

BRUMBIES AT GYMPIE SHOW

There are approximately 1,200 brumbies in the Toolara State Forest and anywhere from 400,000 to 1 million brumbies throughout Australia. They breed at a rate of approximately 15% per annum.

Within Australia they can be found in remote, difficult to access locations such as the vast deserts of the Northern Territory, on Australia's expansive cattle stations, in State Forests and National Parks (NP). The National Parks where they can be found include Carnarvon Gorge NP in central Queensland, the Guy Fawkes NP in NSW and the Kosciuszko NP in Eastern NSW and North East Victoria.

In Australia during the 1840s and 1940s horses were bred for the Australian Army and Indian remount trade. Many were bred on large stations in the Northern Territory, North-Western Australia, South Australia and far North Queensland, others were bred in Australia's vast unfenced open spaces.

During the Boer War (1899 – 1902) over 16,000 brumbies, or walers as they are often referred to, were sent overseas for use by the Australian Light Horse. The Waler was suited to the harsh climate of the Sinai Peninsula and Palestine and even proved superior to the camel as a means of transporting troops.

In the First World War (1914 – 1919) more than 120,000 Walers were sent overseas. Nearly 40,000 were sent to the Australian army in the Middle East and the remaining 80,000 went to the allied armies in India. Sadly due to quarantine restrictions, only one Waler is known to have returned to Australia.

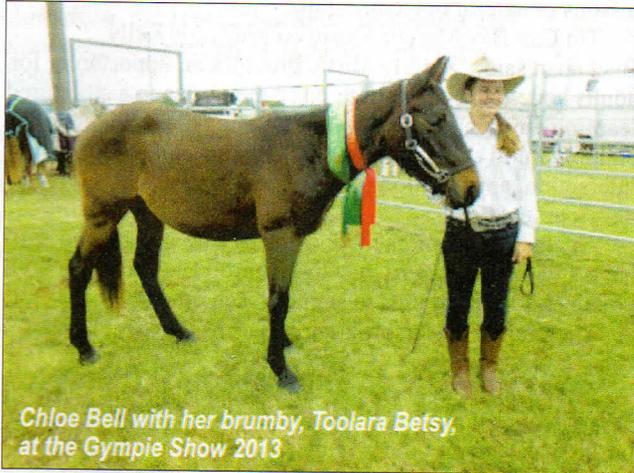
As the years passed and the horse began to be replaced by machines, many were released and left to survive alone in the wild. These horses, combined with those left in the forests after the remount trade ceased, have populated at a rate of approximately 15% per annum resulting in Australia having the high numbers of brumbies it has today.

Brumbies are now recognised as a registered breed. The Australian Brumby Horse Register was established in 2005.

Brumby classes are appearing at a number of local shows throughout Australia including the Gympie Show.

Recently both local and interstate brumbies were shown in the brumby led class at the Gympie Show 2013.

By Anne Wilson



Chloe Bell with her brumby, Toolara Betsy, at the Gympie Show 2013



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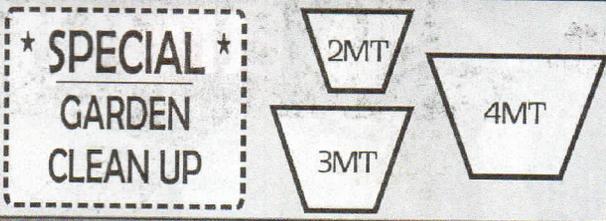
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