

Report of the  
**Heritage Working Party**  
on the

A painting of several horses in a river, with one horse standing in the water and others in the background.

**Horses of the  
Guy Fawkes River  
National Park**



to the  
**Minister for the Environment**

**VOLUME 2: BACKGROUND INFORMATION**  
**July 2002**

Report of the  
Heritage Working Party  
on the  
Horses of the Guy Fawkes River National Park  
to the  
Minister for the Environment

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in two volumes:

Volume 1: Final Report, February 2002

Volume 2: Background Information, July 2002

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**HERITAGE WORKING PARTY**  
on the  
**Horses of the Guy Fawkes River  
National Park**

to the  
**Minister for the Environment**

**VOLUME 2: BACKGROUND  
INFORMATION**

JULY 2002

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## 2.1 NEWS RELEASE 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2001

### Study into Heritage Value of Horses in Guy Fawkes National Park

*22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2001*

Environment Minister Bob Debus today announced \$20,000 to fund a study into the heritage value of horses in the Guy Fawkes River National Park (GFRNP).

Mr Debus said the study was in response to recommendations made by the head of Sydney University's Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences Dr Tony English, in his report on the management of feral horses in GFRNP, released today.

"The study will provide an opportunity for a thorough investigation into the view of many locals in the area that these horses are of historical significance," Mr Debus said.

It will be carried out by a Heritage Working Party comprised of interested community members and chaired by Associate Professor Frank Nicholas.

Dr Frank Nicholas is an Associate Professor of Animal Genetics in the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, and a Principal Investigator of the Centre for Advanced Technologies in Animal Genetics and Reproduction (Reprogen) within the Faculty.

Dr Nicholas will conduct his work at the direction of Professor Herman Raadsma. Dr Raadsma is Principal Research Fellow and Acting Director, Reprogen at the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney.

Dr English recommended that if the wild horses in the park were found to have genuine heritage significance, "the subsequent management of these horses in another location should be in hands of those with an interest in breeding them for their heritage value".

The report arises from a public workshop, conducted by Dr English, in Dorrigo on 10th February 2001. The workshop sought the views of the local community and key interest groups in developing a management plan for the remaining horses in the park.

"The workshop considered what factors needed to be taken into account in dealing with the remaining horse population and what technical options should be considered," Mr Debus said.

"Dr English's report also deals with the adverse impacts that the horses have on the park's sensitive environment.

"These include trampling vegetation and fragile stream banks, fouling of water, causing erosion and damaging native animal habitat.

"The overwhelming view of all interest groups and, of course, NPWS, is that any options for the future management of horses in the park must be humane, practical and cost-effective."

Dr English's report makes a series of recommendations. These include:

- The establishment of a Heritage Working Party to assess the heritage value of the horses;
- A moratorium on the removal of any horses until the Working Party has completed its study;
- NPWS continue to evaluate the environmental effects in the park associated with the removal of the horses;
- The removal of any horses from the park to be carried out only after consultation with experienced stockmen, veterinarians and the RSPCA.

Mr Debus reaffirmed the ban on aerial culling of horses in National Parks in NSW.

Copies of the report are available to the public through the Dorrigo office of NPWS, ph. (02) 6657 2309 or on the NPWS website [www.npws.nsw.gov.au](http://www.npws.nsw.gov.au).

*Media Contact: Kate Meagher 0418 424 654 / 9995 6500*

*(Editor's note: terms of reference for the working party are attached\*. For a full copy of the report please phone 9995 6500)*

\* Reproduced in Section 1.2.2 of Volume 1 of this report.

## **2.2 NEWS RELEASE 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2001**

### **Establishment of Heritage Working Party – Horses in Guy Fawkes River National Park**

*Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2001*

Expressions of interest are now being sought from people within the local community to be appointed to the Heritage Working Party which will examine and document the heritage values of the remaining horses in Guy Fawkes River National Park (GFRNP).

The establishment of this Heritage Working Party by the Minister for Environment, Mr Bob Debus, is in response to recommendations made by Dr Tony English, in his report on the management of feral horses in GFRNP.

The Minister has appointed Dr Frank Nicholas as Chairperson for the Heritage Working Party. Dr Nicholas is an Associate Professor of Animal Genetics in the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney, and a Principle Investigator of the Centre for Advanced Technologies in Animal Genetics and Reproduction (REPROGEN) within the Faculty.

Joining Dr Frank Nicholas on the Heritage Working Party will be four individuals from the local community, a representative from the Waler Horse Society of Australia and a representative of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

“Over the next 6 months I will be working closely with members of the Working Party to examine and document the heritage or historical values of feral horses in the Guy Fawkes River National Park”, said Dr Nicholas.

“Local members from the community seeking to be on the Working Party are to have an acknowledged involvement with horses in the area and an interest in the history of horses within the Park.

“It is also desirable that members on the Working Party have an ability to represent others with an interest in the heritage value of the horses”, he said.

The Heritage Working Party will meet over the next six months to examine and document claims that the horses in GFRNP have a significant heritage value or historical value, sufficient to warrant their being managed on that basis.

Any individuals from the local community interested in being appointed as a member on the Heritage Working Party are encouraged to forward a letter to Dr Frank Nicholas, Chairman – Heritage Working Party, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney B19, NSW 2006 by Wednesday 16th May 2001. Alternatively, for enquires phone Dr Nicholas on 02 9351 2184, fax 02 93512114 or e-mail frankn@vetsci.usyd.edu.au

ENDS.

*Media inquiries: Karen Gallagher 02 66575929*

## **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

### **Heritage Working Party – Horses in Guy Fawkes River National Park**

Expressions of interest are sought from local community people to be appointed to a Heritage Working Party to examine and document the heritage value of horses in the Guy Fawkes River National Park.

The Working Party is seeking four local individuals that have;

- a long standing involvement with horses in the Guy Fawkes Area,
- an understanding and association with the history and heritage value of horses in the Guy Fawkes Area,
- an ability to represent others with an interest in the heritage values of horses the Guy Fawkes Area, and
- an ability to meet on a regular basis and be involved for a period of approximately 6 months.

To express an interest please forward a written response to:

Dr Frank Nicholas  
Chairman – Heritage Working Party  
Faculty of Veterinary Science  
University of Sydney B19  
NSW 2006

or: phone 02 93512184 fax 02 9312114

e-mail [frankn@vetsci.usyd.edu.au](mailto:frankn@vetsci.usyd.edu.au)

Applications close Wednesday 16th May 2001

## 2.3 NEWS RELEASE 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2001

### HERITAGE WORKING PARTY NEWS RELEASE

*Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2001*

#### **Guy Fawkes River National Park Heritage Working Party**

A Heritage Working Party formed to examine and document claims that wild horses in the Guy Fawkes River National Park have significant heritage and historical value has held its first meeting.

The inaugural meeting of the Heritage Working Party was held on Tuesday 26 June in Dorrigo following the recent appointment of members.

The Working Party comprises Associate Professor Frank Nicholas, a genetic scientist from the Veterinary Science Faculty of Sydney University, five community members, a representative from the Waler Horse Society of Australia and one NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service representative.

Associate Professor Nicholas, who was appointed as Chairman of the Working Party by NSW Environment Minister Bob Debus, said that a large number of community nominations were received.

“Eighteen nominations were received and the final selection of local community representatives was made after careful assessment against the advertised selection criteria,” he said.

The Heritage Working Party is made up of the following members:

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Chairman:                     | Assoc. Prof. Frank Nicholas (02) 9351 2184                                  |
| Community Representatives:    | Robyn MacDougall, Graeme Baldwin, Les Hume, Brian Fahey, and Khoby Khobane. |
| Waler Society Representative: | Velda Chaplin   |
| NPWS Representative:          | Brad Nesbitt 0429 069336  |

At the first meeting of the Heritage Working Party, Associate Professor Nicholas emphasised that this committee has been established by the Minister for the Environment Mr Bob Debus and is not a National Parks committee.

“The Heritage Working Party will produce an interim report to the Minister in three months time and a final report by Christmas,” he said.

“The Working Party will focus on collating historical evidence regarding the horses in the park and will investigate whether DNA techniques may assist in determining heritage significance.”

“I invite members of the public who have evidence regarding the history or heritage value of the horses in the park to contact either myself or one of the community representatives. We want to ensure that our report includes all relevant information”.

Written submissions may be sent directly to the Chairman Frank Nicholas, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney B19, NSW 2006.

*Media enquiries: Frank Nicholas 02 93512184 fax.02 93512114*



## 2.4 TRANSCRIPTS OF INTERVIEWS RECORDED BY THE WORKING PARTY<sup>1</sup>

### 2.4.1 Transcript of taped discussion with Mr. Ernie Maskey, 'Why Worry', Newton Boyd. September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2001. Look Out Motel, Dorrigo.

(RM = Robyn MacDougall, EM = Ernie Maskey, FN = Frank Nicholas, VC = Velda Chaplin, LH = Les Hume, GB = Graeme Baldwin, BN = Brad Nesbitt)

- RM: I suppose where we should start is: Where are you from? When did you start working in the district? What is your background?
- EM: Well I lived in Newton Boyd and worked on 'Broadmeadows Station' from when I was about 14 and I am 69 now. I have been in the area all my life.
- RM: Your father would have told you quite a bit about the area too, wouldn't he?
- EM: Yes.
- RM: He lived in the area too?
- EM: Yes and the first lot of horses that I know of was Newbury's and Mrs. Brown's. Some of the horses in the Guy Fawkes - two stallions I remember, the name that my father told me was Silver King and Creamy Duke.
- RM: Ernie, where did these horses come from?
- EM: I was told that they were imported from England by the Browns, yes, the Browns.
- RM: What was the name of the second one?
- EM: Creamy Duke of some name like that (later, Ernie's brother, Billy, recalled the name to be Golden Duke) and also in Browns were Dittons, they were connected somewhere.
- RM: I was told that the Brown's horses, that Mrs. Brown, I think that Doug Myers told me, that Mrs Brown, took more care of the horses than the kids, she was very into breeding horses and horse lines that they used were thoroughbred, pony and they often stuck a bit of clydsdale in. They were looking more for stamina, endurance and type rather than bloodlines. It was more what took her fancy.
- EM: That I couldn't tell you Robyn, because I never saw the horses, only was told by my father but I know I have seen the horses ever since I left school and when I was going to school we used to chase the horses in Corner Camp and in the Mitchell River which is known as the Sara and we would take our horses home and break them in.
- RM: Ernie, were the horse numbers out of control then? What sort of horses were there in the bush?
- EM: No, they kept them under control by running horses sometimes and the roo shooters, if they were out of control a bit, they would shoot some of the outside horses so they never got out of control.
- RM: so when did the numbers start building up do you think? I guess this is coming from your father's hearsay.
- EM: I would say around about '65 on, they started building up. It wasn't controlled.
- RM: You mentioned that during the war the young fellows not having the experience.
- EM: Yes, well on 'Broadmeadows' and the next door Newbury's where the horses were, had only young people labour and that helped to increase the numbers of the horses breeding up.
- RM: Did Newburys have leases down there? They ran their horses down there you said?
- EM: Yes, we got their country now, we just sold it to the Parks but in Bob's Creek, Pargo and Boban and Corner Camp which is over the other side, right to the Henry River there was horses but not a lot.
- RM: Mr. MacDougall said after the war, when he came down Peak Creek to Calico, back of 'Broadmeadows', he saw a few horses; the horses after the war must have been mainly in that Mitchell country.
- EM: The western side.
- RM: The western side so then when he says that he felt that he got the last of the Brown's horses out of that country, it may have been pretty accurate, but he worked in the Kitty's Creek area, he didn't work that Mitchell area.
- EM: I guess both of those horses were in the Peak Creek area and Kitty's Creek runs back to Boban on the western side.
- RM: Did those horses of Newberry's, can you remember whether they were sold out? Did they breed them down there?
- EM: Yes, I think they were bred there. I think they were mainly bred in there and with a bit of unfenced country when they went out and they just kept going.
- RM: Yes because none of that country was fenced?
- EM: For miles, no from 'Broadmeadows' to half way to Wards Mistake wasn't fenced.

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<sup>1</sup> Original tapes deposited with the papers of the Working Party, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney

RM: So a lot of horses could of gone in the Park, nothing stopped them.

EM: They could go from the Henry River back to Combolo without going through a fence, that's going over the mountains.

RM: You were telling me about that country you just sold at Boban and the horses that are up there because a lot of people were under the assumption that the horses that are there now have just been turned in and I was one of them. Ernie was telling me that the horses are still coming out of the Park - his horses go back to those horses.

EM: Both sides of the fence and there's no fence there, just open right to the river and we just sold 8,000 acres there, steep to undulated country and have horses on it and some of our horses have amalgamated with the brumbies and that's about all I know, that much I can tell you.

RM: So do you have those brumby lines coming through?

EM: Yes

RM: Ernie was saying that he's got, how many horses on 'Razor Back', that are bred straight in from the Park.

EM: There are about a dozen.

RM: I was telling him about the DNA but he said that these are unhandled horse. The horses he has on Bruises Creek weren't bred in the Park.

FN: But your horses and the horses that were bred in the Park and have been mixed up for a long time?

EM: In the last ten years.

RM: What is going to happen to the horses now on these 8,000 acres you've sold to the Park?

EM: Well the Parks fellows want all the horses off or eradicated so I signed the contract and with my solicitor - we will take all the horses off and if any stray ones come in, we are not responsible. So that's the only way I can look at it, it's unfenced country and its pretty hard to ...

FN: You've got some fenced country where you can take them, take these horses that you take out of those 8,000 acres?

EM: Yes

FN: And you will do that within the next few months?

EM: we hope to do that in the next three months.

RM: They will still show the brumby lines, won't they?

EM: Yes

FN: Because some of those animals that you'll take off those 8,000 acres would have been born on the Park.

EM: Well they would have been born backwards and forwards.

FN: Yes they would have been born outside those 8,000 acres.

RM: This is why I brought this book along because I think it has to be remembered that there were no fences there and the horses travelled, so when you say "born in or out of the Park", it wasn't Park, it was working country. It was cattle country so it was very hard to say out of the park or in the park because it wasn't Park when we're talking about brumbies.

VC: How long ago were you talking about, "in the Park, and out of the Park"?

EM: I forgot when we bought that place. You remember when Purcell sold?

LH: Yes but I can't put a date on it.

EM: No I can't but we took horses around then.

LH: Have to be pretty near 30 years, wouldn't it?

EM: I think so. We took horses there to Boban and there was horses already there and there always was for years and they just amalgamated. There's nothing stopping them from going into the river and nothing stopping them from going out.

RM: Ernie what type of horses were they running there at the time? Did you see a predominance of creamy, or anything in particular? Where they good types?

EM: They were good types of stock horses. On one side of the river, Corner Camp, were mostly creamies and I think that's where the creamies came from.

FN: Those two stallions that you mentioned that the Browns imported, their names make them sound like they were pretty light coloured. Were they?

EM: One was, I'm not sure, a palomino and one was just a creamy.

FN: These were the ones you were talking about?

RM: The photos that Mr. MacDougall has of the half dozen that he took out, there was a creamy, a white tail creamy foal amongst them and he said that they were the last of the Brown's horses so that's the line we have coming through in Stella and Blue.

EM: I've only seen those horses that Ted Cobley had, I saw a couple of them, that's the only ones I've seen. They were gone before I was 10 year old anyhow.

RM: Ted used to run the horses, those Brown's horses and Ted Cobly and he lived at Razor Back and then he had lease hold country in that Chaelundi area.

LH: He was on that Misty Creek side, he was.

RM: He used to go and catch the horses and they were sold in South Grafton but weren't those horses that ran up there, if they were likely types, caught? Would they have been used?

EM: Robyn we got some of the horses and used them just for stock horses and they were as good as any other horse and we've had some of the pony types have ended up in Glen at the Pony Camp.

RM: But they were all pretty useful horses?

EM: I don't know if you remember one chestnut old horse we used to have on the road with the cattle called 'Mitchell'? We got him out of the Mitchell and he was a beautiful horse. Quiet, a little kid could ride him and he'd be first up for a feed.

RM: You had that little gelding that Bev Cheers bought, 'Squizzly'. The kids used to ride him, a little bay brown. There has been a lot of handy horses come out of the Park. To say that the horses that are there now, are all introduced is not correct...

FN: Are introduced?

RM: From the saleyards or whatever, but from what Ernie says some of the horses have gone in there and have crossed again with the brumbies that were already in there.

EM: Yes, some other horses that we've had in the last 10 years at Boban have crossed with the brumbies.

FN: So the point you are making Ernie is, that there has been horses there ever since, in what is now the National Park ever since your father can remember.

EM: As far as from when I went there, as I say I am 69 now and I have been up and down that river since I was 10 years old and there were horses in those portions. Boban, Bob's Creek, Pargo, Ballards, Corner Camp right over to the Henry River but that's not down the river, not the main river, not the Guy Fawkes. Very odd horses came into the Guy Fawkes.

BN: So in Combolo and places, were there horses through there, do you think?

EM: Only odd ones came off the top at that time, but there wasn't a lot of horses but they were spread out.

BN: And Housewater Creek?

EM: Not then. Ted Cobby owned Housewater Creek and if they were there he would have had them wouldn't he.

FN: You mentioned some of the horses that were taken out of the Park were put in Pony Camps, did you say?

EM: What we got off, yes.

FN: So these were smaller horses compared with others?

EM: Yes, there were some smaller horses in them and very active and good types.

FN: But they were used by local Pony Clubs then, and they were given to other locals?

EM: Sold.

FN: Sold to other people who used them in Pony Club.

GB: Any other sport, ended up in the hands of Pony Club people.

RM: Pony Club doesn't necessarily mean pony as in small. There were big horses too.

GB: Some of them were up to 16 hands.

BN: Girls like big horses.

RM: Yes yes. Les have you got some questions for Ernie because you know the country?

LH: No you have covered everything very well there is nothing that you haven't....

EM: Tiny, Tiny did some of the culling, that's Les' brother, when we used to be on Broadmeadows because we didn't like that. All dead horses, no way! But they had to be culled and kept under control.

LH: They were being paid so much a head by Newbury's.

FN: So Newbury's actually had their own control program.

RM: I think you will find they all did. It was all cattle country and there was no way they were going to let horses eat out the area, that's why it wasn't a problem. It wasn't an issue until, as Ernie says, after the war when the young fellows were inexperienced that they let the numbers get out of control. How many years has that country been National Park ?

BN: 1972

RM: That's 38 years. In 38 years you can breed a hell of a lot of horses!

EM: Rex Thompson, Doug Myers, Kevin Mulligan, they've run horses off Ballards in the Mitchell.

LH: They used to run in the Mitchell once.

EM: Yes

VC: After the war horses weren't used much. People would have regularly taken horses out, I should imagine for their own use or to be sold to people but when mechanisation came in, they didn't want them. Also they didn't want bush horses, they wanted something a bit more fancy because horses became pleasure horses. They weren't used for work nearly as much as they were before the war. Would you say that was right?

EM: I would say that would be right, yes, because even so when we'd go to school we had to ride horses. We were just reared on them. Everything you done in the bush, you done it by horse.

VC: A lot of horses went to the city as well because the horses were used on the bakers cart and the vegetables to take everything around. Even when I was a child...

BN: When you received horses through those areas and Doug Myers and yourself and others were pulling horses out at times to use as stock horses and for Pony Clubs, how did you get the horses out?

EM: They trap-yard them mostly. We got a problem now to get the horses off the portion of country we just sold but I think we'll trap yard them.

BN: And that's what they used to do in the early days, trap yard them?

EM: My brother and I went up to the Plain where they shot a lot of them. The National Park want us to get the horses off if we owned them. We had a month to get them off and this was in the middle of the drought. OK. We said we don't own them because they'd been there for a while and we don't know, but we went up and got 54. We went up there and got 54 but we had to drive them out, we didn't trap them. We had ten runs and we gotta go back 12 to 15 miles to get them and take them back.

BN: That was off Little Plain, was it?

EM: Yes, that was Little Plain.

BN: So did you use coacher horses for that? Did you bring some quiet horses to mix them up or just ...

EM: No, just a horse each and that little piebald pony was one. They were chasing them with helicopters and they got a bit out of control then but out of the ten runs over three days we brought home nothing. Just a tired horse and once when I went home I had to go back to the Plain to get me horse down from the Long Gap - he hit a gully and run over a log, so we had to go back, but it was a bit of education and..

BN: But you got 54 out?

EM: Yes, we got 54.

FN: In those ten runs?

BN: How long ago was that when you were talking about?

EM: I'd say that would be about five years ago. Five or six years ago.

BN: That was before Parks started doing helicopter...

EM: They did one run I think and I there were five blokes in the helicopter and I don't know what they got in that first run. Do you remember? Five horses or what?

BN: Was that the run down there at the yards at Saw Pit Creek?

RM: That was when they locked the cattle up.

BN: Was that the run you were talking about?

EM: No, I don't think so. I think it was higher back this side towards the Peak I think.

RM: The Saw Pit run was when you were mustering cattle.

EM: They locked them up at Saw Pit Creek.

RM: Yes

GB: The one that I just mentioned didn't have the helicopter. I can't remember when we first used the helicopter.....that was when we all went down ...

LH: We used the helicopter because then because I nearly got thrown off my horse coming around the corner and a helicopter was sitting on the beach and he'd never seen one before.

RM: When did you start chasing them and when did you start going down there with Chiller and the rest?

GB: About 93

RM: and that was the first of the runs?

GB: the first set of yards they built to run horses - I can look it up, but about 93.

LH: the Rock Wall yards.

GB: we had about a dozen horsemen, people with horses. We built that Rock Wall yard but we didn't have helicopters then.

RM: was that successful?

GB: yes it was. We got 18 horses in that run but we were very new to running horses and there were a lot of mistakes made, a bit much of pressure on at the wrong time and got what there was.

EM: you must have done a good job getting them from the yard out.

GB: we had no trouble to catch the horses but leading them out was hard. The start at the Rock Wall yards we had probably a dozen people there, people coming and going. It was just an outing for them but when we got down to working with Parks and trapping horses there were only ever three of us mainly. That was Greg, Chiller and meself and we put long hours in.

RM: Mr. MacDougall said that he caught them at Peak Creek. He had a trap yard there and hobbled them and took them out to the Plain. They just used hobbles. What did Teddy Cobbly use?

EM: He had traps.

RM: I rang Kevin Timbs and he said they used to live at Bald Nob before the War and they used to trap them. At first they would run them in the Mitchell - that would have been back of Donnelly's on the Mann. He and his brother would run them - they would stage themselves and take it in turns until they could wheel them. They were getting 20 out at a time but he said that the horses, this was before the war, the horses that they got out were too wild. He was talking about a black stallion in particular that was a terrific type but from the day he put his hand on him he stopped eating and died in the end after they let him go. He

said that it often happened that you would get mobs - if you had a mob that had that particular bad strain in it you would find them all that. But he said at that time there were half a dozen mobs of around 20 horses in that area.

EM: They mainly run at 7s, don't they. 5s, 7s or sometime 12. In winter time you might find 15 or so together and spring time they split up. If you come on to them, they'd be pleased to see you and they'd nearly follow you.

GB: The only time you'd find smaller mobs of 2 or 3 they were usually young colts chased out. When they said they used to catch the horses and gobble them, where did they take them to then, did they only have to take them down the river further?

RM: They were taken down from the Plain to Marengo.

EM: They'd be going down the river and then they'd have to come back up the river.

#### **2.4.2 Transcript of taped telephone discussion with Mr Noel MacDougall, "Marengo" Hernani 2453, immediately following the interview with Ernie Maskey, with Ernie Maskey still being present. Recorded at Look Out Motel, Dorrigo.**

*September 25<sup>th</sup> 2001*

*(RM = Robyn MacDougall, NM = Noel MacDougall, EM = Ernie Maskey, FN = Frank Nicholas, VC = Velda Chaplin, LH = Les Hume, GB = Graeme Baldwin, BN = Brad Nesbitt)*

RM: Hello Grandpa, how are you?

NM: I'm all right, thank you.

RM: That's good - we are all here at the motel land we are in the middle of the meeting. I have Ernie here, Les, Graham Baldwin and the rest of members and we were just wondering if you could tell us a little bit of history of the horses and how you brought those horses out of Peak Creek. We might start off with a little bit about the Brown's horses.

NM: Well I don't really know that much about it. The origin of them but they had blood sires with their horses.

RM: the horses you got out, that was in about 1933, 34?

NM: 33, yes

RM: 33, there was one creamy amongst them, bays?

NM: there was a creamy and white one there, a creamy white piebald one. She belonged to an old piebald mare but we got seven there. She belonged to Dave Hollis, she must have been one of the original ones and the creamy and white one was Ted Cobley's strain.

RM: So how did you get them and where did you catch them?

NM: We built a trap yard for them in Peak Creek.

RM: I think you hobbled them and walked them to the Plain?

NM: yes.

RM: How did you get them from the Plain?

NM: I think we must have driven them, I can't remember to be honest. I suppose we put them in with other stock horses and drove them home.

RM: Did they all turn out to be good stock horses?

NM: No, two or three died, fretted to death we think. We never saw them again after we broke them in. We finished up with two mares, two younger mares but we never worked them because one got her eye knocked out. But she had two or three foals for me which we worked once they were broken in.

RM: How many horses would there have been around Kitty's Creek, Peak Creek?

NM: We didn't see any, there were none there in those days.

RM: Did you see many horses in the bush at all?

NM: No. Only the few we got were the only ones running in the river at that stage.

RM: What about after the war?

NM: Well there were a few there after the war but they weren't Brown horses, they didn't go back to the original Brown horses.

RM: What about Newberry's? Did you go down into Ernie's country. Say Combolo and in that area, were there horses down there?

NM: No, not after the war.

RM: Well maybe Ernie might have a few questions to ask and that will sort of prompt you along.

EM: Hello Noel.

NM: Good Morning. How are you?

EM: Good thanks. In the Mitchell, all my life there's been horses in the Mitchell side. Were they there in those years, do you know?

NM: I was only up there a couple of times when I was mustering and I never saw a horse or any horse tracks in the Mitchell River.

EM: Bobs Creek and Pargo and Ballards used to have horses there - not a lot, but they were the first brumby horses I'd seen.

NM: Yes but that would probably be after the War, wouldn't it?

EM: Yes

NM: No well we up there, I don't remember seeing horses in Bob's Creek either.

EM: Oh well, you didn't have any experience on Corner Camp, out the other side of the Mitchell?

NM: No

EM: No well there were horses out there from the time I was 10 years old on.

NM: Yes well that could be right too. I was never in that area.

BN: You do remember after the second world war, around that time were there people breeding horses to sell on for people sending horses overseas for the war, for the light horse. Do you know of any people breeding for that?

NM: that was very doubtful. They didn't use horses at all, they used chemical warfare.

BN: I understand the Waughs used to breed horses back in the 30s

NM: Who?

BN: The Waughs, remember the Waughs?

NM: Yes, they may have. Turnbolls used to sell a few to the Indian Army.

LH: Yes that's right, the Turnbolls.

NM: Dick Gilder used to buy horses for the Indian Army.

BN: Did he buy them straight from the properties or did he pick them up from the sale yards?

NM: No, only from the properties. He used to get a lot from the Turnbolls up at Kotupna.

BN: What sort of horses was he buying? Blood horses?

NM: Yes, blood horses.

BN: Local stock horses that Turnbolls were breeding? Do you think Turnbolls were pulling many horses out of the Gulf Country?

NM: Out of where?

BN: Any of those wild horses. Do you think Turnbull would have been pulling any of those horses out and selling them on too?

NM: I don't think so. To my knowledge they only ever went up there once, up the river chasing horses, and that was old Bob Turnbull and Bob Adams and Louis Austin and Errol Turnbull probably.

BN: Do you know when that was roughly?

NM: that would have been before the war I think, about 1931/32 probably.

BN: mDid they get anything do you remember?

NM: I don't know. Errol Turnbull had a piebald horse he used to ride, a piebald mare, well she came from there but I don't know what numbers they got, if any.

BN: He actually had a piebald he pulled out of the river. Any idea where he pulled that out from?

NM: somewhere between Peak Creek and the Plain. They got a few there but they were only there for a couple of days. Old Louis Austin had a bad fall, a horse fell on him, he had a bad smash and they had to get him away and they never went back after that.

BN: That was all before the war then.

NM: Yes

BN: Was that before you pulled horses out in 33 or after?

NM: Before that.

BN: Any idea of how much before that?

NM: Well I think it must have been about 1931/32. We got those last few in 33 and Ted Copley and Eddy Rhodes got most of them. They got them after Turnbolls were there. They built a trap yard and trapped them. I think Turnbolls just chased them.

BN: But then he must have caught one of them.

NM: Yes

LH: In more recent years there's been a lot of horses in Combolo and down at Housewater back in the 70s. Any idea when they first turned up in that area?

NM: No I haven't, I don't ever remember seeing horses in Housewater either. They would have come out of Kitty Creek probably.

RM: After the War do you think any horses were put back into the bush, anything that wasn't wanted? Did they put old horses back in?

NM: I don't think so, I never heard of any.

RM: How about Newberrys. Do you remember them? They had a lease down there. Did they breed horses down there?

NM: No. I don't think so. The horses they would have got there would have been horses that came from ...anything that was branded would have had DIT on them but I don't think Newberry's had horses that went in there.

RM: Here's Les to speak to you.

LH: Hello, how are you, long time no see. In Genevieve Newbury's book she said that they used to run horses down in the Days Water.

NM: Yes they could have

LH: They used to muster them, take out the horses they wanted to break in and left the rest in there.

NM: Yes well that country was all pretty well fenced in those days and they would have stayed there.

LH: That could be pretty right

NM: Yes that could be right

LH: You remember the time you went in and got old Geoff Hickey out? Well just before that I think I went in there with Geoff and there was a big white tailed creamy horse in the paddock there. Screaming around the paddock. He was running up the river I think. He was a brumby horse.

NM: No he would have been running around Combolo, that fellow.

LH: he wasn't a half bad sort of a horse.

NM: no, he was a good sort of a horse. Very good.

LH: alright Noel, we'll see you.

NM: Right.

RM: Grandpa, Graeme Baldwin brought in a piece about the Ellis's and we were trying to find out about an area they were speaking about called the Bluff. Do you know where it is?

LH: Noel, that's William Ellis that dropped dead down there and they carted him out of the Bluff. I found out that the Bluff was the name of their property near Wards Mistake that Lloyd Ellis is on now. That was what the Bluff was all about. I hadn't got around to telling them yet. I'll put you back to Robyn again.

RM: I'll just ask if there are any other questions.

BN: Mr. MacDougall one of the things when Les brought in the diaries from the Newberrys, they were talking about horses being down in the Gulf country. We were talking about last meeting about back in those days, what people meant by the Gulf Country. Did they mean more of that Mitchell, Aberfoyle, Guy Fawkes area or did they mean the Ebor end?

NM: Well I would have thought only the top end.

BN: What do you mean about the top end?

NM: Well all of it probably. From the Peak Creek up.

BN: From Peak Creek up, meaning sort of 'over the bluff'. People would have called the Gulf country, meaning from over the edge down into the gorges, they mean going into the Gulf. From your remembrance Peak Creek going up the river was what people called the Gulf country.

NM: Yes

BN: thank you for that because it's good to have an understanding of what people were thinking in those days, thanks for that, that's all the questions I have and I'll put you back to Robyn.

RM: thanks so much, Grandpa, Ernie and I will be back there around 5 this afternoon.

FN: Is there anything else you would like to ask Ernie?

BN: I guess I'm just interested, Ernie, in terms of the background. You started at 'Broadmeadows' from the age of ten to fourteen. You were born down in that country, were you?

EM: I was born in Grafton and reared in Newton Boyd.

BN: So where were the rest of your family living.

EM: my Grandparents were buried at Razorback at our old home.

RM: You said that Teddy Copley lived at Razorback.

EM: He lived at Razorback for a short time but he was up where they call Browns, just up the river called 'East Home', that's the name of the place but everyone called it Browns because it was owned by Mrs. Brown. Then he left there and went to Lingalong and then he lived down ??????

BN: So when you turned up at Newton Boyd, when you say 10, you had started working.

EM: Well I left school as soon as I could.

RM: You did go one day.

EM: Yes, I did go one day and I didn't like it and I didn't go back again. I went to work one day and I didn't like it either.

BN: so when you were born until say 10, you were living in Grafton?

EM: No, I went to Newton Boyd, I went to Newton Boyd College.

BN: University OK. So you were living there but you started work when you were ten.

EM: Well life was pretty hard, there were 14 kids. My father lived there all his life and his mother and father were buried there and that's just home that's all.

BN: and your father was living at 'Razorback'?

EM: He worked for different people around there and he droved.  
RM: Are you getting at, did they buy 'Razorback'?  
BN: No, Ernie has been very helpful giving information from when he started at Newton Boyd but I'm just interested in your family links all the way and it is very clear to me now that you grew up in the Newton Boyd area and your family was there for many many years before then.  
LH: the only reason he went to Grafton was to get born!  
BN: Of course!  
EM: My place is just about three miles from 'Razorback' over at 'Why Worry'.  
BN: Sorry to get personal. I just got interested in going right back to make sure I got a good picture.  
EM: I suppose we were the only people that are not imported to Newton Boyd.  
RM: That's right  
LH: Last of the originals.  
BN: I reckon that's a fascinating history Ernie, I think that's great.  
FN: You did a wonderful job, you took the time to tell us that, thank you for that.  
EM: Glad I could be helpful.



## **2.5 DOCUMENT PREPARED BY ROBYN MACDOUGALL, A MEMBER OF THE WORKING PARTY**

Because it has separate pagination, this document is included in this report as Appendix 1.

## 2.6 VERBAL SUBMISSIONS TO MEETINGS OF THE WORKING PARTY

### 2.6.1 From Christine Hare, Brumby Heritage and Protection Society (now renamed as the Australian Brumby Heritage Society). 21<sup>st</sup> August 2001

*(CH = Christine Hare, RM = Robyn MacDougall, EM = Ernie Maskey, FN = Frank Nicholas, VC = Velda Chaplin, LH = Les Hume, GB = Graeme Baldwin, BN = Brad Nesbitt, CeHu = Cesia Huxley [taking minutes])*

- FN: Are you happy for everything we discuss here this afternoon to be recorded?
- CH: Oh sure, yes.
- FN: So - we're very pleased that you've come. We received the press release. Brad distributed that to everybody.
- CH: Oh thank you, Brad.
- FN: So we've all read the press release. As you, I hope, are aware, this Working Party was formed by the Minister, so it's not a National Parks working party.
- CH: Absolutely.
- FN: And it was formed as one of the recommendations from Tony English's second report, the one after the Dorrigo workshop, and our riding instructions were to examine and document claims made that the feral horses in the Guy Fawkes River National Park have significant heritage value, heritage or historical value, sufficient to warrant their being managed on this basis. So there's lots of controversial issues about which we are not concerned on this committee. Our task is solely to leave no stone unturned to collect any information we can that will enable us to decide the extent to which these horses have heritage value. That's the context in which we are very pleased to have you here and to listen to what you have to say.
- CH: Thank you very much. Unfortunately Dr Nicholas
- FN: Please call me Frank.
- CH: Oh thanks Frank! You might change your mind. Unfortunately though there are a couple of things that I really must address, because I've been told to, and as you can imagine ...
- FN: So you are really representing the society?
- CH: Yeah. Members have got a couple of concerns that if you wouldn't mind, I'll raise before I get into the rest of the stuff because they are relevant and I take on board what you are saying about other issues and we're not going there. But this is to do with the Heritage Working Party; that's ... now, ... First of all, the Brumby Heritage and Protection Society appreciates the opportunity to make a ... submission to your Committee. While our submission addresses three of the most important cultural and heritage values of our country's horse history, the Australian brumby, there is first an issue which must be resolved for the public record. That is, the terms of reference. It concerns the conditions of the terms of reference laid down for this Heritage Working Party and I appreciate what you're saying in terms of - you have not been able to choose your own terms of reference- but, and I quote, that evidence must go beyond statements of local oral history. That's the first point, I'll get back to that. And whatever the outcomes of the Heritage Working Party, the horses are to be removed from the Park. Unquote. Now I must tell you at this stage, prior to the actual release of the English report, which was, you know, really, I'm sure you're aware of this, wasn't well received by ...
- FN: This is the first report - there were two English reports - one of which was received much better than the other.
- CH: Well, no that's not quite right.
- FN: Ah - well.
- CH: Unfortunately, the outrage from the public is still
- FN: Oh, I don't dispute that, but some of the harshest critics of his first report, have actually told me that they were much happier with the second report.
- CH: Yeah, but if I could just let you know about this. Before his report was actually released
- FN: This is the first?
- CH: Yes. The metropolitan media informed the public that the National Parks and Wildlife had already predicted the outcome - now that really got up people's noses for a start. However, we'll move on from there. It's greatly undermined the confidence of people in the State Government, and National Parks and Wildlife, and by extension to its representative, the Australian Veterinary Association. Because it's what they say and I'm sorry, I agree with them. OK. The implications of these terms of reference will understandably be seen by the public as having had yet another predetermined outcome.
- FN: Yes
- CH: OK. So these are the questions - how can they can they be viewed otherwise, when our egalitarian attitude is one of acceptance of many other cultures' oral histories, and, if, National Parks and Wildlife, has already

stated its intention in the terms of reference to remove the horses from the National Park, regardless of the outcomes, what's the purpose of this meeting?

FN: OK, well that's a fair question, and its one that has been debated

CH: The first question affects it, too

FN: The first question being?

CH: The first question is: how can they be viewed otherwise, when our egalitarian attitude is one of acceptance of many other cultures' oral histories, but you, in the terms of reference, . . . are saying you will not accept our oral history even though we're getting it from grandfathers and great grandfathers

FN: OK well I can address that as well. If I can address the second one first.

CH: Alright.

FN: It has been discussed extensively by this Working Party - that very question. And it's true that we are ... we are ...

CH: You mean the horses are being removed from the park.

FN: No, no it's true that the current - this Working Party is working in the context of it being the present policy of the National Parks - and I emphasize the word policy - that all the horses from all national parks around New South Wales, should be removed from the Parks. Now that's the political policy, and that's the reality with which we, in which we, are operating at the moment.

CH: Yes.

FN: But what we have discussed in this Working Party, is that the formation of this Working Party gives everyone who is interested in the Guy Fawkes horses, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to assemble all the relevant information.

CH: Oral?

FN: All sorts of information, and large amounts of it are going to be oral. I'll come to that in a minute. Every conceivable bit of information that could, that has anything remotely relevant to the heritage or historical value of these horses. And to assemble all that information, and to critically evaluate it, that's the job of the committee. And then to present that critical evaluation of all the evidence to the Minister. We were a bit at sea to start with, because what is meant by heritage value was a big challenge to us. But we've now in fact discovered that in fact the NSW Heritage Council has a very clear set of guidelines as to what is involved in establishing heritage value.

CH: For ...

FN: For anything - for anything that is - animal, vegetable or mineral.

CH: Oh alright.

FN: And we are now operating within those guidelines. It provides a wonderful set of riding instructions, if you like, as to how we can go about our task.

CH: Does that advice coming from them include oral histories?

FN: Yes it does, yes. So I think I've addressed the first question. So now to get on to the second question.

CH: So the terms of reference are sort of now a little bit

FN: The mention by Tony English in his report, that it would require more than oral history, is not excluding oral history at all. He is just saying that you would need more than this, and there is

CH: Oh he was much stronger than that. He said that he wouldn't accept, it had to go beyond, he wanted evidence.

FN: It had to be more than oral history, yes. But he's not excluding oral history. I mean, oral history is - we're working very hard to collect all the oral history that we possibly can. But our - in our minutes and all our discussion which is on the public record show that

CH: Oh is it?

FN: We have taken - we have taken our task - as I quoted before - our job is to examine and document claims made that feral horses - there's no restriction on the sort of claims that are made - that feral horses in the Guy Fawkes River National Park have significant heritage or historical values.

CH: Right - Frank are we able to get copies of the back minutes to sort of catch up on where you're at?

FN: Yes yes. They're public documents.

CH: I didn't like to ask. I thought it was best to ask you when I was here. You know, I'm coming in cold really.

FN: That's why we want to meet with people like yourself - it's so important so that a whole lot of misconceptions can be . . .

CH: Too right. Because the members have been hot under the collar about this sort of stuff, and they were saying that justice-wise, if you're not going to accept our oral histories, then we might take you to the equal opportunities - I'm sorry!

FN: There's no question of that. We were floundering because we had to have some way of deciding - there is a subjective - the assessments have to be subjective about this. The Heritage Council really has given us a very clear set of guidelines. We'll work through them later this afternoon. So

CH: That makes a difference.

FN: As for your first issue, the very first one, about the perceived independence,  
 CH: Oh yes.  
 FN: That is something that is more difficult to counter, and I'm aware of that. I - all I can say is, I've been asked to chair this, as someone who had, firstly no knowledge of the issues, and I don't pretend to know anything about horses.  
 CH: Oh, you're not an equine vet?  
 FN: No, no, no, I'm not a vet and I don't pretend to have any knowledge about horses at all. I'm a geneticist.  
 CH: Oh, crickey.  
 FN: And I've also done some actual history work. So they were the two reasons why I was asked to chair this.  
 CH: Brad, are you a horseman?  
 BN: Am I a horseman?  
 CH: Yes  
 BN: I've had associations with horses all of my life. I own horses.  
 CH: Oh I assumed everybody was, I'm sorry I was wrong.  
 FN: So, I'm here because of my track record in having published in history, but being a geneticist, and when issues of wild horse populations around the world come up, questions of genetics always arise, so it was thought that that knowledge would be useful.  
 CH: Right.  
 FN: So that's the context, but it's also important that the whole emphasis of this Working Party is that nothing is not on the public record.  
 CH: OK All Right.  
 FN: It is also true that I am actually a colleague of Tony English's. He and I are in the same faculty at the University of Sydney. So I do know Tony.  
 CH: Oh Right.  
 FN: He's at Camden and I'm in Sydney but we're colleagues in the same Faculty. We teach the same students. And so he's a colleague of mine. But his reports have been written without any input from me - I've seen the reports after they've become public knowledge.  
 CH: Yes.  
 FN: And so that's - that's - people have to realise that as well.  
 CH: He is in the AVA isn't he?  
 FN: Well I don't know whether - I was never aware - although I've seen mention of the AVA, I was never aware that he was actually asked to do those reports in any AVA capacity. He happens to be a - the - not so much the A or the - yes - he has been involved, I think they do have a conservation section within the Australian Veterinary Association. I think he's been the Chairman or the President of that section.  
 CH: Well see ...  
 FN: But my knowledge was that he wasn't actually asked to do this as an AVA person. He was asked to do this as a senior veterinarian.  
 CH: You have to understand the public seeing it in a certain light, can't you.  
 FN: Ah yes yes that's right so  
 CH: So the perception is still there. If you like I'll just get on to the next bit as it's a bit related to. Firstly I'm very pleased to hear that oral history will be accepted.  
 FN: Yes. yep.  
 CH: Anyway I shall continue. The public are looking towards this heritage committee - or sorry Heritage Working Party - with perhaps higher expectations than might otherwise have been placed, given what went before. It is not understatement to say they will not accept another slaughter, nor the removal of the horses from their historical range areas at the same time as they see hundreds of thousands of hectares of land being declared wilderness and national park. That's ...  
 FN: OK that's - that there is a political question.  
 CH: I realise that, but I have to put on public record what they are saying. It's a difference - it's not just our members that are saying this. This is coming from a lot of quarters that are not in anyway involved in our group.  
 FN: And we live - I mean we all live in a political environment and we have to appreciate the implications of that. And as I have stressed in this Working Party, our report will be, when it becomes public - our final report - it, too, will then be evaluated in a political environment.  
 CH: Well, I've only got really two more contentious things to say and then we're more or less out of the red area, shall we say. But I'm sorry I'm on about ... I'm sure you'll appreciate my position - I'm not very good at this, but here goes. The Australian public expects a demonstrative change of attitude to come out of this meeting, toward ensuring future generations the sanctuary of our Australian brumby, whose heritage

they have never questioned. ... Feral Australian brumbies, next heading - the impartiality of any examining body is immediately called into question from the public's viewpoint whenever the brumbies are referred to as feral. The Australian public do not appreciate having a horse of this country that this country calls its own, branded by that prefix and it considers it a parochialism in the extreme. Even the English report acknowledged that Australians do not consider the Australian brumby as feral, and the fact that our country's horses have been placed on such a list by some agency is seen by the people as demeaning to their own heritage. Other domestic species previously deemed feral by NPWS have been removed once people insisted they considered them of value. You have the examples of the goats on Windermere, the camels that are now being exported to the United Emirates. This is not a giant legislative leap in this state, given the small number of surviving horses, and there is already a precedent in Australia for the preservation of wild horses dating back to 1975. Something's going to have to be addressed - it looks really bad. It may be of interest to environmentalists that before Darwin perfected his theory of evolution, all that was known about the origin of the horse, so far as the average horseman was concerned, was contained in the story of Noah and the Ark. From this a belief that *Equus caballus* was of one single origin (and that was the logical conclusion at the time) Darwin himself was, therefore, no innovator in this respect. He demonstrated his tenet of evolution and the origin of species by natural selection largely by reference to successive equine ancestry in the... , which is interesting ... Anyway, we're out of red area, we can all breathe.

FN: Well can I just mention the other issue you have raised, the use of the word feral. We are also sensitive to that word. It's in our terms of reference, so we've left it in there.

CH: But you see the concerns we have

FN: We have

CH: in the actual terms of reference

FN: We've discussed that as well, in fact we now

CH: Sorry to go over old ground

FN: We are tending to use the word wild horses rather than feral horses in acknowledgment of that sensitivity. This morning when I was discussing the results - the man in America who we are collaborating with now, who is the world authority on the genetic aspects of horses like this - he happens to refer to them as feral horses and so I used the word feral a couple of times.

CH: That's most unusual. Over in America they don't usually prefix their horses over there.

FN: No, this is where he is talking about we now call

CH: I wonder if we're not onto another biased person

FN: wild horse populations.

CH: Yes but they don't refer to them as feral, even in the legislation over there

FN: No, no, well he did. All I'm saying is that he often uses the word.

CH: Does he?

FN: But we're quite happy to use the word "wild" - we appreciate the implications

CH: Alright. Well it will probably continue to a very big ... As far the public is viewing it anyway. But

FN: Can we just - since we've finished that, can I just ask for comments from anybody else?

RM: There was just one comment there, you did start off with that first question, and got as far as discussed. Got the information together, assembled all the information that could be found and evaluated it, and then we were thinking about policies. Can policies be changed?

FN: Policies are determined by politicians.

RM: Right.

CH: They're not set in concrete.

RM: They're not set in concrete.

FN: We've acknowledged that; it's in the minutes ...

CH: The trouble is once legislation or myth gets into law, people are very lazy. They don't want to change it. Basically that's what happens.

FN: But the whole history of democracies is that people have - the whole point of democracy - is that people have the opportunity to change legislation by the agreed political process. And whether or not

CH: Not by the agreed political process. If I could interrupt and use that horrible word not to be mentioned here, if you had said that to me, then I would have said, listening to the public outcry after the slaughter, one would have thought legislation would have changed at that point in time.

FN: Well, you understand

CH: So obviously we've got to get people out of government before we get legislation changed.

FN: Well it could be that the opposition - you'll have to find out what the opposition thinks. This is the whole political process. This is the whole political process. So that the alternative that we faced as a Working

Party, was to say that the government has provided us with an opportunity to investigate every conceivable bit of information that relates to the heritage question about these horses. We either accept that invitation, the opportunity to assemble all this information, and to put it on the public record, or we say no. Just walk away and say it's not worth us doing it. And we collectively decided it is worth us doing it. Putting a lot of effort in, people around the table are putting in a huge amount of effort to collect this information. But it will be just one stage in a number of processes.

CH: Well that's lovely to hear Frank, I'm very pleased to hear you say that. That to me sounds as if that won't be the end of it. Because that's what people are frightened of.

FN: Yeah, no, no, I mean, people have to, they have to always bear in mind what the political realities are. The way in which western

CH: Oh they know what the political realities are, but what they're worried about is the outcome of this committee, in terms of that being the end of it. Especially when they read the terms of reference as I have said to you, their concerns - and they were very valid - they don't know you've been looking at the other stuff; they don't know that you have now if you like a broader guideline by which you can say ahah; we are allowed to take this on board. They don't know that, because truly, there's nothing getting out there.

FN: Well we've been discussing this, this morning, and we've issued a press release in which we made it very clear that we wanted information - all sorts of information - from anybody possible but only three newspapers took it up and they culled out a lot of the relevant information so but we.

CH: Look if we can in anyway help you in that regard, we'd be happy to do that.

FN: What we've said from the beginning is that when we submit the final report to the minister just before December, just before Christmas, that we want to be able to say, that there is no viewpoint relative to the heritage issue that has not been considered in this report. That's what we want to be able to say.

CH: You'll have to be right.

FN: We don't want anybody to be able to stand up afterwards and say that you didn't let us put forward our point of view.

CH: Yes.

FN: Our ability to collect all relevant information relies on people providing us with information.

CH: Of course. Well that's my point of being here

FN: But we will not exclude any bit of information.

CH: Unfortunately I couldn't move on to the second phase which is terribly important without first raising the first half

FN: I think that's fine

CH: Because the first part of it as far as the evidence makes what we are doing this for? And this is the question I am getting all the time.

FN: Well I hope that you can now answer them satisfactorily.

CH: I hope so too.

FN: Does anybody else want to add anything?

LH: I was just thinking that . . . said that there should have been a policy change. There was actually, because the Minister said there will never be ....

CH: I'm sorry to be - I'm not really saying ..., please understand. Minister Debus first of all came out and put a temporary ban on it. Then he came out and put a permanent ban - just on the aerial culling of horses. NPWS ran with that in the press saying it was an aerial ban on the culling of all feral animals. The chorus of various groups all then called for the ban to be lifted, and the rangers themselves had a meeting saying that they wouldn't accept a ban. So I'm sorry but you've got a department in revolt against its own Minister. I don't know what you do about that. I don't trust this ban at all. And neither do a lot of people.

BN: I'm not too sure of the accuracy of some of those statements.

CH: Well I've got a press release. It's in the car if you would like to see it.

BN: The Service certainly ... press releases saying that the Minister had made a decision that there would be an aerial ban

CH: yes, and a range of ...

BN: There was an aerial ban on horse culling. The Minister didn't and the Service never stated that that ban was on all feral animals

CH: Yes they did and it's actually on your website Brad

BN: I'd been interested to look at that because I doubt this very much.

CH: I'd be happy to give it to you.

BN: The other ... is that ranger staff have not met to look at turning round the ban on feral animals.

CH: Actually they had. And you'll find it was your own ... representative chap - ... Sullivan is it? - who put the question ...

BN: Yes, it's actually something quite different. What they were looking at was another process by which feral animal strategies would be assessed - I think you might say - before they would be implemented - so they

looked at a separate submission that might consider feral animal control. We're going off on a tangent ...

CH: Yeah I know. We could argue til the cows come home

BN: It's not so much an argument. The only point I'd like to make is although you're saying that's what the Service is saying, that that is the statement that the Service made; well, being the Service's representative here, I just need people to be aware that from the Service's point of view, that wasn't the statement that we made. And certainly if you want to talk about that later ...

CH: Oh I'd be happy to send you copies.

BN: It's probably separate to the considerations

CH: Certainly, but what I am trying to say to you is, I am not getting funny with you. I don't say things without evidence. OK.

FN: Can I just - I think we should just draw this part to a close. Can I just make a comment that being a member of the human race very quickly teaches you that in all organisations you are going - and particularly healthy organisations - you are going to get variations of opinion. Not everybody is going to think the same within organisations. And so if you have encountered what appears to be differences of opinion, then it's hardly surprising. I mean, you would be amazed if you didn't.

CH: Of course Frank. That's not my concern. My concern was actually - in this particular case they were saying they wouldn't accept the ban, and we'd been terrified they were going to do another slaughter. That's the reality.

FN: I can't comment.

BN: I should comment... It's a very serious concern.

CH: It is, very.

BN: And it's one that's been made very clear by all senior management, and has been endorsed by at least all staff. There are no staff at National Parks that will go against the directive we've established

CH: Thank you Brad

BN: In terms of aerial culling of the horses. And it's specifically what that decision was, and the service will continue to abide by those directions as the Minister is the senior direction given, I suppose, for want of a better term

CH: That was one of the nicest things you could give me to take back

BN: Well I thought that was always very clear and all the rest of us

CH: No no I'm afraid not.

BN: The other thing you may not be aware of then is that the Minister also stated very clearly that there would be a moratorium on the removal of any horses from Guy Fawkes until such time as this committee puts its report to the Director. And that is also being wholeheartedly supported and implemented as it is.

CH: OK. Well thank you for that. That really lays to rest everything that was of any contentious nature

FN: OK, let's get on now with - do we want those ...

BN: One is that the service, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, will not be undertaking, will be following the Minister's direction, that no aerial culling of horses will occur in the National Parks. I think that statement needs to be in the context of the concern raised by Christine that aerial culling was going to happen

CH: Thank you

FN: And then what was the next one? The next one was

CH: No horses will be removed

BN: No horses will be removed from the National Park

FN: No horses will be removed until our report is ... .- have you got both those, Cesia?

CeHu: will be removed

FN until the final report has been submitted

CeHu: And should I have a copy of that?

FN: Yes - can we get a copy of your statement?

CH: Certainly if you like. Yes, I can send<sup>2</sup>

FN: And it forms part of the public record of the Working Party?

CH: Yep. Of course yes.

FN: OK

CH: That question I've just asked you I didn't bring it here but I'd be happy to, if you like, attach the press release that I referred to. Would that make you happy?

BN: I'd certainly be interested to have a look at those. I don't know whether ... .part of the record.

[tape break]

CH: ... Hungarian author ? Yankowitz (?) pointed out in his work that in terms of species now living not all equidae have their chromosome count established. Now the question of classic colouring in the Guy

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2 A copy of the statement was not provided to the Working Party. This transcript is included as the next best thing

Fawkes horses comes up and relates back to this .... The Australian brumbies resident in Guy Fawkes River National Park have an unusually high percentage of coloured horses in .... These are what you call true, or if you prefer classic, palominos, perlinos, cremellos, taffies, piebalds, buckskins and dun. Many of these colours being prized by some horse-breeder enthusiasts. Dun and light coloured are considered by many as unusually attractive horses. It is possibly indicative of the small group of isolation living in that gorge area. When Guy Fawkes horses in ... palominos which were true-coloured that is gold with white mane and tail with the much-admired white legged ... markings, the taffies with their classic silver mane and tail, pseudo albinos, perlinos with darker coffee-coloured mane and tail, the cremellos who had a white or ivory mane and tail, and showed the true blue or, if you like, glass eye; in many countries such colours are referred to as the blue-eyed cream. Genetically I'm getting, you have to know what you're looking at in terms of horses given what you've told me already, you're not horse people, this is terribly important ...

FN: I'm not a horse person. I'm not a horse person. The others are.

CH: OK. Many horse people are now appreciating these highly for their breeding value. Piebald horses have various patterns of pinto colours, buckskins vary between ... the extreme available colour range of cream and gold and the duns cover the spectrum from yellow to dark red with black points, mane and tail, and many have the pronounced and unbroken dark dorsal stripe. The last colours to appear in wild herds of any species are generally the recessive colours. These have always appeared from time to time as part of the natural variation within species. Earlier genetic works linked some colour dilution to ancient genotypes - in particular, the duns with the dorsal or back-line stripe were always said to carry the gene directly linking back to the Przewalski horse, and the more recent colour geneticists refer to this as a characteristic primitive line. It is commonly said by many people that go to the market looking to buy a horse often they make the mistake of thinking that because one horse is not a pure bred, say a brumby, it is superior for breeding purposes - it may be, and it may not be, because many of the new breeds have not evolved over a long enough period of time for the genotype to be fixed. Whereas amongst the older breeds, good qualities have become stamped into the breed. OK. When you get on a little bit further and talk about modern fashion with breeds, it can spell the death knell of blood lines, carrying good points ... from a native breed. Speaking of your domestic horses, the overused description of purebred is a relative term. At the very start of every known pedigree, stands an imported stallion. In his old country, his history and ancestry is indeterminate. On the dam's side, she's often a country-bred mare of unrecorded ancestry. Pure breeding as far as the term can be honestly applied, occurred only in their wild ancestry. It is possible that the Guy Fawkes Australian brumbies could have been on their way to developing into a marketable breed, from the tourist and commercial viewpoint, similar to the wild horses of ... Gorge in Oregon USA. But until our own Australian brumbies are managed by horsemen with knowledge of the terrain of wild horses, such long-term opportunities to resolve their future plans in our own land will be ... So then I'm moving on here to some of the earliest records of horses in New England. Frank, there's a lovely book on genetics and colours. I don't know if you're particularly interested in it but this is what you might like to take on board, I'll write down the ISBN number for you so - maybe get it for the committee.

FN: Yes.

CH: Some of the earliest records of horses in New England. The New England part of the country from the Northern Range to the sea coast was first occupied in 1815[50?] according to records held by the State Library. Access was only available from the north, because of the high ... of the tablelands on the south, east and west. The country was first visited by Mr Coventry, who laid out a station capable of running 10,000 sheep. Originally he found great difficulty in getting into it, because of the inaccessible nature of the country, and in order to regain the tableland, and I quote, his father was compelled to hold on by the tails of the horses. Now this is 1815[50?] we're going back to. Another spur line was eventually found where a horse-drawn dray could with ease and safety travel to the newly formed station. Horses have been there since people have been there.

FN: Since Europeans have been there.

CH: Well. Sorry. You're quite right. I stand corrected. More than that actually, I think you'll find in that article, that diary to which I refer, he had ... with an indigenous gentleman who showed him the spur. Anyway, the Northern Tablelands has been home to some of Australia's toughest and most reknown stock horses. Sirelines of Radium, his sire Cecil and Saladin, the little creamy from Dungog, who was driven into the area from Port Macquarie in 1870. Since palominos were not common in England, Saladin's ancestry - old country ancestry I should say - has been questioned, but most coloureds and dilutes - which is why I'm referring to this - in Australian brumbies around these ranges were always considered by local horsemen, now in their 80s, to be sired by Saladin, owned by Captain Beardmore, and later by Mr J.K. Mackay. A Mr Alison sent a chestnut mare by Eclipse to Saladin. Eclipse was the sire instrumental in establishing the Radium strain. Now if I could just pause for one moment, I know I'm taking your time. That's everything that I was talking about with the early origins of dun, and the genetic work saying what would you like to say - that every dun has to carry the genotype going back to the ... Now that's the latest version - this is an old article but I thought well at least I can give you that for today. This is the breeding of the Saladin



line to whom I refer that came in here in the 1870s. And this is the one that they refer to as being the origin of all the ... and the duns.

FN: Yes.

CH: Its bloodline is in that article as well. The chestnut mare that went to . . . and ultimately was the dam that Eclipse was out of, belonged to the Wrights, who of course established up here in 1885. The bloodline of Eclipse, naming Saladin, and going right through . . .

FN: Eclipse was actually the sire of the chestnut mare.

CH: I think you'll find that Saladin ...

FN: Saladin was mated to that mare.

CH: Saladin was mated to the mare but ....

FN: The offspring was also called Saladin - the daughter was mated back to the original Saladin.

CH: No that's not how it works. No, you have Saladin the little creamy.

FN: Yes.

CH: The chestnut mare came along. Mated with Saladin.

FN: Yeah. By Eclipse.

CH: No. She had Eclipse.

FN: OK.

CH: No wait.

FN: ... has provided us with some information ...

CH: Even in Mr Wright's diary here you'll see the point you have just made. Here he says here that this can become confusing because Eclipse is a very popular name. But Mr Wright in his diary actually traced back through his grandfather to find it was the original Eclipse. OK So we're not going off on a tangent of an Eclipse there and an Eclipse there and will the real Eclipse please stand up? So what you're saying is quite right. When you get back into the old breeding lines you'll find that names were very popular and often queued up again and again. But unless, if you know the Wrights you will know that they have diaries going back to their great great great grandmother who rode up here, and they've got histories of their own family trees. So they really are very good documenters.

FN: Yep. We've actually got some....

GB: ... was he a chestnut?

CH: Well actually the Radium - this old fellow I knew, he was, he was a liver? - was he? - the old fellow - the old Bridget(?) ...

GB: an old fellow the other day thought that Saladin was a liver chestnut

CH: No, a little creamy fellow

...

FN: There are two Saladins

LH: Saladin's son - they call him Saladin too.

RM: If it's anything like our family, the Macdougalls, you can trace our horses back to the originals but you'll find Toots out of Toots out of Toots out of Toots - no names were ever changed. Dixies out of Dixies .... And that's where it becomes very confusing. We know the lines, but it is confusing but I can imagine it's not an uncommon thing.

CH: I think we were lucky in one regard in that the Wrights were such good documenters.

FN: Yep. Yep.

CH: OK. if we go on a bit. I'm now going to move on to a little bit about the horses and colour, and just a little bit more about that in terms of getting up to the origins of stock horses and light horses - the Waler. OK. In this area. Mr Alex G Stuart wrote, and I can back this up with articles for each and everybody, in 1947 in Wing(?) Chronicle: perhaps close breeding of these famous horses kept their colour and stood the test of time on the rough north coast range country, to stay at their feet, sorry, to start their feet, we find no skinny toe, no sand cracks, no corns, no sidebone, no sprung tendons or splints. And when you look at their back legs, no spavin, no .... They're good skinned, strong galloways, with nice hair, mane and tail, mostly cream in colour, good enough in the shoulder to carry a saddle without a crupper, and strong enough in the ribs to dispense with the necessity of breastplates. No day too long; up to 14 stone in mounts. Now if we wanted a definition of a brumby that's not jolly-well bad is it? In other words they were pretty good tough sound little horses that came out of this range country. The same article, for which I have provided you copies, speaks about the taffies, palominos, and pseudo-albinos existing even in those times, all evident today, in the Guy Fawkes Australian brumbies. In the official account given of what is an Australian stock horse, this is from 1974, I quote: almost all of the remaining 40% of stockhorse bloodlines are of specific stockhorse bloodlines which have been developed in the Hunter Valley and the New England range area of New South Wales since the beginning of this century or possibly earlier. Now that's here for you as well. So you're looking for backup in terms of writing, certainly they've been round for a long time. When we talk about the origin of the Australian stockhorse, and again I quote, the genesis of equine history on the Australian

continent commenced with the arrival of seven horses at Sydney Cove, with the First Fleet on 26th January 1788. Hate to tell you, two got away the same day .... During the 185 years which elapsed since that time ... the Australian stockhorse has evolved as a type. The first seven horses had been bought from the Cape of Good Hope by Governor Phillip, and in succeeding years, ... horses mainly ... and draught-type were imported from the same source until 74, until 1974 ... in 1794 the horse population stood at 20. They didn't breed too quickly, you know the way things go, they didn't sort-of get going very well. In 1795 a cargo of 41 horses was loaded at Cape Town. Only 33 survived the voyage. The scarcity of horses ended up costing a fortune. Now this is when the stallion Rockingham arrives, which was 1795. So he comes up in your travels, anything relating back to him, you at least know where he came into the picture of things. The first Arabs came in, bought in by Mr Robert Campbell, in 1806. Now I don't now what sort of things you're looking for in terms of proving .... But that's

FN: this may be - it may be useful information

CH: Well see then - you get up to your 1840s when the squatting era began and in these articles here you'll find that the horses were allowed to free-range right across the country. So their origins can be as old as that. There were no fences. In 1885 Mr Wright bought a station sorry called Kangaroo Hills in the New England Ranges between Guyra and Ebor. He referred in his diary to a stallion called Eclipse and his 15 mares, and also mentioned 15 geldings, the working horses at the station. Eclipse is thought to be, in pedigree circles, the horse that has so much influence on the stockhorses in the Hunter Valley and the New England ranges. Many of the Wright horses trace back to Radium, ... some having a double-cross, that is they're line-bred. Bloodlines and dates are included in the copy article. When we get past the stockhorse that were kicking around here in the 18, middle of the 1800s, we go on to the origins of the lighthorse. Now we're up to 1886. In 1886 Tenterfield provided a portion of ... up to Clarence light horse had transferred to the ... infantry in 1888. A half company of mounted infantry had been formed in Inverell early in 1889. The squadrons of the six that entered the Ambar camp near Maitland in 1907 came from the Tenterfield, Glen Innes, Inverell, Armidale, Guyra, Tamworth and Manilla, a strength of 96 ... the force. 15 officers, 258 other rank and 249 horses. They all worked hard in this area and we're told that these were a lot of horses that were also put back into the area, I don't know - it's going back a long way. Reference will show that the ..., most of the people there supplied many of their own horses, and they were supplied from brumbies, according to an officer's account. I've copied that for you. That actual account, in the newspaper here, called the Australian lighthorse. And he refers to the ... times ... One other, perhaps two other, points that I'd like to make before I close. The international importance of the Australian brumby to the world's horse industry I don't think has been addressed at all. So perhaps if I could just read you the next page, and finish on the next one after that. The Australian brumby has potentially an important future role in the world's horse industry, which has been internationally recognised and must now be recognised by our own Government. In the last decade the United Nations has recognised that the principle of preservation is of equal merit and importance for remnant populations of wild an ... species. It has implemented a global program for the conservation of domestic animal diversity. The United Nations particularly state it considers Australia will be a good gene pool for some of these breeds that are being lost, and has emphasized that in some of the original wildstocks, if some of the original wildstocks are not retained, the genetic material may be lost forever. The UN scientists consider that in the future we may well have need of certain breeds for their genetic predispositions to resist disease, adaptation to certain climatic conditions, as well as undefined characteristics of yet unknown importance. Scientists state that particular breeds have become adapted to their local environment, and may have genetic resistance to particular diseases. They emphasize that while domestic animal populations have adapted to low input areas where there is a shortage of feed - or to the local climate - further, the scientists have conceded that it will be never be possible to re-synthesize these breeds in the timeframe required when the world may require to use them. In these modern days of shuttle stallions, artificial insemination and the competitiveness of the marketplace, the UN has recognised breeding stockbase for horses and other domestic animals has been proven to be narrowing at an accelerated rate. The United Nations geneticists have already described domestic species preservation as a race against the clock. The UN scientists have already conceded the race against - that the race in the case of cattle diversity or biodiversity genetics may already be lost. It states that domestic animals are a critical component of biodiversity and we - the developed world - have narrowed our total animal genetic base, much more than that of say, plant breeds. Deliberate total eradication of Australia's remnant wild horses, rather than a preservation through managing, within a sanctuary, of the historical range area, will be seen internationally as irresponsible and even stupid and evil. Not only will we be undoing the work of our wild horses survival and development within its own range areas for all those ... years but Australia would be justifiably condemned for being unconcerned with the brumby's heritage value, to the people of its own country, and for their future genetic value for the world horse industry. The UN has estimated that Europe has lost half the breeds of domestic animals that existed at the turn of the century. Worse still, worldwide, a breed of domestic animals becomes extinct each week.

Internationally, there are numerous examples of remnant wild horses being re-introduced to their country's historical range areas, ... national parks. I go on now to two last points. I have here two definitions, one of the Australian brumby and one of the Waler. They're not mine. I took them from an international book. I was curious to see how other people saw us. The Australian brumby is a wild horse descended from domestic horses which were turned loose on the ranges during the mid-nineteenth century gold rush. That's 1850. The origin of the term brumby is not known though it probably derives from an aboriginal word baroomby, meaning wild. It is the horse of Australia's history. Their words, not mine. I like it, but it's theirs. The Waler, it says, is a saddle horse, named after its state of origin - New South Wales, which in the early days of settlement, was the name given to all newly inhabited areas of Australia. Horses were not indigenous to Australia, and the first ones were imported by European settlers in the late 18th century. These initially came from South Africa and subsequently from Europe, with the English Thoroughbred and the Arab being much in demand by breeders. Waler is a result of crossing hack mares with Arab Thoroughbred Anglo Arab stallions, which gives the horse ... Not bad either. The last thing I would like to address is, brumby heritage in terms of, if you like, what has been termed by ... other people - the emotional heritage. I think even Dr English referred to that. So I don't think you can walk away from it. ... I call it our colonial living heritage, and horse of Australian history. We already have that .... The Australian brumby is the horse of Australia's history. It is part of our nation's natural living heritage, and our last surviving link to our wild colonial past. All Australians, city and country alike, acknowledge this feeling of a living link to our heritage through the Australian brumby, as proven when we showcased our horses to the world in the opening ceremony of the 2000 Olympic Games in September, and each year, at the display in the Great Australian Muster at the Royal Easter Show in Sydney. It is of interest to note, that many of the horses participating in the Olympic opening ride, were in fact from the New England northern tablelands. Australian horse lineage derived from the wild horses, has been internationally recognised for its inherent toughness. In the minds of many Australians whether they are descendants from our indigenous, convict colonials or our many peoples lineage, be they horsemen or not, city or country, there is a feeling of having a living link and a connection to our country's heritage through the Australian brumby. Goodness me, they can't be all country people down at the [show]. In this year of Federation, the National Heritage Trust, and other such funding sources, must be recommended to secure and allocate funding for the ... and preservation through management of the Australian brumby. Many of us cannot trace our own pre-convict, indigenous and multicultural ancestral and family histories, let alone prove the heritage value that we place on an Australian brumby. But like most people in this land, we have relied on a strong oral history of the Australian brumby handed down to us by our forefathers, and the only history and heritage that many Australians have, is within this last 200 years. Thank you.

FN: Thank you very much. Is this you that's put that together?

CH: I do what I'm told, but yes I ultimately did it.

FN: It's an enormous effort. Absolutely.

CH: I get a lot of input from people. They have marvellous information. I'm like a clearing house, if you like. I'm not meant to be here. I'm not the delegate, by the way. My delegate is in Sydney today, otherwise he would be herw ...

FN: Well is there any discussion there? Any questions or points that people would like to raise with Christine?

RM: The only thing that I felt, I think that's fantastic. Now how do we get it back to our response? That's a very - OK, it's a general overview, but I think that this committee we have to zero in on this ...

CH: You're going back to saying you want evidence, like written down lineage evidence, and I'm telling you now, the only evidence many of us in this country has ever had, was oral, and it didn't matter whether you were indigenous or a convict descendant, you only had oral. Half the convicts that arrived here, didn't come out on a P&O boat, they were brought out here chained neck, hand and foot. They were usually teenagers and they, they just forgot about what went before. And it was no hope of going home. It more or less started with them. Unfortunately, that's the same with the horses.

FN: But in fact you've provided a reasonable amount of documentary evidence which is going to be very useful to us

CH: A little bit, but the problem we're facing I think - not we, but you - is that whoever decided to get stuck in the mud of saying you've got to have documented proof, must come from England, where you've got a studbook going back to the 1600s and a tiny little pocket handkerchief country that you could just run from there to there and grab another horse very easily. Whereas here, when you had all your squattocracy running around that they just went shh let the horses go there were no fences, and the only time they bothered to muster them was when it was - the war came along and they were worth a quid! That's about it! You can't dismiss either the oral history side or the emotive side, because I'm telling you either one is at the peril of losing our own wild horse.

FN: you won't get any arguments from people around this table

CH: Well unfortunately your terms of reference have really I think put a ball and chain around your feet.

FN: Well I hope we've dispelled that.

CH: I hope so. But if you're still going to be chasing hardcore evidence you're going to be awfully disappointed.

FN: we're chasing everything ...

CH: No no I'm saying if you are still going to be looking for a sort of a lineage-type group. Listen, I've traced horses for friends of mine, myself, and I've got them back to the Byerley Arabian. I've gotten back to where there's no - the Byerley Turk I mean - there's no more records. And you've got butcher paper from that wall to this wall, and often times you'll go down a track and just luck out at about 1848 or 50, and other times you'll get to about the 4th or 5th generation and the lineage is pretty well the same everywhere. Gainsborough, you know, what are the other ones, ..., Hyperion. Everyone ends up having these repeating common denominator sires, because it was all so small, and in those days too, only the very elite could afford a Thoroughbred. So your ... and your ... coming up and up and up, linebreeding and doing all sorts of things. But when you get back to about 5th or 6th generation of nearly every famous sire around Australia, you can turn up with the same ancestors. [break in tape] ... they come in and take large tracts of land. They cottoned on to some of these better brothers. They could afford Thoroughbreds, critical breeding ... it's a very difficult sort of thing to put a handle on.

FN: Robyn, do you want to follow that up, do you have something to add ...

RM: well, I'm just getting a little bit stuck ... that we seem to be focusing on why are these specific animals more important than other brumbies. Why should we be- these horses, in this national park, relocated ..., why are these animals more important. And I thought that this is what the National Parks or the environment asked us to do with ... This is what I think is very very difficult. What makes those horses special?

CH: I'd like to have a stab at that

RM: But I think that's the thing

FN: Yes, and there certainly elements in what Christine has told us that are directly relevant

LH: I don't know that it is so much these horses around here

CH: I've got to say ... Brad, you probably think I'm the arch enemy, I promise you I'm not. I've read press cuttings in my sleep ...

BN: there are no enemies ...

...

BN: Certainly my involvement in this group is all about the terms of reference in terms of it's pulling together what we know, and let's see what it tells us. And it's part of that in terms of what we do know, it's not only what we know about within there, but then I think it makes sense to look at the big picture. You went right back to the First Fleet, that's the biggest picture you could go for the country. But in terms of; everything needs to be in context, and I think we need to do it in context ... and it's a matter of what it looks like when all of that comes together.

CH: Now I was just about to answer this question - and Les's point, I agree. But what I'm going to say is this. No way in the world do I think that each - that a society like ours, or a society down at Tumut, or a society down at Kosciuszko, can encroach on each other and say you've got to do it this way. Now this is where I say to myself you hear these figures come out of National Parks, sorry Brad I'm not having a crack at you this is good stuff, and I say oh, Australia's got 300,000 horses. What they don't tell you, is that 200,000 of those currently is in the Northern Territory. OK, that's point number 1. Now if little old me, is sitting over here, in little old northern tablelands, says to those people in the territory, heh listen, you've got to heritage list your brumbies ...; quite frankly, if I was one of the Territorians, I'd come over here in a helicopter and shoot ... Because this is not how you can do things. What I think the answer to both your questions is, and I'm not addressing pigs and goats and foxes and rabbits and ... because the horses are over here in terms of people's affections. OK, what I am trying to say is this: I really believe that unless we are in the Territory, we cannot tell them how to manage those horses. Unless I am at Kosciuszko, I cannot tell them how to manage their horses. But what I would like to say the answer, maybe you think I'm idealistic but let's face it, this is going to be an ongoing nightmare unless we get down and dirty with solutions. Because I think the Australian brumby, number 1, should be heritage listed; number 2, should be taken off the feral listing; number 3, should be given sanctuary through management within the parks by local people who want to do it, know how to do it, don't get your cowboys, keep the numbers right - so important - on a case-by-case basis. Within each region, so nothing ever gets to the point of where your Service was at before. Because this ain't gonna work. And moving them out ain't gonna to work. So you say to yourself well how the heck am I going to win? I'm not going to be able please the bleeding hearts. I'm not going to be able to please the far-right environmentalists. What the heck can we do to win? Think about it. It's only a thought. We could put it into action straight away if you want to. But, you put them under the control of the local people.

...

CH: No, no, no, I know I'm getting right out of the realm here.

BN: I'll comment. You're putting forward some very specific proposals that you'd like to have considered and

I think there are public channels to get those into the system and get senior executive ... to consider those ...

CH: I wouldn't have said anything had these questions not come up.

BN: And they should be put forward .... But I'm interested in what you've read to us today, and the explanations around that. Is that, that's a formal submission from the Brumby Heritage Protection Society? Is that the way that this committee ...

CH: Well. Crickey. If you'd like it that way. How did you want it?

BN: I'm just trying to interpret what we have been receiving. The Chairman might like to see the back of this and me.

FN: No really, you must, you must understand and also relay to the other members of the Society and anybody else, that we ... information that is relevant to this heritage issue. I can't emphasize that enough.

CH: Right. OK.

FN: The only constraint ... I mean, there are obviously constraints: we have to finish by half-past four this afternoon, that sort of thing. But apart from those constraints, we wish to listen to anybody and, .. It would be useful for us to know at some stage - we don't have to know now - the extent to which the Society ... and if you could just let Brad know that at some stage, that would be useful

CH: Well Brad, this is completely sanctioned by them. As far as a submission goes, obviously in addressing your terms of reference, we found trouble with that which I've tried to explain in the beginning

FN: Yep, yep

CH: So as far as we were concerned, we were saying what the heck can we tell them, because you know, we're really hamstrung with this, we've got all this stuff, but they're saying unless we've documented evidence we're out the window anyway. They're saying we're going to remove horses no matter what we find - they find, sorry - you can imagine the conflict that goes on here. And for me to be able to go back, and now put out a newsletter that says heh listen, guess what, this isn't quite as bad as you thought it was, number 1, I think that's a hell of a big step forward, I feel.

FN: Yep.

CH: I think if I walked in here and told you that I'm actually thrilled to bits with everything you've done, you'd look at me and say good god, this woman has really gone ... Because you know damn well where I'm coming from. I know where you're coming from. But sooner or later, you and I, well not ..., basically we're going to have to work together, sooner or later, because this is never going to get done.

BN: The handouts that you've provided which we're all no doubt going to read with interest. A lot of the things that you read out you ... information out of those reports and other reference material obviously and that's - every time you read something there's a certain amount that goes in ... and that's where I'd really like the opportunity to be able to read what you are producing.

CH: If Frank wants me to copy everyone I'll be happy to do it, because we stand by what we say. We're not trying to do something by ourselves. And I didn't think it was worth coming here today, even though I'm not your proper person, I've stood in today. I'm the backroom boy, OK. But it was worth coming today to let you know where we're at in terms of how we're perceiving what's going on, which comes through in terms of well if I can say, good news. . . . last year, the news is coming through. And when I get people like the Chairman of the Advisory Council for Northern Tablelands down in Armidale calling for the slaughter to start again I think, what's the point! What is the point of having this committee! What is the point of the Minister putting a ban

FN: But you can now answer that question I hope.

CH: Yeah, but, somebody needs to tell him. You know? Because he sort of - he's got people up in arms. I've had so many members - do you know how many people wanted to answer him? People actually rang him up. And I thought oh no, look, you know. I don't want this to happen. I do not want us to come to the point of polarisation that we can not get down and start and work out what is the best for these horses.

FN: Who is this person, is this the

CH: The Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the NPWS Northern Tablelands.

BN: Owen Croft

FN: Owen Croft, OK.

CH: But it was a very disappointing thing to see.

BN: Another question. In terms of the information that you've put together and the views that have been expressed today, you talked about, gave a bit of an inkling, I got the impression the Brumby Protection Society is northern tablelands based and focussed?

CH: That's the funny thing!

BN: Can you tell me a little bit about ... the context of that information?

CH: Yes I can tell you. It started that way. We've had other groups ring us up and ask us if we're going to protect brumbies right across Australia, and you've already heard my answer on that, and we're not changing our mind on that. We do not believe that that is the way to look at anything. In other words, what I'm saying

to you is, although it's got that sort of - if you like - ambiguous name, . . . people are interested all over the country to save their little pocket - now some people have told me, we've only got three or five left, and we don't want them shot. And they're coming out of the woodwork. You guys are going to have to look at this because what's happening is, people want to do this. They're gotten to the point where they're seeing you guys as the enemy! It used to be the other way around! You know what I mean, the perceptions? Well, you don't probably, but . . .

BN: there's a lot of information coming . . .

FN: we are very much aware.

CH: You've got to understand that I saw the parks start, all right, I was thrilled to bits to see them start, but I've also seen them change. I've seen them change in the 80s to the point where now, where we have our mob of horses up here that weren't hurting anyone, the land got to the point where it surrounded those horses, . . . Where do you want them to go - oh out of there. And people say what is this? You know. You mean to tell me 40 horses can't stay - or a hundred horses - can't stay in 70,000 hectares? You've got to be joking. You mean to tell me, that the bicentennial trail, has got to go out of that park? You've got to be joking. This is where the National Parks and Wildlife Service - and I'm digressing I'm very sorry . . . If you get out there and hear what people are saying . . . look I should have brought you The Land - would you like me to bring you in a Land. Pick up a Land, any Land, pick a Land, and just see what's going on out there, and how alienated people are becoming to what should never have happened. This is the point. This is why we're all here. Now do you see what I'm getting at!

BN: Christine, I hear what you saying and I've been hearing . . . for a long time.

CH: You poor devil are in the hot seat so you're copping the whole lot!

BN Yeah, yeah.

CH: And we're not trying to give you the whole lot

BN: They are however - some of those issues are outside what we're all here to do.

CH: Oh I know that

FN: Can we get back to the question, the extent to which you are concerned with the broader issue, or whether this, your primary concern is with the Guy Fawkes horses? Is that right?

CH: Our primary concern is with the Northern Tablelands brumby. It wasn't originally, I mean obviously we were looking at Guy Fawkes brumbies, and then, when we found out that the total eradication was the stated objective under the policy of the National Parks and Wildlife, for all the brumbies, I'm sorry, everybody pushed the taking on the whole lot.

FN: OK

GB: I'd like to ask a question

FN: Yes, Graeme.

CB: The Guy Fawkes brumbies - how long have you, you say that you've done them, where . . . colours and . . . information, where did that come from? I just haven't heard

CH: Since October 31st

GB: This year?

CH: No. We're only in August

FN: Last year

CH: Are you asking me personally how long how I've been studying.

BG: No, the Brumby Heritage . . .

CH: I can't tell you that because we've got members that range from little kids to over 80.

CB: And the information that you've got about the Guy Fawkes brumbies - where did that come from?

CH: It's usually coming from folks who've lived here for generations. Well respected people. All of whom you probably know too.

FN: But presumably you've actually sourced those in the document have you, the sources of the information?

CH: Oh! The information I've got here is all written down. I haven't put anything anecdotal in here. This is - you wanted written-down evidence, that's what I've done.

FN: That's what Graeme's asking

CB: I'm asking now the evidence that you've said, of the colour and the breeding of Guy Fawkes horses, who told you, when did that information come and how long ago?

CH: This is all from, the colours in the Guy Fawkes brumbies is well known. Anybody who has had anything to do with Guy Fawkes brumbies, knows the colours. Have you not had anything to do with those horses?

FN: No, Graeme's had a lot to do with them!

RM: . . . Before the national parks [tape VERY bad here]

. . .

BN: That's the case, but other horses nobody has ever put up their hand and say I own those horses, they are stock they've run of my . . .

. . .

LH: . . . we don't own the horses, because they're weren't branded, we don't own the horses, that's when the

National Parks took them over. That's the story I heard ...

...

RM: but whether there was an official letter going to the National Parks archives

...

CH: You'll find people do that with Council too. What happens they'll put them all on reserve, they won't pay fees or anything, the Council will come along and say we've impounded these stock are these yours? Ah no, ... they won't own up to owning them.

LH: I always own up to mine

FN: Let's let Graeme make his point here

GB: My point ... is where your information came from and how long ago and and what

CH: Why, what's your problem, I don't know what you're getting at.

GB: ... Brumby Heritage Protection Society are even interested in Guy Fawkes horses ....

CH: Oh yes.

GB: Is there anybody else at the table here who knows about?

CH: Well I put ads in the paper. I've only just started advertising now.

GB: So if you were interested in ... four or five years ago, how come?

CH: Four or five years ago? We weren't formed four or five years ago.

GB: Right.

CH: You see that's the whole point. No, I'm sorry Graham now I understand. OK.

...

FN: So in fact, the Society was formed only in February this year in fact.

CH: But if you're interested in the horses, there's a heck of a lot of people around this area that knows an awful lot about them.

GB: Yes

FN: That's what collectively this committee is - talking to those people.

CH: That's right. You can ring them up, and you know, like, if you wanted to speak to them ever, by all means, you know, you can just go down on any corner.

FN: But if you - you would be doing us an enormous service if you spread the word amongst all the members of your society and anybody else that you talk to ... If they have not already been contacted by a member of this Working Party you would encourage them to contact a member of the Working Party. And the overriding message that we want to get out is that we want to hear from anybody who has any information

CH: Well, I know a couple of older gentlemen who may well take you up on that.

FN: OK, please do.

RM: One of the biggest problems that I have ... Not so much to verify but to build on to

FN: to make sense of

RM: can you help us do that?

CH: I can try.

RM: If I can bring information to you

CH: Well, see, that's what I do. If you need info, and it doesn't matter who - Brad, you too - if you want to know some information, if you've got a gap ... and if you want to give me a ring. That's what I do, I ferret around and get stuff - and if I can't get it I can't get it. But that's what I'm trying to do, and if - you know, if you want some information, let's know.

BN: Extend an invitation to the Society and to yourself - any information that you have about those horses in that area, their history or their heritage value, please make it available to the Committee ... deliberations.

CH: Well, see, Robyn today, she's given me a couple of names to fill in some gaps, trying to find ... Well, you see, I can go and look these up and see if I can find something. Not to say that I always do, but at least I can go and try. You'd be surprised what you come across. I've even had people ring me up and ask me if I can look for ... information and ... information while I'm at it. This is from overseas people. They're doing books and stuff, you know what I mean? But I dunno.

FN: Well, is there is anything else that anyone would like to ask Christine? I'll have a glance at that book. There is - horse coat colour is reasonably well worked out.

CH: uh, uh. It ...

FN: we will have to agree to differ

CH: I'm afraid we do. You mean for breeding purposes or for genes?

FN: I mean the ability to predict the results of mating particular coat colours together - practical - the inheritance of the best known forms of horse coat colour is reasonably well worked out. It's not completely worked out. In fact in some cases now, in the last few years, the basis of that has actually been worked out right down to the DNA level, so there are some horse coat colours that now can be explained right down to the DNA level

...

RM: Would it help?

FN: Some other issues - well, the fact that there seems to be a different distribution of coat colours amongst the Guy Fawkes horses compared with other populations of horses in Australia ...

CH: Well not in Australia, not necessarily in Australia. But what I'm saying is, when you're getting into gorge country as opposed to, say, the Northern Territory type of stuff, you really are, often, looking at tiny groups of isolated breeding groups. And these can be four or five horses that have never gone outside their own little group.

FN: Yep.

CH: Because what they do is, they'll hive off the others, and they'll just keep that little group together.

FN: Yep.

CH: This was happening down at Tumut as well. You'll find this at Kosciuszko happens. So what we're looking at here in the Tablelands, we cannot relate the research that's coming out of the Territory, to what happens here.

FN: But we're talking about coat colour

CH: Yeh, I am too.

FN: But it doesn't change from one lot of horses to the next, the way in which coat colour is actually inherited

CH: Les will tell you

LH: Why is it in Guy Fawkes National Park that so many creamies, black mane and tail creamies, white mane and tail creamies

CH: There you go

LH: Just over the range, in the Macleay River

CH: That's right

LH: There's hardly a coloured horse. Why is that?

CH: In other words, they are not ranging through your parks. If they were,

FN: that's easy to answer

LH: They are

CH: Yeah, but if they were, you'd have a mixture of creamies everywhere, but you've got creamies there, and you've got a different colour over here,

LH: yeah, yeah

CH: So what I'm saying is that they're not galloping all over the place. They really do like to stay in one area

LH: You know I've got a different theory. I put it up to a fellow when we were down in the Guy Fawkes once. He was wondering why there were so many coloured horses. And I said well haven't you noticed it when the rabbits get thick, you'll get your creamy rabbits and your black rabbits. Hehehe!!!

RM: But you're saying those creamies are a well known colour.

CH: No, not at all.

RM: It's not.

CH: What I'm saying is, creamies, in the percentage you've got it in the Guy Fawkes, is extremely unusual.

FN: Yes. Yes.

CH: In other words, they had to have been breeding in isolation to get such a high percentage. Well

FN: It's just a matter of frequencies. The experience in all living organisms all around the world is that for traits like that, the mechanisms by which they are inherited is much the same and sometimes it's exactly the same bit of DNA in a whole lot of different populations. But what we're talking about here, is a difference in frequency of the different genes, and that's what distinguishes populations. The blood-typing that we're going to do with these horses, is just looking, is ... these 40 other odd populations of wild horses around the world, will be genotyped at around 15 genes. Each one of these is like a coat colour gene.

CH: 15 different genes, how many total?

FN: 15

CH: 15?

FN: well, 15, 16, 17, it depends, it varies a bit from lab to lab, but of that order

CH: I was under the understanding that they don't have everything documented on the genotypes of horses

FN: Pardon

CH: I was under the understanding they didn't have everything documented yet for the genotypes of horses.

FN: No they don't.

CH: They've got to complete research.

FN: No, no - there's a huge gap, but all I'm saying is there are labs around the world who routinely genotype horses from these 15 or 17 loci

CH: what?

FN: 15 or 17 genes. There's anywhere between 50 ... [tape blanks out] ... They started off doing them for pedigree testing, primarily

CH: Oh you mean Thoroughbred legal types, to make sure they were being bred to the stallion they were bred.



And what are they doing it for now?

FN: Well they're still doing it for that,

CH: Yes

FN: But they're also doing it to ask the questions how do, how does the genetic structure of wild populations of horses relate to the genetic structure of recognisable breeds in the same country? And we going to be asking that question.

CH: You may find no difference ...

FN: Well, yes, that's one extreme possibility, and

CH: I am hoping beyond hope that you do find a difference because, really, I'd like to see a genopool kept here that I know for my own sake has got fresh blood, and I'll tell you why. Back in 1984, everybody here would probably know the Lipizzaner horses – the Spanish Riding School - the famous one in Vienna? They nearly lost all those horses, in '84, because they got a disease or some sort of herpes-related disease, it was killing them. They had no fresh blood, except General Patton had sent a few of the Lipizzaners into Russia, at the end I think of the second world war, thinking that he was worried that they were going to get knocked off by the ..., tracked down this tiny few in Russia, got fresh blood, and saved the white horses in Vienna. See, it's so important, I would love it if there was no shuttle blood in this mob, or any of our little mobs. Because you might find shuttle blood in one mob, but there might be a little mob across the river that's got none.

FN: We were talking about that today. There are precedents for doing that sort of stuff. You'll be interested ... the coffee's ready now and I'm mindful of the other things that we have to do. We are exceedingly grateful - to you - for coming along today, and for all the other information that you have collected.

CH: Oh well Frank, I tell you ... a rider on it, this is background. Some of this genome stuff I'm getting on the colour, as you know I couldn't afford to buy more books. That would be your bible as far as colour. You'll find a relationship to the old early research, because the same people started collecting it back in 1974. God only knows why, but I was always interested.

...

FN: This is Australian, is it, this book?

CH: Oh definitely, and it's brand new, well I think it's 97.

FN: OK

CH: Definitive though, as far as colour goes ... I mean, I couldn't tell you, ... cos people don't breed colours, you know what I mean, you breed for type more than anything, don't we?

LH: Most horse breeders found out that if ... you think you're going to get a foal the same colour as your mare, you're going to get a real shock

FN: OK, can we .... We can have some coffee now. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us ...

CH: I don't think so, I can't

FN: I'll have a quick look at each of your books just while we are having coffee there, and just take the information. You might be interested to know that in fact the person who is in charge of what you described as the United Nations program for the conservation of domestic animal diversity, is actually Keith Hammond, who was up here in Armidale for many years

CH: Oh, good, you know him

FN: Yes, he and I ... we've known each other about 30 years, and he is the person who's putting this together, globally, and in fact I've been asked to chair the Australian effort in this

CH: Have you?

FN: for all animals. I don't know whether I'll be able to take that on – I can't take it on until I get this report written! But it is - so I am not unaware of all that stuff that you spoke about

CH: Right, right

FN: as far as what the FAO program is doing. I lecture on it and I am reasonably familiar with it. I was also a member of the international committee that put together the set of DNA markers that are to be used all around the world for genotyping - ... I think I did the cattle one. You need - just like we're going to be doing with the horses - if you're going to be doing this you need to have a standard set of tests that you do all around the world, so you need an international committee that agrees on what that standard set is going to be. And our list of genes is up there on the FAO website, and this is what people use as their standards.

...

## 2.6.2 From Richard Smallwood, Australian Horse Alliance, 30th October 2001

*(RS = Richard Smallwood, RM = Robyn MacDougall, EM = Ernie Maskey, FN = Frank Nicholas, VC = Velda Chaplin, LH = Les Hume, GB = Graeme Baldwin, BN = Brad Nesbitt)*

FN: Hello Richard Good Morning.

RS: Good Morning.

FN: Richard, thank you very much for agreeing to talk to us this morning. So, we're sitting here in the meeting

room of the Lookout Motel in Dorrigo. I'll just quickly go round the table. We've got Graeme Baldwin here, we've got Les Hume, we've got Robyn MacDougall, we've got Brian Fahey, and we've got Cesia actually taking notes, but we're also recording this on a tape recorder, and then we've got Brad Nesbitt as well. And we understand that you're happy to answer any question that we have in relation to the heritage value of the horses in the Guy Fawkes River National Park. Is that right?

RS: Yes, but I must say that I'm not obviously a local, and don't have that historical knowledge, that many have far better than mine.

FN: Yes fine

RS: The deputation that I make is on behalf of ..., under the auspices of the Australian Horse Alliance which we formed back in 1993 ... I've been involved very much in the environmental debate over those years ... I don't have any scientific knowledge ... I'd just like to speak to firstly the heritage issue ...

FN: Please do. We're all ears here. And just as long as you understand that (and this is what we've done with everybody who's spoken to us) we are tape-recording all the meetings that we have and all the submissions that are made to us verbally, on the understanding that those tapes will become public property, because we want to - our whole philosophy has been to - operate the whole committee in a completely open way. So you are happy for what you say to become part of the public record?

RS: Yes.

FN: OK. Thank you very much. Well we're in your hands.

RS: All right, well thank you, Mr Chairman. Good Morning everybody. I think the historical heritage significance of not only these horses at Guy Fawkes but in others across the state have certainly been recognised by Mr Debus, when he specially in November 2000 stated that the close bond between humans and horses and their patent history of our country is to be recognised and in fact Dr English in his initial 2000 report at point 30 stated that there's a long history of feral horses in the park, with indications that they were well established before 1915. And I don't think there can be any argument that feral horses - known as brumbies of course, affectionately called brumbies - have played an important role in the cultural values of certainly White Australia in parts of this state and indeed in other states. And that is no more clearly portrayed than by the acclaim at the last two Royal Easter Shows, under the heading The Great Australian Muster, where we saw three or so horsemen and women, mustering lots of horses within the confines of the Royal Easter Showground in Sydney, and the acclaim that that brought from the wider public community reflected the importance of ... this aspect of our folklore. And again the relationship that Australians have with horses and stockmen and women has been portrayed in the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games, when 120 horsemen and women represented an important part of our culture to millions of people worldwide. And the reaction and the acclaim that has brought with it. And I think further that the importance that Australia generally places in this part of our culture was brought out by the spontaneous protests and public outcry reacting to the news of what happened in Guy Fawkes National Park last year. And you can then go no further than the international recognition of The Man from Snowy River film and folklore. So we shouldn't be too caught up, in my view and in the Horse Alliance view, of looking at the genetic lineage of horses - wild horses or brumbies - in these areas. We maintain it matters not ... the heritage listing of them reinforces part of our culture. However, we do recognise that the conditions being ... the brumbies can't go unmanaged, and I don't think there's any real debate on that necessity. But they must be allowed to remain as part of the historical and cultural landscape of the Guy Fawkes National Park and indeed we submit that the National Parks and Wildlife Service has a responsibility to encourage enjoyment and the culture of the National Parks. And I refer you to an esteemed educationalist Meredith Walker, who was in fact on the National Parks and Wildlife Service Advisory Council for some time - she's a heritage planning consultant - and she states that no area is entirely natural, or entirely cultural. The process describing values of places such as natural, or aboriginal cultural, or historical cultural, has distorted our ability to see the culture in nature is sometimes the nature of culture. She goes on to say that the National Parks and Wildlife Service ... provides a statewide history of human conceptions of the values and uses of the environment. Part of this may have cultural values because there is evidence of human occupation and interaction, perceptions of the values and uses of the environment prior to pastoral or mining uses. And there is a responsibility to retain evidence ... clearly indicates that you should not, as a community, be hell-bent on removing evidence of being parts of communities of populated areas. And the Horse Alliance submits, of course, that the existence of mobs of brumbies is part of that culturally significant heritage value of the area. Many people simply like to visit these areas - if you like, in the romantic notion of seeing mobs of brumbies. And many of those who visit the Kosciuszko National Park, say exactly that. And the thrill, the experience they have in sighting brumbies ... may be unparalleled by any other experience in those conservation areas.

So I'd like to press on with some of the reasons that we're given for the necessity of their removal. We're told that they threaten the existence of the native fauna, by competing for food. Yet, in this area of the Guy Fawkes National Park, if my reading of the history serves me correctly, there's been approximately six

thousand head of cattle removed from a similar area. We are now talking of a relative minor number of horses in that same area. We have a National Park - its area has changed from time to time, but is approximately 62,000 hectares, maybe even greater now - in which to support a mob or herd of wild horses. The National Parks and Wildlife Service's own estimate in the English report, are that in 1996 they estimated 174, in 1998 - 112, May 2000 - 180 and the recent estimate by Professor English by 160-250. Of course, the 600 or so that were killed last year took everybody by surprise. But it's evident that if there were that many, it certainly didn't give the appearance of that many, and didn't have the impact that is often alleged. The National Parks and Wildlife Service states that the cull left over 600 horses dead. If that number is accurate, then by any measure, there must be very, very few left. Certainly not enough to cause immediate concerns, and certainly I was convinced enough that they could form a viable and manageable herd of brumbies. So I suggest that what the Committee must now concentrate on is the management of this remaining number of horses to ensure a viable population of all horses remains, and to ensure that this very important part of the culture of the area is retained. I note that Minister Debus, in his press statement in November, said, and I quote "I've also asked him (referring to Professor English), again in consultation with key organisations, to come ... with an acceptable plan to reduce (and I emphasise the word reduce) the number of horses remaining." And he goes on to say it will not involve aerial culling. So here in his statement of November last year, he talked in terms of reducing the numbers, not eradicating them. Again Mr Debus cites Professor English's reports, which he says makes clear the significant environmental damage these horses cause, such as erosion, spreading of weeds, over-grazing, fouling of water holes; and it's those issues that I'd like to now address, because I believe there has been and continues to be a lot of fallacious arguments and misleading research which is often cited, quoted in research reports and management proposals.

If I could look firstly at erosion. My understanding is that there has been no research linking any so-called erosion in the Guy Fawkes National Park to the presence of horses, wild or otherwise. Generations of thousands of cattle grazing are more likely to have resulted in erosion that may now exist in that area in any event, and not from an insignificant number of horses. And I am not aware, and I stand corrected, but I am not aware, that there is any research citing erosion as a concern in the Guy Fawkes River National Park other than statements which are unsupported by scientific or other research. Certainly a couple of hundred horses in 62-odd thousand hectares would have insignificant impact on the Guy Fawkes River National Park. Professor ..., of the Australian National University, in a report in the year 2000, cites certain studies that have been looking at erosion, or the possibility of erosion, in the Canberra Nature Reserves. She in fact concluded that reports indicated vertical forces exerted by horses hooves range within limits which are similar, in fact, to forces imposed by the human foot. And the hoof during forward movement may be comparable. In other words she said the research doesn't show that horses' impacts are any greater than the human foot impact when properly and scientifically investigated, and may, in fact, be comparable. And in the Eurobodalla National Park on the South Coast, the current management plan links horses and humans in the same category in terms of impact on the environment. So therefore, as a starting point in an assessment of the impact of ... on the environment it is reasonable to suggest the potential impact of horses is not orders of magnitude greater than others. I further quote from ... and Professor ... She talks in terms of impact of trampling on soil and vegetation, and she goes on to say that the impact would be a function of vegetation type, percentage of ground cover, soil type, soil ..., climate, ..., user type and frequency of use. And only two functions deal with user type. In other words, what she's saying is that in soil trampling and vegetation trampling, only two functions relate to the actual type of use, ... wild horses. And it's too easy to try to raise the ... concern, but there is no research backing up that claim.

If I can briefly turn to weeds. This has been cited as probably one of the major concerns by environmentalists in the park, both in ... to wild horses or, in fact, recreational horse riding within conservation areas. And I notice that Professor English cites the report of Ursula Kada ??, a report that stated that we have or are at significant issue within the Guy Fawkes National Park. But she limited her research to germination trials under controlled glasshouse conditions. And she - we're looking at her research - 83%-93% of seeds from feral horse manure were in fact monocots and not intrusive woody weeds. And of that percentage of dicotyledons, up to 52% were in fact native species. She goes on to say in her research only some reached maturity even in the controlled conditions. And she in fact concludes on page 36 of her report ... on the restriction of access to trail riders or the removal of feral horses, the impact of viable seeds in situ ... must be assessed. In other words no-one has ever in this area done any studies or research on the impact of the viability and the risk of ... weeds by seeds in horse manure in situ. And they, the environmentalists in Sydney, in Victoria studied the respective processes on the ; ecological community of ? Forest vegetation community and found along trails used by horses and others, firstly that no woody weeds were established; there was no significant weed population established; and there were no areas of weeds that could be directly attributed to horses, and lastly no evidence of the spread of weeds in the surrounding bushland. To such an extent that within the ... scientific community, which is in charge of the

exotic weed legislation, altered its initial findings that horses were threatening processes to the ecological community to, in fact, say that authorised trail riding was no threat to the endangered ecological community ... that wild horses, make their own trails, and start to damage the wider environment. So in terms of the weeds, incredibly, there is simply no evidence to support this causal connection between horses and the spread of weeds. And indeed a paper published by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in 1997, after reviewing literature and conducting surveys of its staff, found, and I quote, the limited field evidence suggests that horse manure is not a major contributor to the spread of exotic plants from ... areas. Further, Professor ... again here, again in her report 2000, in relation to the report of the ... Park, found firstly that weeds are dispersed by a number of vectors, including ... water, birds, native and feral animals, ... people. Secondly, she concluded that scientific evidence has not demonstrated a causal link between horses ... and the establishment of weeds in the National Parks.

So they're three of the major environmental impacts that have been cited as the reason for the removal of the remaining horses, namely, the competition with the major fauna for food (and I reiterate the small number of horses in this huge area does not cause an effect in that regard); secondly, the erosion, where there has absolutely been no research which can back up any conclusion that statistically horses cause erosion; thirdly, there is no scientific evidence to support the suggestion that horses, through the spread of seeds in their manure ..., are likely to have a detrimental ... by the spread of weeds.

So that, Mr Chairman, is a brief for you, but that in summary, the community of Australian Horse Alliance is proposing that a viable-sized, and manageable-sized herd of wild horses be permitted to remain in the Guy Fawkes River National Park. And we have, of course, examples of such management techniques in Coffin Bay ponies, which are regarded as having very good value in South Australia where ... under the auspices of the conservation authority, there manages the herd. And of course in the United States, people are ... with the community, under whichever relevant conservation organisation of that land manages mustangs ... on some of their conservation land. So the Horse Alliance proposes that a community-based group, under the auspices of the National Parks and Wildlife Service of NSW, be formed to manage, as a viable herd, the remaining horses within the Guy Fawkes River National Park. And of course that work continues to look at the ways in which the numbers can be most humanely and cost-effectively managed and that will require, of course, ongoing research and trials of techniques. And that we also importantly set in place a monitoring process to try and isolate what detrimental impact, if any, the remaining wild horses have on the ecology.

Mr Chairman, that's my presentation. I'm happy to respond to any questions if I may.

FN: Well Richard thank you very much for that presentation. I'll now just open it up to questions from people round the table. Anybody got any questions?

BF: Most of your comments appear to be about controlling the horses in the National Park. We have ... our organisation to prove whether there is an historic and cultural value with the horses and if we can prove this, then it goes on from there to decide whether the Parks will allow horses to be left there. So, one thing at a time. Pretty interesting ... you gave us, and ... pretty interesting ; that came out of it. But that seems to be the cart before the horse as far as this committee is concerned. Thank you.

RM: Robyn MacDougall speaking. I agree with Brian that that has been made clear to us with the existing terms of reference; that is our job to prove that heritage value first ...

RS: I can't hear you very well, but from what I hear of what you are saying, is that, and I acknowledge that, that your committee at the moment has to prove or show the historical or heritage value of these horses.

FN: yes, that is right – that is our job. And the members of the committee are doing an enormous job in gathering information. But we also appreciate that there has been much information raised at the more general level as well, and that's all useful and relevant background information. I suppose that the message for you in addition to thanking you for what you have given us this morning is that if any of your members or any people that you have occasion to interact with, do have any specific information about the history of horses in what is now the Guy Fawkes River National Park, then we would really like to hear from them.

RS: Yes, I appreciate that and I'll make that known.

FN: Thanks Richard.

RS: which is why I prefaced my presentation, that I didn't have any ... although I have ridden through that area with a pack-horse, and I saw several mobs of brumbies and it certainly gave me a sense of experiential, cultural ... and every member of our party felt the same, that it was just in awe and wonderment that, the beauty of knowing that the history – a heritage herd of the ... of these horses in Guy Fawkes from many sources before we went there, that it was a tremendous experience for us, from outside the area, and not knowing the area, to experience as it was indeed for us when we went down to the Kosciuszko National Park some years ago and we had the same experience of sighting ... some brumbies in certain areas. And these, of course, are things that are part of the soul of the land, they can't be scientifically analysed, they can't be given a credibility on a scientific basis, but they're part of our heritage, part of the establishment of the culture of the area, and I just remind you of the words of Meredith Walker, that there's no areas entirely natural, certainly in the Australian landscape, except maybe in very remote desert areas. This

landscape of ours has been settled, after of course, the aboriginals, by white man and indeed as Professor Langton, I think an aboriginal anthropologist, said, wilderness is the white man's invention; that humans interact with these areas, and they should continue to interact with these areas. And we would press that the historical significance which is shown by others to be ... and in fact are recognised by Minister Debus in his own statement about the links between horses and humans. Indeed, Professor English when he says there is certainly evidence before 1915 of them being present. I mean, there is acknowledgment there that they form part of the landscape, and have built up over that time, and form a very important part of the historical heritage significance and culture of the area. And I guess I can't put it any more higher than that. It's an experiential thing, and it's not something that can be tested by science.

FN: Yes. Well you've explained that very clearly. Thank you. Les, do you have anything you'd like to add.

LH: I'd like to just say that when I joined this committee, I didn't know that it was already stated that the horses were to be shifted out of the park whether we found any historical value or not. And I'm really only here to try and get them kept in the park, managed. OK?

RS: Yes, thank you for that. And that's where I think there are certain contradictory statements that have been made in various press releases, earlier reports, subsequent reports of those authorised or nominated by the government to do this work because Mr Debus talks about reduction of numbers in his press releases, and there seems to be acknowledgment that it's nigh impossible to totally eradicate, although I know the National Parks and Wildlife Service in its policy on ... feral animals has this policy of eradicating wild horses from these areas. We totally oppose that concept, and indeed we say that it should be recognised that they'll never be eradicated. Therefore to reinforce the cultural heritage significance of these mobs, a viable herd should be maintained and managed by a community-based organisation under the auspices of the National Parks and Wildlife Service as has been examples from the past. And I assume, and I'm sure that will be the case in Kosciuszko ultimately.

LH: I hope so anyway.

FN: Yes, Thanks Richard. We've discussed this issue at length, and in fact in our interim report and in the final report, in our interim report there is a statement that in fact all the community members plus the Waler Horse Society, none of them was aware that those words were actually in the terms of reference until they turned up at the first meeting and they've all made it very clear that none of them agree with that. But they also appreciate that this is a very good opportunity for us to assemble all the evidence that people have about these horses and so they've agreed to continue working toward that end while stating very strongly their opposition to that, those actual words that were in the terms of reference. Graeme Baldwin, Brad, is there anything you would like to say?

GB: No

FN: Brad?

BN: The only thought that I wanted to put forward is with regards to that we've received quite a lot of feedback from different groups, and one thing that we've been asking most groups is that even if they don't have information with regards to heritage value specifically but they have a point of view that they wish to put across to the committee that it would be an advantage if that was also provided in written form, and that's something that can then be managed to you know the final report of this committee so all those points of view are clearly canvassed and presented in words of your choosing rather than of the committee's, and whether you would like to consider formalising that with a written submission.

RS: I'll give that some thought and I'll probably take you up on that offer<sup>3</sup>.

FN: OK. That would be really useful, because what we do this morning, we have a tape ... , in situations like this, it's always very useful if the people who have actually made the case can provide us with their own words, so that nothing is left unsaid and ... something in writing we would be very grateful, ... on the public record.

RS: Right, I'll take that up and check.

FN: Thank you very much Richard. So is there anything else that anybody wishes to raise with Richard? Is there anything else you wish to say, Richard?

RS: No I think that covers it.

FN: OK. Well thank you very much for your contribution.

RS: Thank you for the opportunity.

FN: Thank you.

RS: Bye.

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3 No written submission was received. This transcript is therefore included as the next best thing.

## **2.7 STATEMENTS RECEIVED BY THE WORKING PARTY<sup>4</sup>**

**From Joe Meehan, 20 Aug 2001**

**From Nicholas Perrett, 5 Dec 2001**

**From Fletcher Brazier, 5 Dec 2001**

**From Terry Brazier, 7 Dec 2001**

**From Ian Lupton, 7 Dec 2001**

**From Doug Ferris, 7 Dec 2001**

## **2.8 INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE WORKING PARTY**

**Arnold Duckett, 20 Nov 2001**

**Fred Marsden, 20 Nov 2001**

**Jan Carter, 15 Jan 2002**

## **2.9 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED BY THE WORKING PARTY<sup>5</sup>**

**From RSPCA, 31 May 2001**

**From Nancye Smith (nee Anderson), 23 Aug 2001**

**From Lyall Sempf, 15 May, 23 Aug, 27 Aug 2001**

**From Sharon Muir Watson, 13 Sep 2001**

**From Sonja Oberlander, E.A.R.S. Equine Advocates & Rescue Services Inc, 26 Sep 2001:**

containing the following petition signed by 126 people: We, the undersigned, sign this petition, on behalf of Equine Advocates & Rescue Services Inc. (E.A.R.S.) and all other concerned parties and individuals, as a gesture of our firm belief in the heritage value of the Brumby. We urge the Australian government to rethink their brumby management plan, and to declare the brumbies, in this, Australia's Centenary of Federation a species of national heritage. Further, we request that there be no more removal operations unless fully supervised by all Brumby advocate groups and equine welfare organizations.

**From Jan Carter, 27 Nov 2001**

**From Les Hume, 17 Dec 2001**

**From Charlie Mumford to Glynne Tosh, 25 Dec 2000**

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<sup>4</sup> Deposited with the papers of the Working Party, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney

<sup>5</sup> Deposited with the papers of the Working Party, State Library of New South Wales, Sydney

## 2.10 PHOTOGRAPHS OF PRESENT-DAY HORSES CAPTURED IN THE PARK AREA<sup>6</sup>



*Figure 2.1 Guy Fawkes horse GF01 (Photo by Brad Nesbitt, for the Working Party)*



*Figure 2.2 Guy Fawkes horse GF02 (Photo by Brad Nesbitt, for the Working Party)*



*Figure 2.3 Guy Fawkes horse GF03 (Photo by Brad Nesbitt, for the Working Party)*



*Figure 2.4 Guy Fawkes horse GF047 (Photo by Brad Nesbitt, for the Working Party)*



*Figure 2.5 Guy Fawkes horse GF05 (Photo by Brad Nesbitt, for the Working Party)*



*Figure 2.6 Guy Fawkes horse GF06 (Photo by Brad Nesbitt, for the Working Party)*



*Figure 2.7 Guy Fawkes horse GF07 (Photo by Brad Nesbitt, for the Working Party)*



*Figure 2.8 Guy Fawkes horse GF08 (Photo by Brad Nesbitt, for the Working Party)*



*Figure 2.9 Guy Fawkes horse GF09 (Photo by Brad Nesbitt, for the Working Party)*



*Figure 2.10 Guy Fawkes horse GF10 (Photo by Brad Nesbitt, for the Working Party)*



*Figure 2.11 Guy Fawkes horse GF11 (Photo by Brad Nesbitt, for the Working Party)*



*Figure 2.12 Guy Fawkes horse GF12 (Photo by Brad Nesbitt, for the Working Party)*





*Figure 2.13 Guy Fawkes horse GF13 (Photo by Brad Nesbitt, for the Working Party)*



*Figure 2.14 Guy Fawkes horse GF14 (Photo by Brad Nesbitt, for the Working Party)*

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6 Photographs were not obtained for GF15 and GF16

7 This horse is a different horse from the horse identified as GF04 in Figure 1.12 of Volume 1 of this report. Due to an editorial error, the horse shown in that figure is actually GF07

## 2.11 GENETIC STUDY – DETAILED REPORT

Two types of genetic evidence were summarized in section 1.10 (Volume 1) of this report: the first comprises standard population-genetic and phylogenetic analyses of genotype data for a standard set of loci – called “genetic profiles” in Volume 1; the second comprises a phylogenetic analysis of phenotypic data obtained from a subjective assessment of conformation. Details of the results obtained from both types of evidence are described below.

### 2.11.1 Evidence from “genetic profiles”

#### 2.11.1.1 Materials and Methods

##### 2.11.1.1.1 Data

Blood samples were obtained from 16 horses that were born in the Guy Fawkes River National Park (Guy Fawkes horses) and from 20 Walers located on properties scattered throughout Australia. The samples were sent to the Australian Equine Genetics Research Centre at the University of Queensland, where they were processed and genotyped at seven standard blood-group systems (A, C, D, K, P, Q, U) and nine standard electrophoretic loci (albumin, transferrin, esterase, alpha-1-beta-glycoprotein, protease inhibitor, phosphogluconate dehydrogenase, phosphohexose isomerase, haemoglobin, vitamin D binding protein) under the guidance of Dr Helen Arthur, following international standard protocols (as cited, for example, by Cothran et al. 2001). These data were then forwarded to Dr Gus Cothran of the Equine Parentage Verification and Research Laboratory at the University of Kentucky, where they were added to Dr Cothran’s extensive database of genotyping results from more than 50 wild-horse populations and more than 100 recognised breeds.

##### 2.11.1.1.2 Analyses

Following the standard procedure in Dr Cothran’s laboratory (e.g. as in Cothran et al., 2001), he estimated the following parameters from the nine electrophoretic loci: observed heterozygosity ( $H_o$ ), Hardy-Weinberg expected heterozygosity ( $H_e$ ), population inbreeding ( $F_{IS} = 1 - H_o/H_e$ ). He also estimated the following parameters from all 16 loci: Hardy-Weinberg expected heterozygosity ( $H_{et}$ ), effective number of alleles ( $A_e$ ), and total number of variants (TNV). The reason for two separate estimates of expected heterozygosity is that, because heterozygotes are not always distinguishable at blood-group loci, it is not possible to estimate observed heterozygosity at these loci. The first estimate of expected heterozygosity ( $H_e$ ) was calculated for direct comparison with the estimate of observed heterozygosity obtained from the electrophoretic loci; the second estimate of expected heterozygosity applies to all 16 loci. Dr Cothran also performed a restricted-maximum-likelihood (RML) phylogenetic analysis on the allele-frequency data, using the PHYLIP package (Felsenstein, 1989). Dr Cothran kindly supplied all of these results to the Chairman of the Working Party, who then enlisted the assistance of Dr Lars Jermiin, School of Biological Sciences, University of Sydney, who is a specialist in phylogenetic analysis. The results presented below and in Volume 1 of this report comprise the results provided by Dr Cothran. Presentation and interpretation was greatly aided by Dr Jermiin.

##### 2.11.1.2 Results

Table 2.1 shows the parameters estimated from the Guy Fawkes horses and from Walers, in comparison with eight recognised breeds, and with averages for wild-horse populations and all domestic breeds. Except for the Guy Fawkes and Waler horses, the data are not from Australian horses: instead, they come from Dr Cothran’s extensive database of primarily US data.

It can be seen that all three heterozygosities ( $H_o$ ,  $H_e$  and  $H_{et}$ ) of Guy Fawkes horses are somewhat lower than the average for wild-horse populations and for domestic breeds. However, they are higher than several breeds, including Thoroughbred.

Using the measure of heterozygosity estimated from all 16 loci ( $H_{et}$ ), a useful way to summarise these results is to say that Guy Fawkes horses have 8% less genetic variability than the average of wild-horse populations, and 14% less genetic variability than the average of recognised domestic breeds. Viewed from another perspective, the genetic variability in Guy Fawkes horses is one-half of a standard deviation below the average of wild-horse populations, and 1.5 standard deviations below the average of recognised domestic breeds. In contrast, Walers have 8% more genetic variability (0.85 of a standard deviation higher) than the average of recognised domestic breeds.

Table 2.1 Estimates of parameters from Guy Fawkes horses and from Walers, in comparison with estimates from other breeds and populations (courtesy of Dr G. Cothran)

Population	N	Ho	He	F <sub>IS</sub>	Het	Ae	TNV
<b>Waler</b>	20	0.365	0.392	0.069	0.447	2.416	62
<b>Guy Fawkes</b>	15	0.273	0.286	0.045	0.338	2.173	49
Thoroughbred	265	0.294	0.288	-0.019	0.325	2.009	64
Arabian	117	0.307	0.327	0.061	0.376	2.132	67
Andalusian	140	0.348	0.362	0.039	0.425	2.508	75
Shetland Pony	50	0.368	0.407	0.095	0.452	2.595	71
Welsh Pony	42	0.388	0.387	-0.002	0.453	2.603	76
American Saddlebred	259	0.404	0.409	0.013	0.435	2.625	96
Peruvian Paso	141	0.451	0.445	-0.014	0.469	2.761	77
Belgian Draft	82	0.427	0.415	-0.028	0.451	2.386	66
<b>US Wild Horse Mean</b>	54 <sup>a</sup>	0.360	0.351	-0.035	0.385	2.218	53.5
Standard Deviation		0.051	0.053	0.118	0.067	0.339	12.5
<b>Domestic Horse Mean</b>	118 <sup>a</sup>	0.371	0.365	-0.014	0.414	2.398	65.4
Standard Deviation		0.049	0.043	0.065	0.039	0.253	11.1

a. Number of populations/breeds

Of the 49 different variants (alleles) detected in Guy Fawkes horses, 47 occur in recognised breeds in Australia (Helen Arthur, personal communication); and all 62 genetic variants (alleles) detected in Walers occur in recognised breeds in Australia (Helen Arthur, personal communication). In other words, neither Guy Fawkes horses nor Walers are genetically unique to any significant extent.

In the present context,  $F_{IS}$  is a measure of the extent of inbreeding in the populations from which the samples were drawn. The relatively low values of 5% and 7% for Guy Fawkes horses and for Walers, respectively, indicate that neither population is inbred to any extent. This is consistent with continued migration into the populations.

The consensus phylogenetic tree from the RML analysis is shown in Figure 2.15<sup>8</sup>. This tree is a majority-rule, strict-consensus tree from 50 separate RML trees. The numbers at the forks indicate the number of times the groups consisting of the populations to the right of that fork occurred among the total of 50 trees that were constructed. In other words, the closer the number is to 50, the greater the confidence in concluding that the populations to the right are more similar to each other than to other populations.

It is evident from Figure 2.15 that Guy Fawkes horses are most genetically similar to Arabian-type breeds, and next-most-genetically-similar to saddle and harness light horses. The opposite applies for Walers: they are most genetically similar to saddle and harness light horses, and next-most-genetically-similar to Arabian-type breeds. The two groups to which the Guy Fawkes Horses and Walers belong cluster next to each other, indicating a greater genetic similarity between these two groups than between either of these two groups and any other group of breeds.

### 2.11.1.3 Discussion

The comparison would have been more powerful if the Guy Fawkes horses and Walers could have been compared with Australian samples of the recognized breeds. Because of various constraints (primarily time), it was not possible to include such data in the analyses reported here. However, Dr Cothran has compared Australian and US samples of the major breeds (unpublished results), and it is evident from his results that samples from the two countries are very similar. We can therefore be confident that the same conclusions would have been drawn if the comparisons had been made against Australian samples of established breeds.

<sup>8</sup> This is the same as Figure 1.14 in Volume 1 of this report

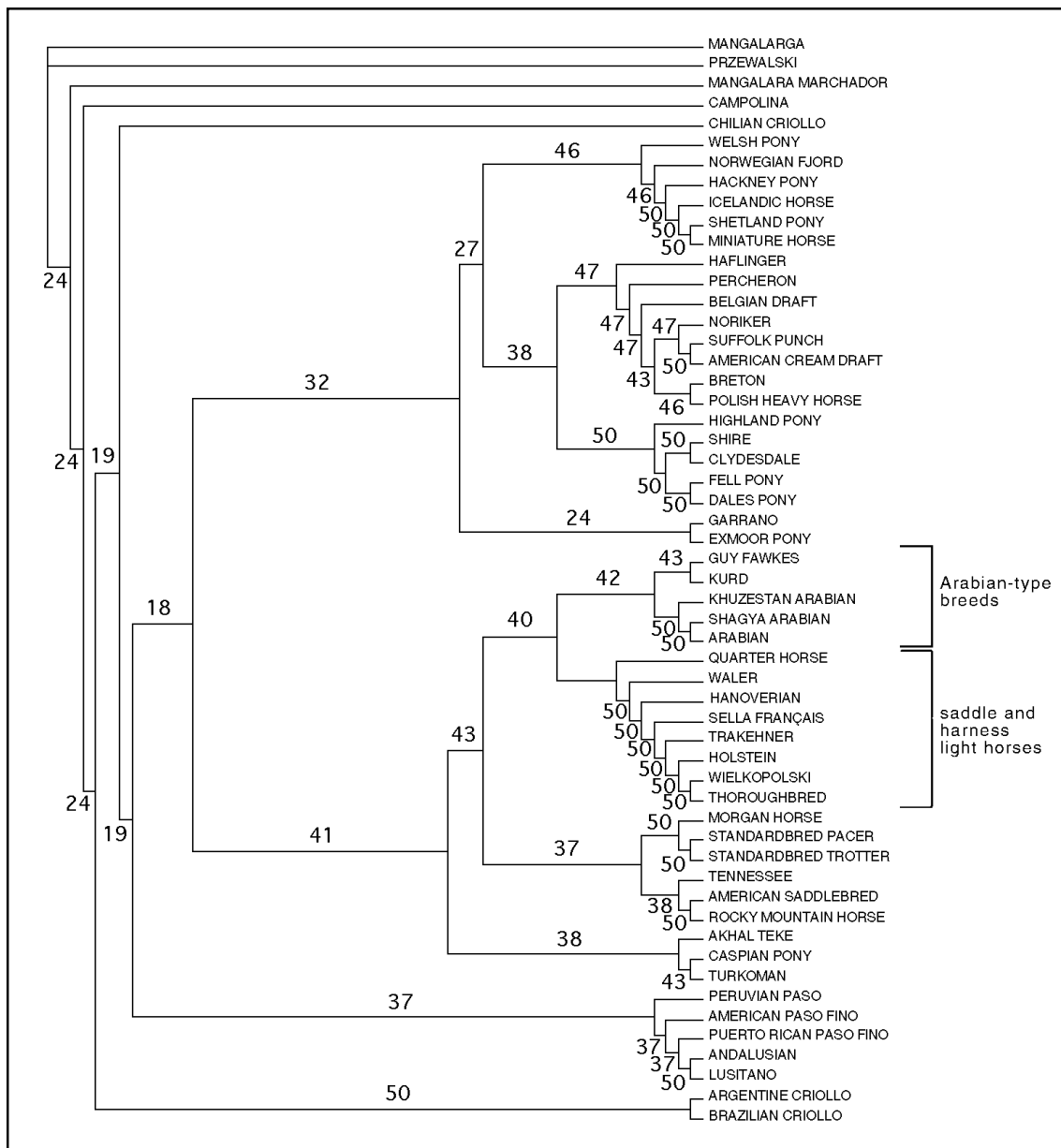


Figure 2.15. Phylogenetic tree based on blood-typing data, showing that Guy Fawkes horses and Walers are most closely related to Arabian-type breeds and saddle and harness light breeds. The tree represents the consensus from 50 replicate trees that were generated from the data. The numbers at the forks indicate the number of times the groups consisting of the populations to the right of that fork occurred among the total of 50 trees that were constructed. In other words, the closer the number is to 50, the greater the confidence in concluding that the populations to the right are more similar to each other than to other populations (Courtesy of Dr Gus Cothran and Dr Lars Jermiin)

## **2.11.2 Evidence from assessment of conformation**

### **2.11.2.1. Materials and Methods**

#### **2.11.2.1.1 Data**

The collection and analysis of data were based on the procedures detailed by Jordana et al. (1995), who provided a mainly subjective scoring system for each of 30 mainly morphological traits (their Table 1, which is reproduced here as Figure 2.16). In their own analysis, Jordana et al. scored an “ideal specimen” of each of 20 horse breeds from Western Europe, North Africa and South America, and two extinct wild-horse breeds. Their raw data (presented in their Table 2) thus comprised a table of scores with 30 columns and 22 rows.

For the present analysis, 14 of the 16 Guy Fawkes horses that were blood sampled were also scored according to the Jordana et al. system, with the same three people (two of whom were experienced horse people) collaborating in the scoring of all 14 horses. In addition, all 20 of the Walers that were blood sampled were also scored according to the Jordana et al. system. However, since the Walers were from geographic locations scattered around Australia, it was not possible to have all horses scored by the same persons. Instead, experienced horse people at each site scored the horses that were sampled at that site. Thus, variation in the Waler data includes variation between scorers, whereas the Guy Fawkes data do not.

In order to add these data to that already provided by Jordana et al., it was necessary to reduce the Australian data to a single row of scores for each population. This was achieved by calculating a simple average of the scores for each trait within each population, and then expressing the each average to the nearest whole number.

Finally, because of its importance as a horse breed and because of its likely relationship to Guy Fawkes horses and Walers, a row of scores for an “ideal specimen” of an Australian Thoroughbred was provided by an experienced equine veterinarian, Dr Paul McGreevy.

After adding the three rows of Australian data to the data of Jordana et al., the raw data for the present analyses comprised 30 columns and 25 rows of data, as shown in Table 2.2.

#### **2.11.2.1.2 Phylogenetic analyses**

Version 4.0b8 of PAUP\* (Swofford, 1998) was used in a manner very similar to that used by Jordana et al. Specifically, a heuristic search was conducted using the maximum-parsimony criterion, with the following settings: best trees only, random addition of breeds, 100 runs, swapping algorithm, tree-bisection-reconnection (TBR), traits unordered. This analysis was performed by Dr Lars Jermiin.

### **2.11.2.2 Results**

Figure 2.17<sup>9</sup> shows the sole maximum-parsimony tree that resulted from the heuristic search, rooted with the Tarpan and Przewalski's horse as outgroups. The branch lengths are indicative of the number of trait-stage changes (roughly: the number of steps or changes in trait) required to move from one population to the next. These numbers are shown on the branches.

The Arabian-type breeds and the saddle and harness light horses are all clustered together, and, consistent with the genetic results, both Guy Fawkes horses and Walers are in this cluster.

### **2.11.2.3 Discussion**

Although based on very different data from the genetic evidence above, the results from the conformation data are remarkable similar to those from the genetic data, except that there are fewer clusters, because this form of analysis is less powerful than the genetic analysis.

### **2.11.2.4 Acknowledgements**

Members of the Working Party who organised the blood sampling and scoring of conformation were Graeme Baldwin, Velda Chaplin and Brad Nesbitt. The Working Party is especially grateful to the many people who assisted in these operations, including Greg Everingham, Dave Williams, David O'Brien, Arnold Duckett, Alan Cavanagh, Karen Irwin, Digby Foster, Miranda, Ron Heriot, Michael Brady, Nicholas Perrett, Heather and David Thinkgood, Erol Hibbard, E. Jennings, Grantley Chaplin, G. McLean, Ian and Ros Hutchins, S. Greenwell, K.

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<sup>9</sup> This is the same as Figure 1.15 in Volume 1 of this report

Figure 2.16 Scoring system devised by Jordana et al. (1995) for quantifying horse morphology. From Jordana et al (1995).

Table 1. Characters and their states, used for the construction of the morphological resemblance matrix.

(A) Size	(M) Loin length	(W) White markings
0. Elipometrical	0. Short	0. Absence
1. Eumetrical	1. Long	1. Presence on head and lower extremities
2. Subhypermetrical		
3. Hypermetrical	(N) Rump	(X) Zebra stripings on the legs
(B) Cranial profile	0. Horizontal	0. Absence
0. Subconcave	1. Horizontal and double-muscled	1. Presence
1. Rectilinear	2. Drooping	
2. Subconvex	3. Drooping and double-muscled	
3. Convex	(O) Root of tail	(Y) Aptitude
(C) Length/width proportions	0. Down	0. Wild form
0. Brevilinear	1. Middle	1. Riding
1. Mesolinear	2. Up	2. Riding and career
2. Longilinear	(P) Hooves	3. Draft horse
(D) Neck length	0. Small and high	4. Pony
0. Short	1. Medium-sized	(Z) Live weight in sires
1. Middle length	2. Big and flat	0. < 450 Kg
2. Long	(Q) Horsehair	1. 450–500 Kg
(E) Neckform	0. Short mane and tail	2. 500–650 Kg
0. Pyramidal	1. Long mane and tail and few feathers on the pastern	3. 650–1000 Kg
1. Prominent	2. Long mane and tail and prominent feathers on the pastern	4. >1000 Kg
2. Cervune	(R) Face profile	(A) Head size in relation to body
(F) Neck profile	0. Concave	0. Small
0. Arched	1. Straight	1. Middle (proportionate)
1. Straight	2. Convex	2. Large
2. Deep-set	(S) Face length	(B) Withers height
(G) Withers	0. Short	0. < 149 cm
0. Simply pronounced	1. Long	1. 149–154 cm
1. Well-defined	(T) Eyebrow	2. 155–160 cm
(H) Shoulder length	0. Protruding	3. 161–170 cm
0. Short	1. Slightly prominent	4. > 170 cm
1. Middle	(U) Ear size in relation to head	(C) Thoracic perimeter
2. Long	0. Large	0. <170 cm
(I) Chest	1. Middle (proportionate)	1. 171–185 cm
0. Slightly arched	2. Small	2. 186–200 cm
1. Well-sprung	(V) Coat	3. >200 cm
(J) Breast conformation	0. Chestnut (CH)	(D) Biotipology
0. Medium-sized	1. Black	0. Muscular
1. Broad	2. Gray	1. Hypermetabolic
2. Very broad	3. Isabella	2. Anabolic
(K) Back length	4. CH. and Bay	3. Temperamental
0. Short	5. Bay and Black	4. Very good stamina
1. Medium-sized	6. Bay	
2. Long	7. Bay and Roan	
(L) Dorsal line	8. CH. and Strawberry	
0. Slightly saddled	9. Grey, CH. and Bay	
1. Straight	10. Various	

Table 2.2 Raw data from assessment of conformation of Walers, Guy Fawkes horses and Thoroughbreds (last three lines), in comparison with data for a range of breeds from Jordana et al. (1995) (all other rows). The scoring system that gave rise to these data is described in Figure 2.16.

BREED	Character (see list below)																														
	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	A	B	C	D	
Andalusian	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	3	
Arab	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	9	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	
Ardennes	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	3	1	2	2	0	0	0	2	8	1	0	3	2	2	2	2	2	
Auxois	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	7	1	0	3	3	0	3	2	2	
Barb	1	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	2	9	1	0	2	1	2	1	1	3	
Boulonnais	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	3	3	0	3	3	0	
Brabant	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	4	1	0	3	4	0	4	3	2	
Breton Cerda	2	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	2	1	2	2	1	0	0	2	4	1	0	3	2	1	1	2	2	
Breton Cros	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	3	1	2	2	1	0	0	2	4	1	0	3	3	1	3	2	2	
Breton Postier	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	3	1	2	2	1	0	0	2	4	1	0	3	1	1	2	1	2	
Clydesdale	3	1	2	2	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	6	1	0	3	3	0	3	3	0	
Comtois	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	2	1	2	2	2	
Criollo	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	1	2	1	0	2	10	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	
Exmoor	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	
Merens	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	4	
Percheron	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	3	2	3	3	0	
Pottock	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	5	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	4	
Shire	3	3	2	2	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	4	1	0	3	4	0	4	3	0	
Selle Francais	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	4	1	0	2	1	0	2	1	1	
Suffolk	3	3	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	3	2	3	3	0	
Tarpan	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	10	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	
Przewalski	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	4	
Waler	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	4	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	
Guy Fawkes	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	4	
Thoroughbred	1	1	2	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	?	1	1	1	1	10	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	3

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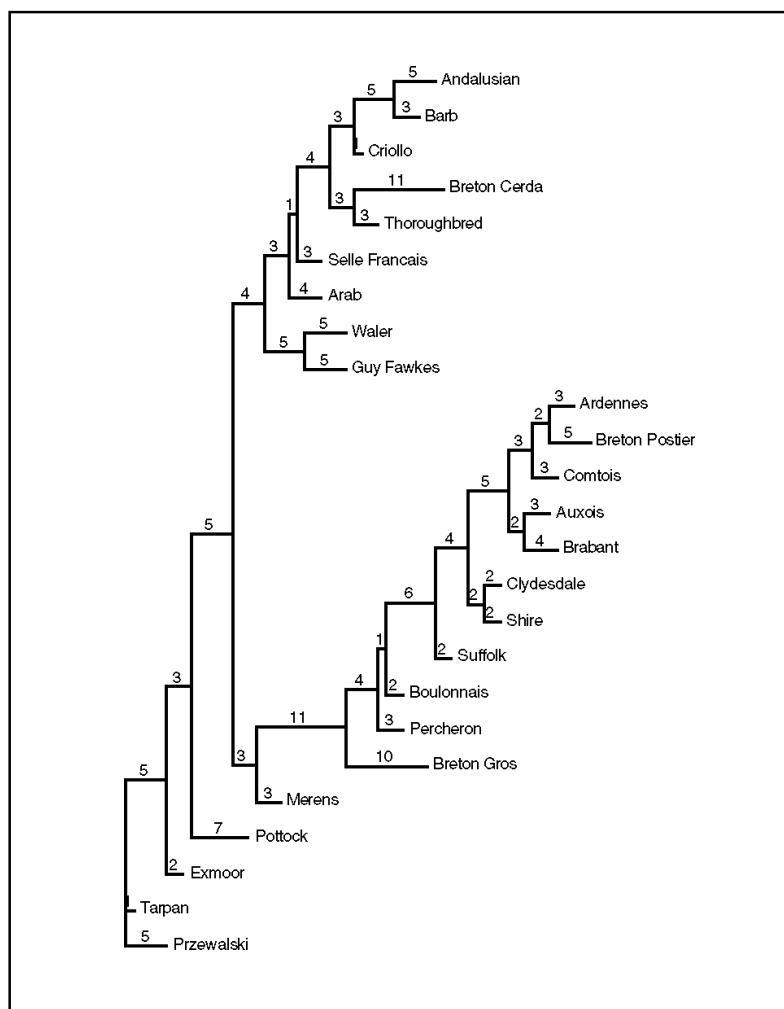


Figure 2.17. Phylogenetic tree based on conformation data, showing Guy Fawkes horses and Walers in the same group as Arabian-type breeds and saddle and harness light breeds. The number on each branch of the tree and the length of each branch indicate the extent to which populations differ (Courtesy of Dr Lars Jermin)



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## **APPENDIX 1**

# **THE HISTORY OF THE GUY FAWKES RIVER AUSTRALIAN BRUMBIES AND THE BRUMBIES OF THE NORTHERN TABLELANDS**

*Collected and compiled by Robyn MacDougall of Newton Boyd, NSW*

*December 2001*