



BENDIGO ANIMAL WELFARE & COMMUNITY SERVICES

caring with compassion

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

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Newsletter Issue: 31

Almost the end of 2010 and as usual we are asking where did the time go! We have been very busy as usual so this issue will be pretty much 'jam packed' with updates.

Firstly, a fond farewell to a major sponsor that has supported us for the past 4 years. **BMP bringing your brand to life** have provided us with services (including our newsletter!) ensuring our professional image at all times and we take this opportunity to thank **John Launder** and his team for their commitment to our organisation. This change is providing us an opportunity to rethink our newsletter layout and we welcome feedback / comments from our supporters so please email us or give us a call on any ideas you might have or anything you would like to see included in future issues.

Where one door closes, another opens and we welcome aboard **Kara** who has volunteered her time to help us with our graphic design needs. Kara has been doing a great job and is responsible for our wonderful **Christmas Appeal flyer**. Thanks Kara!

Our new premises at the **Central Bendigo Enterprise Centre** are working well and we are pleased to see our many regulars calling in and keeping in touch. Our relocation has certainly taken the pressure off financially for us and whilst we don't have a 'shop front' any longer, we are still generating income from merchandise sales in the office and also at our many stalls at markets.

We are finally on **FACEBOOK!** And have set a target of 1,000 'likes' by end of the end of the year. If you are on Facebook please visit our Page!



and 'like' us, it's also a great way to have daily updates on what we are up to.

We have launched several fundraising initiatives on Facebook including our '**HIGH FIVE**' Campaign. We are asking everyone on Facebook to 'High Five' our work by donating \$5.00 and if we reach our 1,000 'likes' total, we will have raised \$5,000! The donations have been coming in thick and fast so please get on board if you are on Facebook!

Community Support

BAWCS has a strong focus on supporting disadvantaged pet owners. This has been by far the area we have grown most in the past couple of years and the demand continues to grow. We are proud to be developing more partnerships with service providers such as **Bendigo Community Health Services** who join the ranks along with **The Salvation Army, Bendigo Uniting Care Outreach, St Lukes, DHS (Dept of Human Services Aged & Disability Support), Annie North Domestic Violence Services, Bendigo Uniting Care Outreach, Villa Maria Disability Services & Aged Care and Bendigo Health.**

Our work of late has included but not limited to:

- paying a Pound release fee to reunite dog and owner
- long term accommodation for two dogs whilst their owner undergoes medical treatment.
- Veterinary care support for desexing and microchipping a cat.
- Accommodation for two cats belonging to a disadvantaged owner who needed medical care and could not afford commercial boarding fees.
- Veterinary care support for castration and microchipping of two dogs.
- Hay supply to struggling horse owner
- Ongoing pet food supply to disadvantaged dog owner

Latest update on facility development

BAWCS is building new facilities of an animal welfare centre (shelter) and pet boarding facility on 30 acres in Huntly North. Once completed, the facility will house a total of 130 dogs and 100 cats. It is a BIG Project with major funding required so will take some time before we are completely operational however we are making progress with our Caretakers House (a mini project in itself) coming along nicely. Once this is completed and there is someone living on site we will be able to have our **Farm Friends Program** operational with our first residents, Ricky and Barney (standard breeds) moving into their new home. Thank you to everyone that is supporting us with building our new facilities, whilst it may look like not alot is happening, your support via donations and brick purchases is crucial to keeping the Project progressing. The weather continues to challenge us however we are progressing where we can under the circumstances.

Tree planting.....

Thanks to funding received from the Bendigo Northern District Community Enterprise Small Grants Program (in conjunction with Bendigo Bank and Community Telco) allowed us to do some tree planting on site. Working in partnership with the **CVGT National Green Jobs Corps Program**, we have now planted trees that will provide a screening of native shrubs along our northern boundary which will enhance the character of the endemic native vegetation blending in with the current vegetation on the site. The Project has not only provided environmental improvements in the form of many new native trees planted but has also assisted young unemployed people, working with the National Green Jobs Corps to build their skills via environmental work experience allowing for greater employment opportunities.

We take this opportunity to thank the Bendigo Northern District Community Enterprise Small Grant Program (in conjunction with Bendigo Bank and Community Telco) and our new partners CVGT National Green Jobs Corps Program for their support.



4 of the 'lads' who worked on our Tree Planting Project. Thanks guys!

2011 will be a very exciting time for us as we work towards finally being operational on our site.

First horse shelter up....

An ongoing partnership with the **Bendigo Education Technical College (BTEC)** and Bendigo Animal Welfare & Community Services (BAWCS) is proving its worth with the first horse shelter being built and erected by the students at BAWCS site in Millwood Road Huntly North.

The flat pack animal shelters are designed and built on site at BTEC and transported and erected on site by the students who get to see the end result of their hard work in action.

This has been a great opportunity to work with young people to educate them in caring for animals and providing shelters does just that.

The shelter is the first of 8 that will be installed on the 30acre property which will house a number of farm animals that will form part of the Farm Friends Program.

Thanks also to long time supporter **Jean Ford** who has sponsored the first shelter. You can sponsor one also from as little as \$100 which is tax deductible. Your sponsorship includes a plaque on the shelter you have supported.



ANOTHER \$15,000 donation received

You will recall in our last newsletter we received a generous donation in memory of Rita Clarke. This has been followed by **another \$15,000** from **Jenny and Joy** who have been supporters of BAWCS for some time and who are keen to see out new facilities are Huntly North up and running. This donation has been directed to completing our 500m driveway works which is crucial to our ongoing works onsite. We are most appreciative of these extremely generous donations as they are extremely important to keep our Project progressing. Once we are up and running, our planned Pet Boarding Facility will generate the required income to sustain our overall operations. Don't forget – all donations over **\$2.00** are **TAX DEDUCTIBLE!**



Dr Joanna says....

Did you know there is **health insurance** available for your pets? For a small amount monthly you can ensure that your pet will be able to receive the highest quality veterinary care if necessary.

Veterinarians are not funded by the government. Overheads are very high as vets need to provide many more services than a GP; eg X-rays, ultrasound, laboratory facilities, emergency and intensive care equipment, autoclaves, anaesthetic machines and surgical equipment. If we are to supply and maintain these services, our fees have to reflect these costs.

Routine procedures alone can become cost prohibitive-however specialist veterinary care can be thousands of dollars and usually is an unforeseen emergency expense. It is a tragedy to be forced to euthanase because it is financially unviable for your pet to receive the best medical attention.

I have included a list of pet insurers (in no particular order), however it is wise to check your house insurer as often they have a pet insurance package incorporated into the policy.

AFS- PETMED 1300 363 552
MEDIBANK 132 331
MERIAL PERFECT PARTNERS PET COVER 1300 668 100
PETPLAN 1300 738 225
RSPCA PETINSURANCE 1300 855 150
VETS OWN 1300 738 467

Shop around until you find the policy that best suits your pet's particular needs.

**Dr Joanna is the Senior vet at
Bendigo Animal Hospital 5443 3322**

Latest adoptions

We have had a great year for rehoming many animals – a very rewarding part of the work we do, in particular because **we do not euthanase** any animal in our care unless they suffering and cannot be saved. Animals have included horses, cats, kittens, dogs, guinea pigs, chickens, roosters and ducks. We don't discriminate!

One of our lovely success stories is **Charlotte**. With us for some time, Charlotte remained a shy and sensitive cat that needed just the right owners. Her have thought she 'people' came in the shape of Lynn and Ken from Dandenong North and as you can see, **Char Char** has certainly settled in and has never looked back!

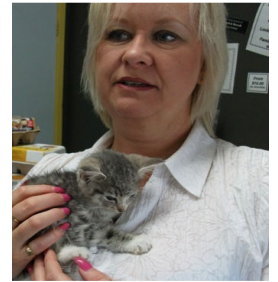


Kittens

We are right in the thick of kitten season and even before the start of it, we were taking in kittens that had either been abandoned by their mother or the mother had passed away.

We would not be able to do this work unless it was for our foster carers and in particular **Anne Jones**.

Anne is our kitten 'whisperer' and we are always amazed at her absolute and total dedication to the little charges, sometimes only days old, she takes on and raises until they are ready for adoption. BAWCS is entirely volunteer run and we are very lucky to have such dedicated ones.

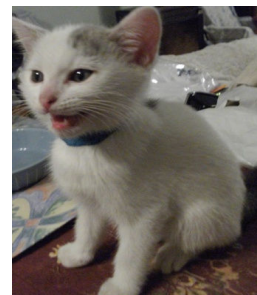


Current kittens available

We have a number of kittens available and looking for a home for Christmas! Pictured are **Jet** and **Sam** but we have girls as well, please visit our website www.bawcs.org.au Kittens are vaccinated, microchipped and desexed and the Adoption fee is only \$130.00. Give a kitty a home for Christmas!



JET



Smiling SAM

Donations...

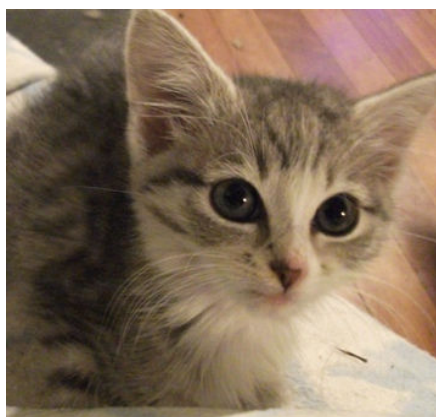
We are extremely privileged to have the support of **Mr Keith Powell** who donates in memory of his wife Lois. The most recent support in Lois' memory is a new lap top for our office and to use with our educational programs and presentations. Thank you Keith!

We also take this opportunity to thank **Centrecom** who gave us a great deal which included software. We are now operating at a most efficient pace and the old lap top is no longer in danger of being thrown out the window!

*Thanks so much to **everyone** that has donated to us this year... including hand made items (in particular Betty Johns!), knitted dog coats, pet food, wool, stamps, blankets, towels, merchandise to sell (new and used) and everything in between! Your support has meant a great deal to us and the work that we do in the community.*

We remember.....

We have had many kittens in this kitten season, all are special however one stands out for her courage and spirit. Phoenix came to us as an under 'Pound' kitten. At 8 weeks of age she was a tiny underweight bundle that was going to be euthanased. She quickly earned the nick name The Dot. Not interested in playing with the other kittens, she constantly sought out human company and followed us around all the time. She was fine until quite suddenly we noticed something was not right and made a visit to the vet who immediately put Phoenix on fluids and pain relief. Despite her fighting spirit, The Dot did not pull through and we were all quite shattered at her passing. We will remember this little girl as a symbol of hope as we continue our work during the difficult kitten seasons. Please remember to desex your cat and tell your friends to do so as well. Please also don't feed stray cats, whilst you think you are doing a kindness, you are merely adding to the heartache of the many kittens that are born into a world where there are just not enough homes.



Rest in Peace Phoenix (aka The Dot).

*I'll lend you for a
little time a pet of
mine*

*For you to love while
she lives and mourn
for when she's dead
It may be six or
seven years or
twenty two or three
But will you, till I call
her back, take care
of her for me?*

*She will bring her charms to gladden you
and should her stay be brief
Promise she will have her lovely memories
as solace for your grief*

*I cannot promise she will stay since all from earth return
But there are lessons taught down there I wish my pets to learn*

*I've looked the wide world over in my search for teachers true
And from the throngs that crowns life's lanes
I have selected you*

*Please will you give her all your love and
not think the labour vain*

Nor hate me when I come and call to take her back again

*I fancied that I heard myself say "Dear Lord Thy will be done"
For all the joy my pets shall bring, I'll risk the grief I'll run
I'll shelter her with tenderness, I'll love her while I may
And for the happiness I've known, forever grateful stay
And should the angels call for her much sooner than I'd planned
I'll brave the bitter grief that comes and to understand.*

Rotary Club of Bendigo Strathdale Raffle

We have once again been invited to participate in selling raffle tickets for the **Rotary Club of Bendigo Strathdale Christmas raffle**. This is a very important fundraiser for us (and other community groups that are also involved) and we thank Rotary for involving us. We could not do this however without the support of volunteers including Wilma, Stan, Minya, Catherine and Rhonda. Thanks all!

A special mention of the additional work **Wilma, Stan and Minya** have done this year. Setting up at Market Place & Centro Lansell each Thursday for a number of months, our wonderful and dedicated volunteers raised over \$1,000 for us. We are so appreciative of this work and sincerely thank them for their hard work and dedication.



Buy a Brick for Christmas

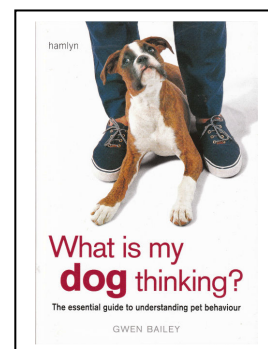
There is still time to buy a brick in our **Buy a Brick Program** for the person that has everything! Bricks start from \$10 and have a plaque inscribed in honour of or loving memory of a family member or pet. Bricks are tax deductible! At time of writing we had almost hit our **2,000th milestone**.

Other presents to consider

What is my dog thinking?

By Gwen Bailey

\$12.50 plus postage



Angels who came with fur and four paws. Signed by

Author, **Pamela Talbot Adams** and free bookmark.

Normally \$24.95, BAWCS price to supporters **just \$20** plus postage.



You can call in at 43 Williamson Street Bendigo (avoid postage fee!) Wednesday to Friday from 10am to 4pm or go online www.bawcs.org.au (we have Pay Pal and Credit Card facilities)

Direct payment into our account – reference book
BSB 013 533 Account no: 478527768

We collect stamps...

And on sell them to a stamp dealer in Melbourne. Stamps of most value are the 'uncancelled' ones, ie: ones that got through the post without being 'stamped'. We also take the others though, and any stamps of other origins.

Please drop off to our office at 43 Williamson Street Bendigo (next to the Post Office) or post them to us!

Bendigo Pet Partners Program

A special thank you to the Co Ordinator of our Pet Partners Program, **Lisa Dewhurst**.

Lisa has managed the Program for the past 4 years and without her dedication it would not be as successful as it is today. The Program provides invaluable pet therapy via 13 teams of volunteer and their dogs visiting a range of 'care' facilities including Simpkin House, Radius Disability Services, Anne Caudle Centre (Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit), Victoria Heights Nursing Home, Benetas St Laurence Kangaroo Flat and Eaglehawk, Anne Caudle Centre (Marjory Phillips Unit), Alexander Bayne Unit and Joan Pinder Nursing Home. It's a great Program and proudly support by:



Grant acknowledgements

We are most appreciative of the support we have received via grants from the following organisations :

Strategem Financial Group – auditing of our financial statements

CVGT – Support for operating costs

Bendigo Northern District Enterprise – tree planting on site at Huntly North

We've had some wonderful support and guidance from **Greg** at **Peterson Westbrook Cameron** this year. From sorting out our lease on our previous property at 32 High Street Bendigo to dealing with our neighbours regarding a fencing issue, Greg has always been available and provided invaluable advice and support. Many thanks to Greg and his team.

THANK YOU and BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

- Choice Graphix
- Ellerton Bowen Therapy
- The Bendigo Weekly
- CVGT
- Jax Quickfit Tyres
- Petersen Westbrook Cameron Lawyers
- The Bendigo Weekly
- Adrian Cummins & Associates
- ANZ
- The Bendigo Animal Hospital
- Central Trophies and Gifts
- UFS Pharmacies



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N. Davis & Associates Pty. Ltd.
ABN 14 056 083 866

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Year Round Accountancy Service

Neil Davis
FP.N.A. N.T.A.A.

P.O. Box 127, California Gully, Vic. 3556
Phone/Fax: (03) 5436 8390

Please support the businesses that support us!

"The human spirit is not dead. It lives on in secret.... It has come to believe that compassion, in which all ethics must take root, can only attain its full breadth and depth if it embraces all living creatures and does not limit itself to mankind". ~Albert Schweitzer, Nobel Peace Prize address, "The Problem of Peace in the World Today"