



**BENDIGO ANIMAL WELFARE & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

*caring with compassion*

# Animal Matters

The Official Newsletter of Bendigo Animal Welfare & Community Services

Issue 30: June 2010



### Donate Online:

Logon to [www.bawcs.org.au](http://www.bawcs.org.au) and follow the donation link.



EFT: BSB 013 533 Account No. 478527768

### BAWCS Centre

32 High Street, Bendigo **Phone:** 5444 5783

**Postal Address:** P.O. Box 1129 Bendigo 3552

### Operating Hours:

Wednesday to Friday 10am to 4pm  
& Saturdays 10am to 1pm.

**Mobile:** 0417 382 741

**Email:** [admin@bawcs.org.au](mailto:admin@bawcs.org.au)

**Website:** [www.bawcs.org.au](http://www.bawcs.org.au)

ABN: 62 708 178 788 Registered No: A0045039R

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We are **moving!** After 12 months at 32 High Street Bendigo, the Committee has decided not to renew our lease, instead to move to smaller and more affordable premises. Effective **Wednesday 4 August** you will find us at the **Central Bendigo Enterprise Centre at 43 Williamson Street Bendigo** (next door to Australia Post). We will no longer have a shop front and office, instead a great new office suite which will serve us well in continuing to provide support for the community. You will still be able to drop off donations of cat food / blankets etc. and of course pick up great educational material. You will also be able to purchase bricks in our **Buy a Brick Program** to help build our new facilities at Huntly North – an update on our Brick Program later in this newsletter.

The merchandise we have been selling at our Centre will be stored and sold at the many markets we attend, in particular The Showgrounds Market each Sunday. We will have a small amount of items available for sale at 43 Williamson Street so if you are looking for a particular item, (our cat toys are especially popular!) let us know and we will make sure we have it available.

Our office will be open **Wednesdays to Fridays** between **10am and 4pm** and we will have the same telephone number of **5444 5783**.

We take this opportunity to thank **Greg Westbrook of Petersen Westbrook Cameron Lawyers** who provided extremely valuable support and guidance in relation to our move from 32 High Street Bendigo. Without this critical business support, we would not be able to continue supporting our community. Please refer to our back page for contact details for Greg at Peterson Westbrook Cameron.



BAWCS was founded in 2003 operating from a private home until our establishment in the CBD in 2009. Thank you to everyone that continues to support our organisation as we go from strength to strength and to **Mary at DCK Real Estate** for her assistance with our new premises at 43 Williamson Street Bendigo.

### We've been busy as usual.....

It has been a busy time for us with lots of support being provided to disadvantaged pet owners in particular via our **BUCO Program** (veterinary care funding support provided by the Bendigo Uniting Care Outreach Distribution Fund). Veterinary care can be out of reach to many pet owners but with BAWCS assistance, pet owners have been able to receive the care their pets have needed, including acting responsibly by having their pets desexed.

Sometimes it is time for our pets to leave us to go to *The Rainbow Bridge* and this was the case with 'Sam' whose heart condition was not treatable. A referral from **Uniting Care Outreach Kangaroo Flat** to BAWCS allowed the owners to end Sam's suffering. Our sympathies are extended to Sam's family as they now face life without their little friend.

### Helping ill pet owners

Bendigo Health recently contacted us for support via their **Hospital Admission Risk Program (HARP)**. We are currently providing care for several cats whose owner has been hospitalised for an undetermined period of time. The last thing you need to be worrying about when you are ill is your pet's care. BAWCS is pleased to be able to work in partnership with **HARP** to provide this important service.



Printing

Graphic Design

Web Design

(03) 5444 9333 39 Breen St. Bendigo info@bmp.com.au

[www.bmp.com.au](http://www.bmp.com.au)

## Latest update on facility development

Bendigo Animal Welfare & Community Services (BAWCS) is delighted to be the recipient of funding from the **Bendigo Northern District Community Enterprise (BNDCE) Small Grants Program**, in conjunction with **Bendigo Bank** and **Bendigo Community Telco**, to support landscaping works on our site at 488 Millwood Road Huntly North.

Working in partnership with **CVGT National Green Jobs Corps Program**, BAWCS will plant an attractive 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 landscaping works will also reduce the visual impact of the building development both from within the site and externally and has been approved as part of our Landscaping Plan by the City of Greater Bendigo. The Project will not only provide environmental improvements in the form of many new native trees planted but will also assist young unemployed people to build their skills via environmental work experience, allowing for greater employment opportunities.

We take this opportunity to thank the **BNDCE Small Grant Program Committee** and our new partners **CVGT National Green Jobs Corps Program** for their support.



BAWCS Committee members Vaughan Ellis, Debbie Edwards & BNDCE Committee member Neil Pitson

### The Bendigo Northern District Community Enterprise

Already over 500 people, businesses or organisations have tagged their accounts at Bendigo Bank or shifted their internet services, mobile or home phone to Bendigo Community Telco. Bring your banking business to Bendigo

branch or transfer your telephone or internet services to Bendigo Community Telco and tell them you would like to support the Bendigo Northern District Community Enterprise which in turn will assist development in the community where BAWCS will be located.



## \$15,000 donation received

We usually put an extra call out for donations just before year end reminding people to take advantage of our tax deductible status. Imagine our delight when we received a **\$15,000 donation** in memory of Rita Clarke. The Committee has decided to put this donation towards finishing off our Caretaker's House at our Huntly North site, a mini project in itself and one that is vital to our overall building project. After many delays, we are aiming to have our Caretaker's House finished off by the end of this year. This would not have been possible without the wonderful \$15,000 donation received and we thank our very generous donor. As things move along with the house, we are delighted to report that **Bendigo Hire** have jumped on board our supporters 'train' and we look forward to utilising their many and varied different items of equipment for hire to finalise the house.



## Latest adoptions

Our final two kittens featured in our last newsletter have been adopted TOGETHER. A wonderful outcome as we were worried we would have to separate Ziggy and Tabitha who have become great mates.



Ziggy



Tabitha



Flossie

**Flossie** has also found her forever home. After a 'false start' Flossie came back into our care and then not long after, found 'true love' with her new owner **Katie** and Tibetan Spaniel **Charlie**. Flossie originally came to us when she was left behind when her first owners moved away. Some people seem to think cats can fend for themselves and don't give a second thought to doing this. Luckily the people who started to feed Flossie realised they would be adding to the unwanted feline population if they didn't take responsibility by either taken her on as there own or surrendering her to us. We encourage everyone who is tempted to feed 'stray' cats to either take full responsibility by having the cat desexed, microchipped and registered in their own name or ring City of Greater Bendigo to have the animals picked up. For more information please go to the **Who's for Cats** website at [www.whosforcats.com.au](http://www.whosforcats.com.au)

## We remember...George

George, our beautiful '100 year old' blind cat featured in our December newsletter has passed away. His exceptional courage and wonderful spirit will long be remembered. Thank you to **Margaret at Special Friends** for taking such great care of George who has been cremated and will be scattered at our North Huntly site in our memorial garden.



## We're 199 bricks off another milestone!

Our Buy a Brick Program is still going strong. At time of writing, we had just sold our 1,800<sup>th</sup> brick! Our dedicated volunteers **Wilma** and **Stan**, with assistance from **Catherine** and **Brooke**, are selling bricks at Market Place Shopping Centre every Thursday until the end of July then at Centro Lansell Plaza Kangaroo Flat every Thursday in August. We also have a great raffle running at the same time so pop in, buy a brick to help build our new facilities at Huntly North and you may just be the one that purchases our 2000<sup>th</sup> brick!

## Membership renewal

This year is the first that all membership renewals were due **1 July**. Thank you to everyone who has renewed and included a donation to take advantage of tax time! If you would like to become a member of BAWCS, download the membership form from our website [www.bawcs.org.au](http://www.bawcs.org.au) or call us for a form to be posted. A special thank you to those that have been members since we were founded in 2003.

### Dr Joanna says....

Dr Joanna is having a break for this issue of our newsletter. We look forward to reading Joanna's next article in our September issue.

### Pets and new babies

It is disturbing how many calls BAWCS receives from people wanting to surrender their pets because they have a new baby in the home. Sometimes these pets have been with the family for many years and it is distressing to think that just because a baby has arrived, the pet has to be disposed of, usually because the new parents fear for the safety of the new arrival. Whilst it can be challenging for a pet that has been the centre of attention for this change to be happening, taking the time to prepare your pet for the new human arrival can be simple and effective ensuring no reason to get rid of your pet. Familiarising your pet with the new baby's scent by bringing home a blanket from the hospital can be a good start and on arrival home and making sure the pet is not ignored when the baby is present.

Please contact us if you would like more information on this process. Once children start to crawl, parents must be vigilant in preparing the pet (especially a dog) for what may happen with squeezing, poking and the like from the child.



**Never leave a young child, especially under 6, unsupervised with a pet.**

More information is available through BAWCS. Don't betray the trust of an animal that asks so little of you but gives you so much in return just because you have a new family member which in time will benefit greatly from having an animal in their lives, just as you have.

### Support for Black Saturday 18 months on

Back in February 2009, BAWCS was called in to assist pet owners who had been affected by the Black Saturday bushfire. We saw a stream of distressed people arriving at the Kangaroo Flat Support Centre, some with all of their pets, others with only some of their pets, and tragically, people that had left their pets behind. **Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS) Bushfire Relief Program** has been assisting victims and recently referred one of their clients to us who required support for their dogs. **Pets In Crisis**, one of our Community Support Programs is specifically set up to assist pet owners in need and we have assisted a family with caring for their beloved pets.

### Great response.....

We have had a fantastic response to our request for knitted (and other) dog coats. Thank you to all of our dedicated ladies who have been knitting up a storm and creating a wide variety of coats that have been extremely popular at our market stalls (and in our Centre). We are delighted by the support we have received in this area and are extremely grateful for the dog coats (and to Betty for the beautiful pet blankets) which have helped to generate much needed income.

Thanks also to those that donated wool which some of our ladies have used to create their 'wares'.



### Another Trivia Night success

BAWCS volunteers Dale, Rachel, Kevin and Rhonda, with Yvonne Wells at the helm, ran another successful trivia night in May. Our Trivia nights are always well received and this one was no exception. Thanks so much to the following businesses who supported us on the night including Robyn Clarke Studio, Sandy Camp Cottage Echuca, Escape Travel at Market Place, Clive Peeters Kangaroo Flat, Bendigo Tourism, Reillys Retravision, Pyren Vineyard, UFS Pharmacies, Pyren Vineyard, Bluestone Stables Gallery, Shamrock Café & Bar, The Bendigo Animal Hospital, Jax Quickfit Tyres, Spec Savers, Bendigo Bowl, St Lukes and supporters who donated various items for both the major and silent auctions.

### Bendigo Pet Partners Program

You've heard of us talk about Jax Quickfit Tyres before and if you're a member of BAWCS will know of the great discounts you can get. **Jax Quickfit Tyres** decided to extend their support even further this year and signed up as our **MAJOR Program sponsor** of our **Bendigo Pet Partners Program**. The Program provides volunteers and their accredited dogs for visits to care facilities in the Bendigo region. Facilities currently enjoying these visits include Simpkin House (dementia facility), Harcourt House/Peter Harcourt Centre, Anne Caudle Centre (Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit and Marjory Phillips Unit), Victoria Heights Nursing Home, Benetas St Laurence Kangaroo Flat and Eaglehawk, Alexander Bayne Unit (psychiatric care), Joan Pinder Nursing Home and Maryborough Nursing Home. **Jax Quickfit Tyres** recognises the importance of this Program for the residents and patients of these care facilities and welcomed the opportunity to get behind it.



### Speaking of sponsors.....

#### BMP bringing your brand to life

Our great newsletter is printed by the team at **BMP**, who have been supporting BAWCS for a number of years now. Our beautiful brochures, business cards, press ads etc are all beautifully prepared by them. Without this sponsorship, BAWCS would not be where it is today. Please support the businesses that support us!



### The Bendigo Weekly

Another MAJOR sponsor of BAWCS is **The Bendigo Weekly** via our press ad appearing each Friday. This ad has served us well in delivering a number of messages and information about BAWCS to the community. For over 5 years now, The Bendigo Weekly has supported BAWCS with the important work we do.



### Program funding received

UFS Pharmacies donate 50% of all memberships fees to BAWCS and each year we receive a sponsorship cheque based on the number of members who have nominated us when they joined or renewed in that year. This money goes to supporting our **Seniors for Seniors Program** which provides pet companionship for the elderly. We currently have **221 people** supporting us through UFS Pharmacies and recently received a cheque for **\$1,541**. If you're not a member already, please sign up and make sure you nominate BAWCS as the charity you wish to support. You'll get some great benefits from being a member so join today!



### Ellerton Bowen Therapy

Danny Ellerton, founder of **Ellerton Bowen Therapy** has been providing Bowen Therapy services to BAWCS since Barney & Ricky (our standardbred rescues) came to us late last year.

#### Bowen Therapy is capable of:

- Improved Health and Wellbeing;
- Improvement mentally and emotionally;
- Relieves aches and pains;
- Improves muscle condition; and
- Improves coat condition.

BAWCS can testify to the benefits of Bowen Therapy treatments which are ideal for both animals and humans. Please give Danny a call if you are interested to learn more or would like to book a treatment – Danny will come to you with his fully equipped mobile service.  
Tel: **54488997 / 0458 988 977** [www.ellertonbowen.com.au](http://www.ellertonbowen.com.au)

*Please support the businesses that support us!*

### Apology....

In our last newsletter, we incorrectly printed the name (and contact telephone number!) of one of our valued sponsors.

**Strategem Financial Group**  
Strategem have been extremely generous with their support in auditing our financial records and we apologise profusely for our error! The correct telephone number **5445 4777**



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### 3 Easy ways to donate to BAWCS

#### 1. Direct funds transfer (EFT)

Bendigo Animal Welfare & Community Services

BSB: 013 533

Account No: 478527768

#### 2. Online donation – [www.bawcs.org.au](http://www.bawcs.org.au)

#### 3. Karma currency – [www.karmacurrency.com.au](http://www.karmacurrency.com.au)

*An animal's eyes have the power to speak a great language.*

~ Martin Buber