and “outs”)

Just before Christmas, we welcomed a new addition to our stable: a handsome 17-year-old Dark Bay Clydesdale cross, named Captain. Standing tall at 17 hands, he arrived with a bit of hoof neglect but an otherwise cheerful demeanour. Despite needing some hoof TLC from the skilled hands of Matt Fordham, Captain proved to be a gentle giant, easy to handle.

Matt came to visit Captain and he was very well-behaved (so was Captain 😊). His feet were very overgrown and had broken off in parts but once trimmed up they looked much better.



He had a pre-Christmas visit with some of our neighbours and loved every minute of it. It seems he loves children and lapped up all the attention they could lavish on him.



There will be a few candidates ready to go to their forever homes in early 2025 so watch this space.

So what is the “rehoming” process?

From the moment a new guest arrives at HHH, they undergo a rigorous assessment process to determine their readiness for rehoming. Our team evaluates each guest against a set of criteria, including their comfort with transport, farrier care, handling and grooming.

Once a guest is deemed ready to find their forever home, HHH opens applications. We carefully match each guest to the right person based on a detailed questionnaire, ensuring the best fit for both guest and human. Shortlisted applicants are invited to meet their potential new companion, an essential step in the matching process.

While we appreciate the high level of interest in our guests, please understand your first choice may not be immediately available. We encourage patience, as your perfect HHH graduate may be just around the corner.

Support Stable

Making a Difference at Heavy Horse Heaven

In our first issue, we met Diesel, the mascot, who couldn't stop raving about the incredible attention he receives from volunteers. Since then, we've featured several volunteers – both new recruits and seasoned members. They've all shared how profoundly HHH has impacted their lives, both socially and personally.

Some volunteers even shared heartwarming stories about the guests they've helped and the immense satisfaction it brought them.

Want to Join the Herd?

Just like last month, we want to reiterate how much we rely on volunteers to make a real difference in the lives of these magnificent creatures. Your time, skills, and energy are invaluable, and there are many ways you can contribute beyond what our volunteers have already shared.

More Than Just Care

Our volunteers go above and beyond simply meeting the daily needs of our guests. They play a vital role in rehabilitation, training, and finding forever homes for our guests. A quote from our website:

"Volunteers don't get paid - not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

Join the HHH Family

As you've read in our articles, volunteering with Heavy Horse Heaven isn't just about helping horses in need. It's about experiencing the incredible satisfaction of making a positive impact on their lives.

Ready to Get Involved?

Contact Karen at info@heavyhorseheaven.com.au or apply directly through our website:
<https://www.heavyhorseheaven.com.au/volunteer>





Did you know?

The Mighty Percheron

Last month, we delved into the fascinating history of the Clydesdale. Building on this success, we'll turn our attention to another magnificent heavy horse breed: the Percheron.

A Look Back

Originating in the Perche region of France in the 17th century, the Percheron's exact lineage remains somewhat mysterious. However, it's believed that their ancestors were warhorses, with Arabian blood introduced in the late 18th century. By the late 19th century, the first official Percheron stud book was established in France.

Key Characteristics of the Percheron

- **Size and Strength:** Percherons are powerful and imposing, standing between 15 and 19 hands high and weighing up to 1,200 kilograms.
- **Colouring:** They are typically grey dappled or black, with black individuals often turning grey as they age.
- **Temperament:** Known for their gentle and calm nature, Percherons are reliable workhorses, capable of handling heavy labour.
- **Intelligence:** These intelligent horses are quick learners and respond well to training.

Percherons in Australia

Introduced to Australia in the 19th century, Percherons quickly became valued for their hardiness and adaptability to the harsh Australian climate. Their strong hooves, clean legs, and ability to thrive on limited feed made them ideal for work in the outback.

Despite their size, Percherons are surprisingly efficient eaters. Their large, hard hooves require minimal care, and their smooth coats further reduce maintenance needs.

Several breeding programs in Australia are dedicated to preserving the Percheron breed and ensuring its future.

References and further reading:

<https://www.percheron.com.au/>

https://www.percheronhorse.org/percheron_origin

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Percheron>



January Reader Puzzle

GUESTS

N X X C C L T V L T A H X P G F K X L M
B H Y M M I T R X Q W S C I V O T G N Q
H I X S F K I T Q S H A H R P C C I E K
A Q F V N N N T E C V Z Q Z Z A Q R Y X
S S D F Y Q X A Z L C B Z E Q C A T W G
V Q L K U Y D Z H A R H A K U L T Y G U
V R K E B E O H P D U A I J L O Z B Y W
N E Z U K D A T M Q D U C E C G Z Q A G
B A R K Y Q A L G C R A T S F Y L Z T U
P T E K C I A U O I Q O N M R L D M S D
U T I O N K E X Z N Y Q O E C L V X Y O
Z F C K L T P Z Z A N E S R K I Z M M X
R F L E I R A W Y C E J I E R W M I E W
Q Y B A M N N R C N P E D L Y R N L M P
S X P C G I U Z I U H A D D Q O B B F E
O L C E C W L E R D Z F A A R U M I T Y
Y C L C H U I Y T Z A H R E F I N N E J
J X V H U T G W Y Q J Q G T X H P Q H Q
A E M J V H W K F T Z M H T D L F M L U
N W B V I S N Y E W K G X E K C Z M T Q

Adira

Barky

Chief

Emily

Jennifer

Mem

Phoebe

Scarlett

Timmy

Willy

Angel

Bekky

Duncan

Esmerelda

Luka

Nola

Raddison

Scotty

Toya

Ariel

Captain

Ella

Geronimo

Luna

Ozzy

Ruby

Star

Trig

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

Solution to December Reader Puzzle

HHH December puzzle

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
		25											2												

T h e
17 23 14

c l y d e s d a l e
25 10 18 24 14 4 24 20 10 14

h o r s e
23 1 21 4 14

i s
22 4

a
20

l a r g e
10 20 21 13 14

a n d
20 2 24

p o w e r f u l
26 1 11 14 21 5 7 10

b r e e d
8 21 14 14 24

o r i g i n a t i n g
1 21 22 13 22 2 20 17 22 2 13

f r o m
5 21 1 9

S c o t l a n d
4 25 1 17 10 20 2 24

Happy New Year to all. Stay safe!



Next Month

We expect to have some guests ready to move on to their forever homes. Also next month we hope to share some views with a different kind of volunteer – the committee member. HHH is managed by a committee and I hope to be chatting with a couple to see what brought them there.



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info@heavyhorseheaven.com.au