

scratchingpost

Newsletter of the Hobart Cat Centre

November 15



**MELBS'
JOURNEY:**
The tale of
the cat in the
container

*please
take
one!*

Photo: Rachael Daniels

DISCOVER

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INSIDE



GREAT
GIFT
IDEA!



2016 CALENDAR

FEATURING CATS AND
KITTENS ADOPTED FROM
THE HOBART CAT CENTRE

*All money raised goes back to
caring for our cats and kittens*

Thank you to these businesses for selling our 2016 Calendar:

BELLERIVE

Tasmanian Animal Hospitals – 29–31 Clarence Street

DERWENT PARK

Animal Tuckerbox – 8 Lampton Avenue

DEVONPORT

Animal Tuckerbox – 7 Don Road

HOBART CITY

Animal Tuckerbox – 170 Murray Street

Combined Charities Christmas Card Shop – 125 Macquarie Street

Hobart Animal Hospital – 198 Murray Street

HUONVILLE

Animal Tuckerbox – 6 Coolstore Road

KINGSTON

Animal Tuckerbox – 2 Mertonvale Circuit

Channel Highway Animal Hospital – 170 Channel Highway

Kingston Animal Hospital – 1 Freeman Street

Kingston Veterinary Care – 2/11 John Street

LAUNCESTON

Animal Tuckerbox – 41 Boland Street

Volume 2 Bookshop – 93 St John Street

LENAH VALLEY

Hobart Community Veterinary Hospital – 10 Colebrook Street

Lenah Valley Newsagency – 98 Augusta Road

LINDISFARNE

Lindisfarne Veterinary Clinic – 27 Lincoln Street
The Closet – 3/29 Lincoln Street

MARGATE

Hobart Cat Centre Op Shop – 1717 Channel Highway

MORNINGTON

Animal Tuckerbox – 98 Mornington Road

NEW TOWN

Hobart Cat Centre – 12 Selfs Point Road

NORTH HOBART

Fig – 244 Elizabeth Street

North Hobart Veterinary Hospital – 223 Elizabeth Street

ROSNY PARK

Eastern Shore Veterinary Hospital – 58 Bligh Street

Rosny Park Pharmacy – 10 Bayfield Street

SANDY BAY

Sandy Bay Holistic Veterinary Centre – 11 Gregory Street

SALAMANCA

Socrates For Curious Minds – 10/47 Salamanca Square

SORELL

Animal Tuckerbox – 7 Oaks Court

Tasmanian Animal Hospitals – 6 Gordon Street

available through ebay.com.au



Tammy with her award recognising 30 years of service

30 Years! What an innings and still not out!

David Boon was establishing his career as a top order test batsmen for Australia in 1985, but at the Hobart Cat Centre in July this year the chant wasn't 'Boonie' it was Tammy, Tammy, Tammy.

In 1985 Tammy Eastley commenced working and volunteering at the Hobart Cat Centre. We recently celebrated Tammy's 30 years of dedicated service with a presentation at the centre.

Tammy started work at South Hobart when she was a teenager,

and was part of the move to Selfs Point Road eight years ago.

Tammy has an amazing work ethic and always carries out her tasks with a smile, in fact, no one at the centre can remember Tammy having a day off outside of planned holidays.

Tammy loves the cats at the centre and has her own Ragdoll, Fluffy. Also in Tammy's family is her beloved Golden Retriever, Mac.

A cricket tragic, Tammy is a member of Cricket Tasmania. When she isn't caring for the cats at the centre, or Fluffy and Mac, she is a regular fixture watching the cricket from the Members at Bellerive.

The Hobart Cat Centre Inc ABN 78 883 186 467
12 Selfs Point Road, NEW TOWN 7008
PO Box 309, LENA VALLEY 7008
Phone 03 6278 2111 Fax 03 6278 3111

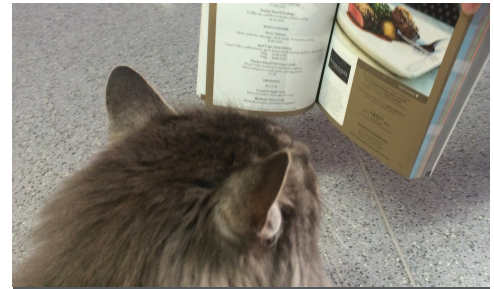
Web www.hobartcatcentre.com.au email info@hobartcatcentre.com.au

Patron Eva Ruzicka

Board President David Rees, Treasurer Bill Harvey, Secretary Roger Viney,
Board Members Prue Horne, Kellie Rathbone, Trevor Sutton & Vicki Tabor

Honorary Life Members Julie Bristow, Leonard Bristow, Colin Dewhurst, Sue Dewhurst, Kath Fisher, Mona Foster, Sue Green, Tom Harding, Robyn Langridge, Betty Sheperd, Caroline Steele, Ingrid Tebb, Rose Osborne, Lyn Weidenhofer, Sheree Bennie, Dot Chaffey (dec), Nancy Knop (dec), Nora Wills (dec).

Newsletter edited by Joel Diprose, all newsletter feedback to joel.diprose@hobartcatcentre.com.au



THANK YOU

This year we raised

\$2,002

from the sale of our
Entertainment Books

Thank you to every one who
supported us again this year

Hobart Cat Centre
12 Selfs Point Road, NEW TOWN 7008
6278 2111

Open Weekdays 10.00am – 4.00pm
Weekends 10.00am – 3.00pm

Op Shop
1717 Channel Highway, MARGATE
0457 184 198
Open Weekdays 10.00am – 3.30pm
Saturday 10.00am – 3.00pm



Photo: Christine Park

THE CAT IN THE CONTAINER

The Hobart Cat Centre has been caring for the cats of Tasmania for over 40 years, but in May we welcomed a visitor from interstate!

So begins the incredible tale of 'Mel'.

Mel was surrendered to the Hobart Cat Centre in May this year, after being found in a shipping container filled with cat food!

Mel - as he was affectionately named by staff after his home town - had spent five days crossing Bass Strait on his 760km journey from Victoria to Tasmania.

It is believed he entered the container at Werribee, a suburb of Melbourne, when he was shut in a container of cat food bound for Hobart.

"Funnily enough when they opened the container door Mel was sitting on top of the cat biscuits. He had opened the cat biscuits and was having a fine old feast." Hobart Cat Centre President, David Rees, told Win News.

"He was definitely very well fed!"

Once we had established what had happened to Mel, the task ahead

of reuniting him with his owners became hard.

Mel was not microchipped.

"We at the Cat Centre strongly recommends that everyone have their animals microchipped. He would have been reunited. There is obviously a family out there very upset that they've lost Mel." David said.

Hobart Cat Centre Operations Manager, Rose Bray, echoed David's message:

"I don't know if they don't see the importance of it [microchipping], that my cat never wanders or never goes away, but various things can happen if they're an outdoor cat, things can scare them and they can run off - and then they're lost."

We contacted as many organisations and websites as we could in Victoria and Nationally in search of Mel's owners. We had a story on Win News, which was also picked up by it's Melbourne affiliate 9 News.

The decision was made to put Mel into foster care while we continued our efforts to try and track down his owner.

"Mel is quite a character, he's really

smoochy, very friendly and he just loves company. He really likes to be around people." Rose said.

After having spent time in foster care, and with nobody coming forward to claim him despite our best efforts to reunite him with his owners, it was time for Mel to go up for adoption.

In July Mel returned from foster care and back to the Centre as the search started for his forever home.

Due to his special circumstances, Mel had become our temporary office cat, running around between desks interrupting as much work as possible as he dished out his affection.

It didn't take long for Mel - now affectionately known as 'Melbs' by his new family - to find his new home.

"We fell in love with Melbs instantly, with his cute little face and beautiful markings. He showed a lot of interest in us, he was playful and he had the softest paws." says Christine Park. "We were very excited to be able to adopt him."

And after his remarkable journey and living between the Centre and foster care there was natural



Photo: Christine Park

concern about how well he would settle down.

"He settled in very quickly, checking out all the rooms in the house and finding new places to explore. Never has a cat been so lavished with love!" she said.

"Melbs loves to explore outside now too, and comes back in when we shake his dry cat food and call his name."

Melbs is believed to be around a year old, and still displays many traits a young cat does.

"He loves to play with little balls and chases them all around the house. He also has a favourite toy mouse which is becoming very threadbare."

And he hasn't changed from wanting to be the centre of everyone's attention.

"He enjoys lying right in the middle of the kitchen floor whilst we are cooking tea, sleeping in his cozy bed, and pulling all the magnets off the fridge."

"Adopting him has been the highlight of our year!"

- CHRISTINE PARK



Photo: Christine Park



Photo: 9 News Melbourne



Photo: WIN News

HELP US HELP CATS LIKE MELBS

The Hobart Cat Centre is also a second home to many of Hobart's cats.

Our 36 room boarding facility not only is a holiday destination for your cat, but is also a great way to support us and the work we do.

We are currently booked out for some days over the Christmas period, so if you are planning a trip away over the summer get that booking in early!

Please call us on 6278 2111 for all boarding enquiries.

to make a donation please visit hobartcatcentre.com.au or call **6278 2111**



Photo: Rachael Daniels

FROM LITTLE THINGS BIG THINGS GROW

This well-known Australian song, by very well known Australian artists Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody, has been used recently to promote industry superannuation funds. The duo, of course, wrote the song telling the story of the Gurindji people and their struggle against appalling treatment by British pastoralists from the 1880's through to the mid 1970's. In 1966, Gurndji workers began a strike that lasted eight years, and their action was perhaps the beginning of recognition of indigenous rights.

In whichever context you know the song, it tells a story of small but sustained action making a big difference, so it seemed a fitting introduction to re-launching the Hobart Cat Centre's Regular Giving Program.

We are a self-funded not for profit cat welfare organisation. We do not receive government funding, and we rely on funds generated from our own operations and the support of the general community.

We have a band of loyal and generous supporters that make regular donations. You too can now simply establish a regular donation paid from your debit or credit card. Just visit our website, www.hobartcatcentre.com.au and follow the 'Donation' link.

You can make a regular donation from as little as \$2 per month and they are tax deductible.

Regular donations like this, no matter what value, really help us with our work looking after the cats and kittens in our community.

Some examples of what can be done when your donation adds up over a year:

\$2 per month will help provide toys and activities for our cats during their stay with us.

\$10 per month can provide treatment for common ailments such as digestive upset, fleas and mites

\$15 per month de sex, microchip and vaccinate a kitten ready for it to find its forever home

\$20 per month sponsor a cat which contributes to the cats stay with us until we find the cat a home.

\$50 per month would support a litter of kittens that require foster care before being adopted.

Your regular contribution no matter what size help us carry out our important work caring for our cats and kittens.

To donate please visit hobartcatcentre.com.au or simply contact us on 6278 2111

The Hobart Cat Centre would like to thank the following people and businesses for their support: Damon Wise and Southern Cross Austereo, Kerri Walsh and the Mercury, Rick Parke and ToxFree Waste Management & Mark Stansall from Mark Stansall Graphic Design





Our annual Calendar and Christmas Cards have been a fantastic fundraiser for us for many years, and again this year we have had so much support through sales.

This year's calendar features cats and kittens adopted from the Centre. We had such a hard time choosing this year's cover photo from all the fabulous entries we decided that we would let the public decide! Through our facebook page we published the 10 photos we liked most, and then let our followers like which photo they thought should be on the cover. Steve Moore scored 229 out of the 1,031 likes (Aimee & Dave Moore pictured top with their Steve). We would like to thank graphic artist Freya who did an awesome job with designing the calendar this year.

We also have brilliant new Christmas Cards again this year thanks to our photographer Rachael Daniels. They are available from the Centre or the Combined Charities and Christmas Card Shop at St David's Cathedral on Macquarie Street in the city.



Raine & Horne Hobart Senior Sales Consultant Rod Ham with receptionist and graphic artist Freya Langford-Sidebottom inspecting her work



Photographer Rachael Daniels with the Christmas Cards she designed for us at the Centre



HELP US HELP CATS LIKE JASMINE

The Hobart Cat Centre rehomes hundreds of cats like Jasmine every year. Help us help them.

Sharing is caring.

By sharing our cats for adoption on our Facebook page, you are helping them get out to more people and giving them an opportunity to find their forever home much quicker.

It doesn't cost you anything and takes less than a second.

Follow us on Facebook:
facebook.com/HobartCatCentre

to make a donation please visit hobartcatcentre.com.au or call **6278 2111**



Card by: Rachael Daniels

There are many reasons for cats to get stressed around Xmas time.

Cats love predictability in their environment.

This can quickly be destabilised around Christmas with holidays meaning there may be more people around the house during the day and potentially less around at night with all those social events on the calendar.

Routines may be disrupted, there may be strangers in the house and there may be the introduction of new objects (Christmas trees, presents, new furniture etc.) which could either give your cat a great thrill (some do like the buzz of a bit of healthy stress and change... but others might find it all a bit overwhelming... or even downright horrible.

It is important that you are able to recognise the signs of stress so that you can jump in and help your cat if needed.

Signs of acute stress include:

- Urination, defecation, diarrhoea
- Vocalising or hissing
- Hiding
- Dilated pupils, wide eyes
- Urine spraying (males and females, even if desexed)
- Trembling
- Rapid breathing
- Flattened ears
- Tucked tail, or tail close to body
- Profound salivation
- Displacement activities (normal behaviours seen in an abnormal context, such as grooming the moment a new item of furniture is brought into the room).
- Aggression

If your cat is really feeling unable to cope for a long period of time there will be behavioural changes as well as physiological changes. Chronic stress is not a good state to be in as it can also lead to medical conditions due to malfunction of the immune system.

Signs of chronic stress may include:

- Apathy (no longer seeking pleasure-inducing behaviour such as playing, exploration)
- Eating- increase or decrease
- Grooming- increase or decrease
- Hiding, withdrawing
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Increased susceptibility to infections, viruses
- Feline Ideopathic Cystitis (causing increased need to urinate, pain on urination, blood in the urine and sometimes blockage)
- pancreatitis
- Repetitive or stereotypic behaviours (such as hair pulling, overgrooming)
- Marking (urine spraying)
- Aggression

Christmas time also presents physical dangers and risks to cats.

Tinsel is highly attractive to cats given the sparkle and wiggling action but it does have the potential to strangle or choke the inquisitive cat.



Card by: Rachael Daniels



Card by: Rachael Daniels

CHRISTMAS CARDS

\$1 each

Available from

**Combined Charities
Christmas Card Shop**

125 Macquarie Street, Hobart

In fact, the whole Christmas tree is a giant play gym covered in attractive baubles. Climbing it runs the risk of causing it to topple over, plus cats easily get caught in all the cords and lights.

Electric cords supplying the Xmas tree run the risk of being chewed and giving an electric shock.

If your cat is particularly inquisitive or food-driven, be careful they cannot access gifts which might be harmful (for example, eating treats with xylitol, grapes/raisins, or chocolates).

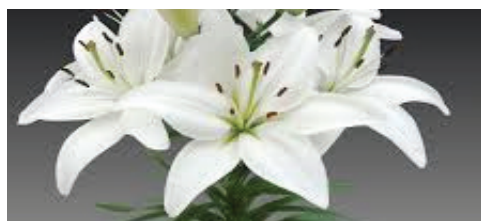


Photo: Tranquillityfloral.com

Even your attempts to decorate your home with flowers such as the Christmas Lily ought to be done judiciously. The pollen from Asiatic lilies is poisonous to cats and can cause kidney failure.

Visiting dogs and children can be very fear-inducing for cats that have not been socialised to them and your cat could become aggressive towards them.

Measures to take to improve the wellbeing of your cat:

Continue **predictability and routine** (as far as your cat is concerned...e.g. feeding time, playing, smooching etc.)

Make sure **access to vital areas** is ensured despite your hospitality demands. E.g. ensure your cat has free and easy access to the litter tray, food bowl, an established sleeping area, play area and scratching area.

Ensure your cat can **escape safely** when it feels overwhelmed- they love to hide in boxes, perch up high etc. ("to see and not be seen").

If you are worried your cat might be the type to tackle the Christmas tree, then **prevent access!** Do not punish your cat for investigating things that it finds irresistible! Play pens, child gates etc. are simple ways to reduce access- but make sure your cat can't fit through or jump over.

Don't forget to give your cat some **play time**. They will appreciate the individual attention.

Be **patient and gentle**, do not force your cat to interact with things or people it is afraid of.

Avoid using punishment if your cat does show aggression or urinates outside of the litter tray. Punishment usually escalates aggressive behaviour. So if this is a problem, just usher the cat to a safe place to cool down.

Punishment also fails to teach the cat what you want it to do, can ruin your relationship with your cat and can unfortunately escalate out of frustration.

If you are worried about your cat it is also appropriate to **seek veterinary advice** to rule out medical conditions. You might also need to talk about other options to help reduce stress, such as Feliway (a synthetic copy of the pheromone which cats secrete when they rub their cheeks on furniture etc.), or anxiolytic medication.

The best plan is to plan ahead and remember to keep your cat's needs in mind before the silly season sets in!

I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas.

animal behaviour

Dr Katrina Ward

We love getting photos and updates from our cats in their forever homes. Here's some we had to share:

Tina

..... 6 Nov 2015 12.42pm



Hi guys, thank you all for caring for the little homeless guy I brought in, then adopted after no owner was found (black, white spot). Just wanted to share a pic with you - he's settling in beautifully, he's cute, vocal, playful and very sweet natured. I changed his name to Fatboy and my first cat Brewster has accepted him instantly! Love love love!!!! Thanks again to everyone who took part in his care. Tina

Sarah

..... 3 Nov 2015 8.30pm



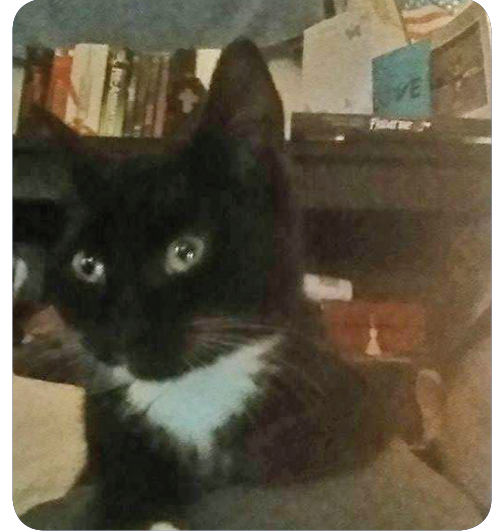
Hey guys!!

My partner and I came into the centre in June this year (in all honesty just to visit) but fell head over heels for one particular kitten! For you guys he went by the name of 'Tiger' but to us he is our 'Leo the lion' :) he has been with us now going on 4 months and he rules the house! He is extremely loyal, spoilt and placid and has settled in as though he's been here all along! We absolutely love him!!!! I just want to say I think it is incredible what you guys do and to keep up the great work! In the future if we decide to extend our fur family we will be coming straight back :)

Thanks again, Sarah

Andrea

..... 4 Jul 2015 11.48pm



Adopted Ramsey last Tuesday. Still have to get her stitches removed yet she is the happiest, friendliest kitten. We enjoy snuggles after her parkour days and she gives the best kisses :) so happy to have her! Thank you! Love her to bits!

Jeanette

..... 23 Oct 2015 4.10pm



Pippi has settled in beautifully. Thankyou so much for letting us adopt her. :)

Pamela

..... 16 Oct 2015 2.18pm



another recent photo of "Ginge" getting happier and happier everyday.

Andrea

..... 21 Oct 2015 10.13pm



This is Ramsay at 7 months. She is such a happy and very active indoor kitty! Loves her snuggles too. Thank you again for my little bundle, Andrea



INTRODUCING...

A LITTLE BIT GREY AROUND THE WHISKERS BUT, HEY, HE IS 54!

Hi, I'm Stripey, a young and handsome 18 year old. I can trace my heritage back to a very important place in South Hobart. But, anyway back to this bloke who hangs around my house.

G'day, I'm Noel Hunt, and I am delighted to be working with the Hobart Cat Centre. I have been very impressed with the volunteers, staff, supporters and board that make up the team at Selfs Point Road and at the Margate Op Shop. Caring for our cats and kittens will always require the generous support we receive from our community. That said, it is important that we are a well-run and sustainable organisation.

Our supporters rightfully expect that all of our resources are very effectively used in the care of our cats and kittens. I have been working with the team to improve systems and controls to assist with the prudent and effective running of the organisation.

Building on the Hobart Cat Centre's proud reputation earned over its 40 year history, I will strive to ensure we are recognised as the benchmark in Australia for cat welfare. I believe we can play a significant role in promoting responsible cat ownership, ensuring everyone can enjoy cats in the community.

My background includes senior management roles in business, and I was also a director and President of the Dogs' Homes of Tasmania.

Along with Stripey my family includes my wife - Leanne, daughter - Sam, and son - James.

When I am not at the Hobart Cat Centre, you might find me playing cornet with the Glenorchy City Concert Brass, or trumpet with the Blues Brothers Revival Band.

I look forward to meeting and working with you, our important community of supporters, over the coming months.



Leanne's daughter Billie with their foster kittens

FOSTER CARE

Saving one pet won't change the world, but for that one pet the world will change forever.

At the Hobart Cat Centre we are continuing to grow our Foster Care Program

We are always happy to have new foster carers join our team to help us look after the hundreds of cats that require foster care each year. During kitten season, from October to March, The Hobart Cat Centre receives hundreds of kittens, in addition to adult cats, that are stray or surrendered by their owners, many of which are either too young or have mild illnesses requiring a loving and nurturing foster home to care for them until they are old enough and/or well enough to be adopted.

Fostering is a truly wonderful experience which is extremely rewarding for you and lifesaving for the cats or kittens you care for. The Hobart Cat Centre provides all the basics that you need in the way of food, kitty litter, bowls and trays etc. While we endeavor to support all of our foster carers to the best of our ability, any assistance carers can

provide with respect to nutritional or toiletry care for foster animals is always greatly appreciated.

"I have been fostering now for about 15 months and find it is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. Not only do I get lots of fluffy cuddles but I get the knowledge that I am helping out in a small way to get these cute little guys closer to their own loving homes. We have not only looked after kittens but also cats and sometimes even mother cats with their kittens (all very rewarding). The last litter we looked after were actually born at our house which overjoyed my daughters as we watched the birth together. I would recommend fostering to any cat lover who has the time to watch kittens play and get cuddles. It is the best job EVER."

- LEANNE JEX

If you are interested in becoming a foster carer please go to our website or visit the Centre for a Foster Application Form.

Can't foster but would like to help! Considered becoming a volunteer at the Centre. You must be over 18 years of age and able to dedicate a minimum of 3 hours per week or every other week. Of course if you would like to volunteer for more hours that would be fantastic.

Whatever you can do it all makes a tremendous difference to the Centre.

There are various roles you can do from assisting the animal attendants in boarding or in our adoption areas, reception and administration duties, socializing with cats that need a bit of extra TLC, general cleaning, fundraising, odd jobs, maintenance and gardening are just some of the things you could do to help.

For more information visit our website or call into the Centre for a Volunteer Application Form.

operations manager

Rose Bray



Volunteers Pat Langford and Margaret Norman behind the counter

OP SHOP

Our first op-shop opened in the Blackmans Bay Shopping Centre in 1996 driven by our much loved then-President Mona Foster and Treasurer Alan Cunningham. The shop generates very significant financial support for the Hobart Cat Centre, and is run completely by volunteers.

Some volunteers have been working at the Op Shop for years. Indeed Pat Langford, pictured here with fellow volunteer Margaret Norman, has been volunteering for seventeen years! Robyn Tacey, store manager says the popularity of store comes down to a number of factors including the fabulous volunteers that run it, its location, and that it supports our work caring for cats and kittens. But one of the main reasons the shop is so popular is that it is a true traditional style op shop where customers can get lost rummaging around finding that treasure or bargain. The shop enjoys a great deal of support from the community with some loyal customers that make it a regular shopping adventure. We even get some busloads of eager bargain hunters turning up.

Thank you for the support.



MARGATE OP SHOP

1717 Channel Highway

CLOTHING
BOOKS
BRIC A BRAC

Open

Weekdays 10.00am – 3.30pm
Saturdays 10.00am – 3.00pm

**We accept donations
at the Hobart Cat
Centre or at the
Op Shop itself**

*To our volunteer
staff: thank you,
thank you and
thank you!*

to make a donation please
visit hobartcatcentre.com.au
or call **6278 2111**



PRESIDENTS REPORT

I will commence my report by thanking the continuous support of numerous people in the operation of the Hobart Cat Centre. It has been through a number of changes but I am excited about the future prospects of the Centre.

A new Board was put in place after the last years AGM, and it has brought renewed enthusiasm and some very talented people to the management of the Centre. In addition, our previous CEO Belinda Stirling retired in the middle of the year due to family reasons, and we have been lucky to secure our new Centre manager Noel Hunt who brings his vast experience to the operation of the centre.

Over the years there has been an increased awareness of cats in the greater community. I have noticed many stories on the news about various studies throughout Australia about the impact of cats on the environment, and initiatives by local government and associations in respect of Cats. The Cat Centre through its website and Facebook pages continue to assist in public awareness of the issues surrounding our trusted feline companions, but at the same time we have been stressing the importance of preventing cruelty to cats

and enjoying their companionship. We have continued our micro-chipping and de-sexing programs, and we are starting to see a result with what appears to be less stranded and abandoned cats surrendered to the Centre.

However, the cats continue to amaze us. As you would have read on Page 4, one incident with a complex cat occurred this year when "Mel", a one year old cat, migrated from Melbourne to Glenorchy in a shipping container. The Centre headed by Rose Bray was able to attract national media coverage but was unfortunately unable to locate the owner. A microchip would have immediately reunited "Mel" with its owners in Melbourne. However, I am able to report that through the Centre, Mel was adopted and is now with a loving family in Kingston.

As to the operations of the Cat Centre, under the previous Board it developed into a successful and well respected animal shelter. It continued to grow annually from its humble origins some 40 years ago in Strickland Avenue, South Hobart. With this growth, new challenges arose. The Centre's operations became more complex partly because of this growth, and partly because of the legislative developments due to the

implications of social media and this increased awareness in our society of various animal issues.

In this year of transition, the main focus of the Board was to identifying the current and future issues for the Centre, and in turn to develop a new clear strategic direction whilst at the same time consolidating the Centre's position financially and protecting its values. We have developed a new 3 year strategic plan with the emphasis on education and developing partnerships with interested parties such as councils and animal welfare groups.

This coming year we will be implementing education programs through schools and local community groups to reinforce the principle of responsible cat ownership and feline care. At the same time we will do our utmost to preserve what has made the Hobart Cat Centre a great institution, with our dedicated staff and volunteers who truly love cats. I will be hoping to report in more detail as the next year progresses, but in the meantime wish everyone a happy Christmas and an exciting New Year.

president

David Rees



Board member **Kellie Rathbone** is a successful business woman who co-owns the Socrates retail store in Salamanca Square.

Q&A

We asked board member Kellie Rathbone a few questions...

Fun Fact about Kellie...

I collect Space Shuttles. I have a 'Space Room' in my house where I have my collection on display - from models that I have fully built to collectables. This hobby came about from visiting Space Camp in Florida when I was 10 and my Uncle gave me a model to build.

Who inspires you?

Amelia Earhart and Sally Ride both captured my imagination growing up and reading stories about them taught me that women can do absolutely anything they want to.

What are you reading?

The Narcissist You Know by Jo and Joseph Burgo. Trying to decide if it's me :p Also a fan of 'trashy' romance and have been known to power read one in a few short hours.

When you aren't at work or carrying out your board duties...

Adding to my Space Shuttle collection, attempting to garden, spending time with my gorgeous nephew and niece and watching the cricket.

What couldn't you live without?

My cats, potato chips and my family (in that order!) Though one cat wins over the other for the title of favourite, so maybe it should read - Rasputin (Frankie, I hope you don't see this), potato chips and my family (especially my wonderful niece and nephew)

Who would you like at your dinner party, living or dead. What would be on the menu?

Steve Waugh. I would love to meet him, he did great things for the game of Cricket both in Australia and worldwide, plus he has contributed so much to people less fortunate than ourselves. I loved watching him play, and would enjoy chewing his ear off about everything and anything. We would have to eat a traditional roast lamb with full trimmings. I might also invite Nelson Mandela, Michael Jackson, Socrates and Barrack Obama, but I'd probably prefer a one-on-one with Steve :)

What do you know now that wish you had known before?

I wish I'd known how much I didn't know. Probably a cliché - but I thought I knew everything, I have since that realised I don't - I have been known to give new people I meet the 20 questions, especially if they have a hobby or a job that I don't know much about - I find people fascinating to listen to. Also, to not take your health for granted as it won't always be there.

Most embarrassing moment?

Whilst working in a Chocolate Shop at around 23, I had a customer ask me if we had anything similar to a 'Cherry Ripe' chocolate, and I asked 'what's the main ingredient in a Cherry Ripe?'. I have never lived it down (and Cherry Ripes are one of my favourite chocolates!. Duh :)

What's a defining moment in your life?

The most defining moment, was when I sustained an injury resulting in a couple of surgeries, lots of time off work, and having to give up sport. My whole life had been focussed on sport and fitness, and I have since had to redefine what makes me happy and find new hobbies and interests that are separate to sport and it has been very interesting taking a deep look in to myself to see what I truly need for happiness and who I am as a person.

What do you daydream about?

Winning the lottery (even though I never buy a ticket).

My motto is?

Enjoy everything and everyone, life can change very quickly and you may no longer have what you once did.

When I grow up I want to be...

An astronaut. No surprises there. I also wanted to represent Australia in a sport (no preference - I loved them all growing up)

Why the Hobart Cat Centre?

Why not?! I love cats and I freely admit to being a Crazy Cat Lady and what better place to be one than with the Cat Centre and the wonderful people who work and volunteer there.



While volunteer Tahlya Loring was completing her TAFE Certificate in animal studies through Bonorong Park she chose the Hobart Cat Centre for her weekly student placement day. Tahlya has successfully finished her course but still volunteers every week for our cats and kittens. Volunteering with the Hobart Cat Centre and working in a bakery, Tahlya must really love early mornings!

We asked Tahlya a few questions:

Who inspires you?

My mum, because she is loyal, hardworking, strong, loving, courageous and so much more and she's the type of person I would like to be one day.

What are you reading?

I've just started reading the Game of Thrones series.

When you aren't at work or volunteering at the Centre?

Normally relaxing by reading a book and other times helping on our family farm and riding motor bikes and fishing.

What couldn't you live without?

I couldn't live without my family.

What are your three favourite things?

My family, my cat lollie and orange juice.

Who would you like at your dinner party, living or dead. What would be on the menu?

The minions from Despicable me. The food would be spaghetti bolognese.

Most embarrassing moment?

I own a pair of jeans that have a zip down the back and it goes down quite far and I got out of the car and didn't realise that the zip was undone and I was walking down the street with my pants unzipped.

My motto is?

'We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated' a quote by Maya Angelou.

When I grow up I want to be...

As a kid I loved the idea of being in a job where I could work with animals.

Why the Hobart Cat Centre?

I chose to volunteer for the Hobart Cat Centre because I absolutely adore cats and want to help support them when they are in need. The cat centre is a great place that supports and works hard to help cats in anyway they can.

Q&A



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