



BENDIGO ANIMAL WELFARE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

caring with compassion

43 Williamson Street Bendigo 3550 **Hours:** Wednesday to Friday 10am to 4pm
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DECEMBER 2011

Newsletter Issue: 32

It has been a very busy year for BAWCS, in particular with our Community Support Programs flourishing. These programs specifically target disadvantaged pet owners, including the elderly, the homeless, the pension holder (including single parent and disability) and those that face challenging personal circumstances including victims of domestic violence, the incarcerated, the mentally and physically unwell. Our client base is many and the service providers we have partnered with this year include Aged Persons Mental Health Service, Bendigo Community Health Services, **EASE (Emergency Accommodation Services Enterprise)**, **St Lukes, Bendigo Uniting Care, Haven (formerly Loddon Mallee Housing), Bendigo Health – Mobile Support Services, Vincentcare Victoria and Vision Australia.**

Support in general for disadvantaged pet owners has been in demand also. Amazing how just the simple purchase of a dog bed to a dog that has to sleep on a concrete floor in a garage whilst his owner is in temporary accommodation, or transportation of pets to new accommodation from temporary when you don't have a car, can make all the difference. What a lot of us take for granted and are able to buy without a second thought is often extremely challenging to those facing circumstances beyond their control. Other support provided has including paying pound release fees (people often just need the time to get the money together), veterinary care, including minor to major procedures and of course very important, and supporting responsible pet ownership, desexing. BAWCS has a holistic approach and if an animal is being desexed, we also encourage microchipping and vaccination.

Our relationship with the **local RSPCA**, who operate the Pound for the City of Greater Bendigo has also strengthened and we have been able to assist with dog reclaims (as previously mentioned), referrals for adoptions and in one particular case of note, veterinary care for a disadvantage pet owner whose elderly dog

needed to be put to sleep but couldn't afford to go to the vet. The Pound is not the place where a beloved pet should have its last hours so we were able to ensure this dear dog's last hours were spent quietly and put to sleep with dignity.

Our support of these organisation's and their clients has only been possible with the great support of grants received from **2010 State Trustees Australia Foundation – Jean Memorial Fund**, and **Bendigo Uniting Care Outreach Distribution Fund**. We have applied to these organisations again for funding for our 2012 programs.

As BAWCS does not have kennels yet, we have been working with a third party boarding kennel who have been extremely understanding about the circumstances in which dogs are being boarded with them, including the fees they are charging. BAWCS often picks up the entire cost of this accommodation which is more often required in emergency situations.

Without doubt, our **Community Support Programs** have been and continue to be, a major focus of the work we do and we look forward to continuing this important work with the generous support of our partners.

Grant acknowledgements

BAWCS has been successful in applying for and receiving the following grants this year :

State Trustees – Community Support Programs

Bendigo Uniting Care Outreach – Community Support Programs

Strategem Financial Group – auditing of our financial statements

CVGT – Support for operating costs

Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs Volunteer grant – fuel for volunteers

Latest update on facility development

Whilst BAWCS continues to support our community with our much in demand services, our Building Project is ticking away in the background.

For those that don't know, we are building new facilities on 30 acres in Huntly North allowing us to greatly expand on the work we are currently doing.

The first 6 months of this year has not been without drama, in particular due to the flooding of our site with the torrential rains. To add to this, the contractor engaged to complete our 500metre driveway kept putting our job off and in the end, pulled out of the contract altogether! Needless to say we were extremely disappointed especially when we have wasted so much time in getting this important part of our project completed. Without the driveway, you cannot get onto the property including getting to the Caretaker's Residence which has been waiting to be finished for some months now. We engaged a new contractor and the driveway was finished quickly and we have been able to forge ahead with getting the Caretaker's Residence completed. When we have someone living onsite we will relocate our **Farm Friends Program** animals to Huntly North and our current rehoming of unwanted kittens and cats will continue from the new site.

As further funding becomes available, we will continue to develop our facilities to include our much anticipated kennels and pet boarding facility. It is a big project and we thank everyone who continues to support us along the way.

Finalisation of our Buy A Brick Program

Part of our Fundraising Initiative to progress our facilities is our **BUY A BRICK PROGRAM**. You can buy a brick *in honour of or loving memory of* a family member or pet (or business) from just \$10.00. You will receive a Certificate of Appreciation and bricks are **TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**

We have PASSED our **2,150th** brick sold **milestone**, raising over **\$30,000** to date with funds raised helping us to get us to where we are now with the site. Our next milestone of 2,500 will see **the finalisation of this Program** so there are only approximately 300 bricks left to buy. **A great Christmas present.**



Special mention...

We have some wonderful volunteers who support us throughout the year and have done so ever since we first started. This ongoing support has helped us to achieve what we had to date and we sincerely thank **Wilma & Stan, Minya and now Zoe Lovell**) and **Betty Johns** as our most long serving volunteers and who have been honoured in the roll of honour (Bendigo advertiser)

In memory...

It is with great sadness that we advise of the peaceful passing of our beloved treasurer **Keith Powell** September 2011.

Keith bravely fought against cancer, but the speed of it's progression was shocking for all those that cared for this remarkable man. Ironically, Keith only became involved with us after the passing of his beloved wife Lois, a wonderful supporter of ours. His energy, his attitude, his remarkable smile and his skills and professionalism brought a magic into our lives. Without his remarkable contribution, BAWCS would not be where it is today. We were truly blessed and he and Lois will live on through what they have given to this organisation. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family.



More sad news...

One of our very important and valued volunteers has gone to the Rainbow Bridge. Cradled in her mum's arms, **Minya** passed peacefully We thank Sue at Mclvor Road Veterinary Clinic for her care and compassion in what is never an easy task. **Minya** was a major draw card for many fundraising activities, her placid and people loving nature made her a favourite. She also visited the office on a weekly basis and it is so sad to think we won't see her in there again. Our sympathies are with her 'people' Wilma and Stan as they grieve for the loss of their precious girl. **RIP Minya.**



This is the time we like to make mention of the great support we have had during the year :

UFS Pharmacies for sponsorship of our Seniors for Seniors Program and ongoing support with donations for our raffles and Trivia night.

IGA Strathfieldsaye and Maiden Gully for support via their Community Support Program.

Huntly Heritage Newsletter for keeping the Huntly Community up to date with the development of our site at Huntly North.

Peter Gasson – Bluestone Stables Gallery – wonderful paintings for a recent art exhibition fund raiser, raffles and our Trivia Night.

A BIG THANK YOU to our vets this year –

**Mclvor Road Vet Clinic, Kangaroo Flat Vet Clinic
The Bendigo Animal Hospital and
Eaglehawk Rd Vet Clinic.**

Veterinary care is an important part of the support we provide for disadvantaged pet owners and of course, the animals that come into our direct care. Without this support, BAWCS would not be able to operate as effectively.

Where do puppies come from?

Do you know where puppies REALLY come from? 95% of those sold in pet shops are sourced from Puppy Farms where dogs are often kept in horrendous conditions. People don't realise this when they buy from a pet shop and these shops 'stock up' for the Christmas period to meet demand. Spread the word and tell your family and friends not to buy puppies from pet shops as they are supporting an industry that needs to be shut down, not encouraged. Visit www.closepuppyfactories.org to learn more.

Goodwill Wines partners with BAWCS

The Goodwill Wine story.....

David & Ali suffered great loss during the Victorian bushfires of Black Saturday and were humbled by the donations and support from the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal along with the generosity of the Australian public.



They created Goodwill Wines to 'pay forward' that generosity by finding the best wine around and giving half the profits to their customers' favourite charities. **The Goodwill Wines selections for BAWCS are completely cruelty free.** No milk, eggs or fish products were used in the production process. BAWCS has our own label, featuring **Charlie, a pup** that was adopted through us.

<p>Chardonnay 2009</p> <p>Yarra Valley SV - Dixon's Creek 50% Whole-bunch pressed Fruit blossom, Nectarine & grilled Hazelnut. Balanced acid & lengthy palate 13.8% Alc/vol 8.2 standard drinks Preservative (220) added 750ml</p> <p>No animal products were used in the making of this wine.</p> <p><i>Goodwill Wine</i> Good Wine. Good Price. Goodwill.</p> <p>www.goodwillwine.com.au</p> <p>Bendigo Animal Welfare & Community Services</p>		<p>Bendigo Animal Welfare & Community Services (BAWCS) was founded in 2005. Our approach is unique in comparison to other animal welfare organisations. Rather than focusing on what people can do for animals, we instead focus on what animals can do for people.</p> <p>The end result is that both people and animals have the opportunity to share in a nurturing environment with positive outcomes for both.</p> <p>With this underpinning philosophy, we provide programs in the key areas of Animal Welfare, Community Support and Education.</p> <p>www.bawcs.org.au</p> <p>\$20 from the purchase price of this 12 bottle case goes to the Bendigo Animal Welfare & Community Services.</p>
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Sample label

GOODWILL WINES have reduced the cost of their Vegan Mixed Case by \$10 in the lead up to Christmas. As Christmas and the Festive season draws closer, take advantage of this great offer and help BAWCS at the same time!

www.goodwillwine.com.au/charities/bendigo-animal-welfare-community-services

STAMPS!

We are still collecting stamps so please drop them in to our office at 43 Williamson St (next to the Post Office) Wednesday to Friday between 10am and 4pm **5444 5783**

Farm Friends Program Support

The Anglican Parish Kangaroo Flat Sunday School children gave a lovely donation to our **Farm Friends Program**. We are looking forward to our Farm Friends Program being fully operational on our site at Huntly North so young people can come and see our residents which includes pigs, sheep, cows, horses and chickens!



Adoptions

In July this year, BAWCS decided to start advertising our animals for adoption on a great website called **PetRescue**. The site is the largest online, searchable directory of rescue pets in Australia, making it a hub for rescue groups and those looking for a pet. Our adoption rates have picked up and we have been able to not only rehome more cats / kittens but also successfully rehome dogs this year! Not bad for an organisation that doesn't have kennels. Below are some of our pooches now enjoying new forever homes.



From left to right: Rex, Spike, Chuck, Charlie, Tiger, Darcy, Tom, Ruby and Sameerah

http://www.petrescue.com.au/search_by_member/?member=126



www.petrescue.com.au/search_by_member/?member=126

Rotary Club of Bendigo Strathdale Christmas Raffle

As we are writing this newsletter, our vullies Stan, Wilma, Catherine and Zoe are busily selling raffle tickets for the **Rotary Club of Bendigo Strathdale Christmas raffle**. An important fundraiser for us (and other community groups that are also involved) we thank Rotary for inviting us to assist them again this year. The proceeds from the sale of the tickets is distributed to the charities that sell tickets. It's such a great idea and we thank those that buy tickets to support their charities.

Bendigo Pet Partners Program

The Delta Pet Partners Program in association with Bendigo Animal Welfare & Community Services is delivered in the Bendigo region under the banner of **Bendigo Pet Partners Program** and run by the wonderful **Lisa Dewhurst**.

For the past 5 years, Lisa has co ordinated and managed our volunteers and their accredited dogs for 'pet therapy' visits to care facilities in Bendigo. The benefits of these visits is well known and patients and residents look forward to the visits each week. The Program is currently recruiting for new volunteers so if you think your dog might have what it takes to participate in this Program, please give Lisa Dewhurst a call outside business hours on

Tel: 0419 875 899.

Thanks Lisa, for your hard work and dedication to this Program.

The Kitty Will (tissues required)

When humans die, they make a will
To leave their homes, and all they have to those they love.
I, too, would make a will, if I could write
To some poor, wistful, lonely stray I leave my happy home,
My dish, my cosy bed, my cushioned chair, my toy
The well-loved lap, the gently stroking hand,
The loving voice, the place I made in someone's heart,
The love, that at the last
Could help me to a peaceful, painless end
Held in loving arms.
If I should die
Oh! Do not say: "No more a pet I'll have
To grieve me by it's loss."
Seek out some lonely, unloved cat
And give my place to him.
This is my legacy
The love I leave behind.
'Tis all I have to give.

Margaret Trowton

A big THANK YOU to our valued SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS for 2011


- The Bendigo Weekly
- Strategem Financial Group – auditors
- State Trustees – funding provider
- Bendigo Uniting Care – funding provider
- Central Trophies and Gifts – Buy a Brick Program sponsor
- UFS Pharmacies – Seniors for Seniors Program sponsor
- Mclvor Road Vet Clinic – vet care support
- Kangaroo Flat Vet Clinic – vet care support
- Eaglehawk Road Vet Clinic – vet care support
- The Bendigo Animal Hospital – vet care support
- CVGT
- Adrian Cummins & Associates - Surveyors
- ANZ Mitchell Street
- Ellerton Bowen Therapy
- Choice Graphix
- Vaughan's Lawns and Garden Services

Like to advertise?

Buy a business card size space for \$25!

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Bendigo

Please report your home's condition only in the sales contract.

Please support the businesses that support us!

**The purity of a person's
"The purity of a person's heart can be quickly
measured by how they regard animals" ~ Anonymous**