

scratchingpost

Newsletter of the Hobart Cat Centre

Summer 2016-17

*please
take
one!*

**WHAT'S
UP WITH
WALLY?**

**CARING FOR
FIV+ CATS**

INSIDE:

**VET TEAM READY
FOR KITTEN SEASON**

**COMMUNITY &
EDUCATION**

CHRISTMAS GIVING



SALEM'S STORY:

**FROM FOSTER TO
FOREVER HOME**

Photo: Rachael Daniels



TREVOR SUTTON

Hobart Cat Centre Board Member Trevor Sutton, visiting Winkie at the Centre. Trevor (and his voice!) is well known for his extensive career in the media and journalism. He has a passion for Tasmania, animal welfare and the environment.

Who inspires you?

My Mother and my Grandmother. They were two quite remarkable women who held their families together under adverse and trying times. My Mother was kind, considerate, compassionate and caring. She had a strong bond with her mother and her Aunt May, tending and caring for them to the very last. Throughout my life I witnessed my Mother and Grandmother caring for a huge range of people, who for many reasons didn't have financial or family support of their own.

What are you reading?

A former journalist with whom I worked with at TAS TV, Hendrik Gout, and now works at Seven in Adelaide, has written a quirky book about his motorbike travels...It's quite funny and has an interesting chapter on Tasmania.

When you aren't at work - (retired)

Since retiring two years ago I have been flat-chat volunteering in a number of capacities-working at Brightside Farm Sanctuary at Cradoc in the Huon, a team

member with Conservation Volunteers Australia and Swimming Tasmania as a marshal for competitors at the Doone Kennedy Aquatic Centre.

What couldn't you live without?

Every man loves his shed! For me I greatly enjoy pottering about making and repairing bits and pieces. Being able to be in my own space without the pressure of work is quite satisfying.

What are your three favourite things?

My beloved wife of 52 years Lilian, daughter Giselle and our two grandchildren James and Ellie.

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

I'm not one for the grandiose! The perfect dinner party for me would be a family barbecue with free range roast pork from Scottsdale, accompanied by peas, carrots, sprouts and potatoes (Tasmanian of course!) So you see, I am fairly traditional.

What's a defining moment in your life?

This was an unusual event. Only a short while after coming to Hobart I went to Strahan to take a trip up the Gordon River on the only tourist vessel operating in the early 1970's. The owner Reg Morrison, one of the last of the Huon Piners, had asked me to visit the area with him so that I could get to know the value of the region and the river. We travelled a long distance up this majestic river to a place called Angel Cliffs and I was stunned by the reflections.

Just beyond the cliffs, Reg stopped the Dennison Star and then slowly pushed the vessel's bow into trees on the bank of the river. He then asked me to go forward and stand on the bow while grabbing a branch. As I pulled on the branch he called down from the wheelhouse, "What does it feel like to hold in your hand something that is very much alive and more than a thousand years old?" I was absolutely gobsmacked! Yes, there is no doubt that it's a special place and a world class river.

What do you daydream about?

I marvel at the beauty of Tasmania's environment and often wish I had a plane or helicopter at my disposal to visit really special places! I guess I was spoilt years ago when pilot Vern Reid (deceased) often took me right into the South West, low level flying over Lake Pedder, down the Franklin River or dropping in on beaches when the weather was right.

My motto for life's journey is...

Just treat people as you would want them to treat you!

Why the Hobart Cat Centre?

Cats give great companionship and make wonderful pets, so being a Committee member enables me to join a committed group to try and bring about much needed changes in the welfare and management of our feline friends.



Pippin, 2017 Calendar Cover Cat - Photo by Rachael Daniels

Fundraising Calendar & Christmas Cards

Our annual Calendar and Christmas Cards have been a fantastic fundraiser for us for many years, and we're fundraising with them again this year.

This year's calendar features cats and kittens photographed by our photographer Rachael Daniels. All of the kitties featured have been adopted from the Centre, along with photos and stories sent in by the new families of our adopted cats.

Again this year we selected our 'cover cat' photo 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 with Pippin scoring over a quarter of

the votes.

We would like to thank graphic artist Freya Langford-Sidebottom who did an awesome job with designing the calendar again this year, along with Raine & Horne Hobart for donating their time and resources.

Calendars can be purchased from the Centre and our Op Shop, Animal Tuckerbox, Platos Salamanca, Area 52, Combined Charities Christmas Card Shop and selected vets.

We also have brilliant new Christmas Cards again this year thanks to our photographer Rachael Daniels. They can be purchased from the Centre and Op Shop, Platos Salamanca and Combined Charities Christmas Card Shop.



Suzy & Coco

I adopted Suzy and Coco in May 2016. Their bond has become so strong since coming home, they play, wash each other and snuggle together all the time. Suzy is curious and bold, Coco is more shy but is a real cuddly one and greets me at the door when I come home. Coco has also just learnt how to shake paws! Suzy isn't as keen but will happily still accept the treats. They are great little buddies for each other and I'm so very lucky myself that I adopted them from you!

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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, Lin Weidenhofer (dec), Sheree Bennie, Dot Chaffey (dec), Nancy Knop (dec), Nora Wills (dec).

Every cat has a story.
Are you part of it?

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The Hobart Cat Centre's new reception team: (L-R) Sophie Roberts & Rachel Middendorp

KITTENS, KITTENS AND MORE KITTENS

Kitten season is now upon us and we are now seeing the benefits of having our fabulous vet team. The vet team, along with our new computerised shelter management system, ShelterBuddy, is helping us to provide the best possible care for our cats and kittens.

You will read in another article in the Scratching Post all about our vet team and the new surgery, but in short, we are treating and saving more cats than we ever have and getting them adopted into new homes.

When you come into the centre you will be greeted by a couple of new smiling faces. Rachel Middendorp and Sophie Roberts. Rachel and Sophie share a seven day a week roster as the Hobart Cat Centre's customer service, admin and receptionists. Both are experienced administrators in busy customer service environments. Rachel and Sophie are becoming experts in our systems and processes and this will help the whole team at the Cat Centre provide the best possible

care for our cats and kittens so that they all find their forever homes as quickly as possible.

COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION MANAGER

Rose Bray has taken up the role of Community and Education Manager and has already been out promoting responsible cat ownership. This is a significant investment in the future and will improve the way our community look after cats. Rose is developing curriculum consistent educational material and is out about in schools and businesses spreading the important messages.

FUNDRAISER

Thanks to Paul and Lynda at Wobbly Boot Vineyards. We had wonderful fundraising day at the vineyard without a cat in sight! It was Wine and Woofs day with our canine friends being able to run around and play at the vineyard while their human companions enjoyed a wine and contributed to the Hobart Cat Centre. Thanks to our amazing photographer Rachael Daniels for taking some great shots of the dogs having a

wow of a time. Rachel donated the proceeds of the sales to Cat Centre.



Enjoying the festivities at Wine and Woofs

We need and appreciate this help with fundraising. Thanks so much to everyone who contributed.

CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR CATS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE COMMUNITY

Hobart Cat Centre in conjunction with our friends at the FoodBank are joining forces to provide a little Christmas cheer to cats and their



Some donated items for our food hampers

families out in the community, by providing some cat food hampers during the festive season. At this time of year for some in the community there are many conflicting priorities for a share of the family wallet. By distributing hampers of cat food we can help in a small way to make things a little bit easier and make sure puss is happy too. As a not for profit cat welfare organisation we care for all cats whether they are directly in our care or out in the community. We have been able to do this with your generous support as donors and the great team at FoodBank Tasmania in Derwent Park who is distributing the hampers to those most in need.

We need your help so pop into the Centre and make a donation of cat food or money. You can even buy the food in our shop which helps twice! While you are here grab a coffee, chat to the team and say hello to our cats and kittens who are patiently waiting for there forever home. You can even do some Christmas shopping for your kitty or their human family members. We have some great gift ideas and of course you can get our beautiful

2017 Hobart Cat Centre Calendar while you are here.

THANKYOU

It has been a big year for the Hobart Cat Centre which has seen great initiatives such as the vet surgery, computerising our operations, the Bruny Island whole of Island cat management project and the appointment of a Community and Education Manager. We are a self-funded not for profit organisation and we are sustainable for the long term to do our important work, but we can only do it with your generous support. Our donors of cash, product and in-kind, our volunteers and foster carers, our fantastic Op Shop team, our energetic and dedicated staff; everyone that helps in any way, we thank you so much. Together we are saving and rehoming more cats than ever.

Merry Christmas.

MANAGER
Noel Hunt



Coco

We adopted Coco to help our smallest child with her fear of animals. We could not of hoped for a better fit for our family. Coco is the most loving and placid cat and we all love her dearly. our 5 year old daughter has a very special bond and is fearful no longer.

**Every cat has a story.
Are you part of it?**

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VET TEAM READY FOR KITTEN SEASON

The Hobart Cat Centre's Vet Team in their new vet surgery at the Centre: (L-R) Abbey Gates, Elise Coxhell, Dr Liz Smit, Dr Tess Vitesnik, Georgina Gallagher & Sam Griffiths

Our new vet team and vet surgery are ready to take on the increasing challenge of kitten season.

We welcome veterinary surgeons Doctor Liz Smit and Doctor Tess Vitesnik, and vet nurse Abbey Gates to the Hobart Cat Centre Team.

They are supported by our fabulous vet nurse in training and general surgery volunteers Janelle Browning, Sam Griffiths, Georgina Gallagher and Elise Coxhell. You will see the team around the centre in their colourful purple scrubs. Our purple people will tackle the annual challenge of the huge influx of kittens into the shelter during this time of the year.

During kitten season, we have a cat or kitten being surrendered into our care every 30 minutes during our seven day a week operation. The vet team are set to be busy neutering, vaccinating and microchipping our cats and to get them ready to be adopted into new

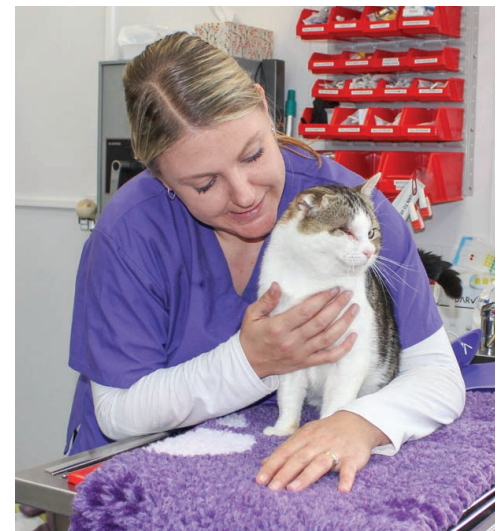
homes.

Both Liz and Tess are aware of the challenge ahead with the huge number of unwanted cats and kittens as well as carrying out the shelter medicine for the cats in the care of the centre.

The Cat Centre's vet team will also work with the Hobart Cat Centre recently appointed Community and Education Manager, Rose Bray. Rose has already started her work in the community promoting responsible cat ownership which means cats should be desexed and microchipped.

Liz said there is a lot of misinformation out there such as the belief that a female cat should have one litter before being desexed, and that kittens can't have kittens. Kittens can get pregnant from four months of age, and there is no evidence of improved wellbeing for a young cat having one litter.

The establishment of the vet surgery is a big commitment for our self-funded not for profit organisation, and is made possible by the generosity of our many supporters and donors.



Janelle Browning with Wesley the Pirate

Meet the team:

Dr Liz Smit

20 years' experience in the UK and Australia with a special interest in cats.

Dr Tess Vitesnik

Graduated with Honours University of Melbourne. Bachelor of Veterinary Science and Bachelor of Animal Science.

Abbey Gates

12 Years' nursing experience, Diploma in Vet Nursing and Cert IV in Training & Assessment.



COMMUNITY & EDUCATION

The Hobart Cat Centre's Community and Education Manager, Rose Bray, at the Australian Veterinary Association Tasmanian Division 2016 Conference in Launceston

Rose Bray has been appointed to the new position of Community and Education Manager at the Hobart Cat Centre to try and relieve the growing pressure each year as kitten season commences.

The Hobart Cat Centre deals with hundreds of cats and kittens during the kitten season.

It is a massive challenge for the Cat Centre to manage so many cats and kittens in such a short space of time.

We need to effect long term change in the way the community look after cats and our environment, so the Cat Centre has made the commitment to appoint Rose Bray, as the State's first Education and Community Manager.

Education is key.

Rose said that she is particularly excited to be working with the community and schools educating about responsible cat

ownership which includes desexing, microchipping and containment of your cat on your property. Already Rose has been working on curriculum consistent educational material and has been out and about in schools, communities and businesses promoting this message.

Rose has also been working with Kingborough Council on the Bruny Island project. This project aims to implement a whole of island cat management strategy that improves the care of cats, and protects the environment and community. Rose has been consulting with the community on Bruny as the first stage of this three-year project. The learnings from this project will inform our ongoing work more broadly across Tasmania improving how cats are cared for in our state.

The Hobart Cat Centre adopts out 100% of re-homeable cats, but less than 5% find their original home as the message to microchip your cat is still not getting through, so the challenge is huge for Rose.

We believe this significant investment for the care of cats is a first for cat management and



Rose also attended this years Bruny Island Bird Festival

welfare across the community and throughout the State.

The Hobart Cat Centre has invested in the new role with the aim to care for cats, protect the environment and our community. We are confident Rose Bray will take up this challenge on behalf of the Hobart Cat Centre and bring about significant results.



CASE STUDY: WHAT'S UP WITH WALLY?

Wally - Photo by Rachael Daniels

You wouldn't know by looking at him but this handsome boy is FIV positive.

On presentation as a stray cat Wally passed his physical examination and temperament assessment with flying colours. However he raised a few flags for us to do some blood tests. Due to no fault of his own Wally was an entire adult male who had obviously been living an outdoor lifestyle for at least some of his life. These risk factors increase the chance of Wally having contracted FIV from fighting with other similar cats. Unfortunately Wally's test was positive. So what does this mean for Wally?

What is it?

FIV is a contagious viral infection that is very similar to the HIV infection in humans. The viruses are related and behave similarly however they only cause disease in their specific species. This means you cannot catch FIV from your cat.

How is it spread?

The virus is found in the saliva of infected cats and is primarily spread through bite wounds. The virus does not live for long outside the body so very close contact is required for spread.

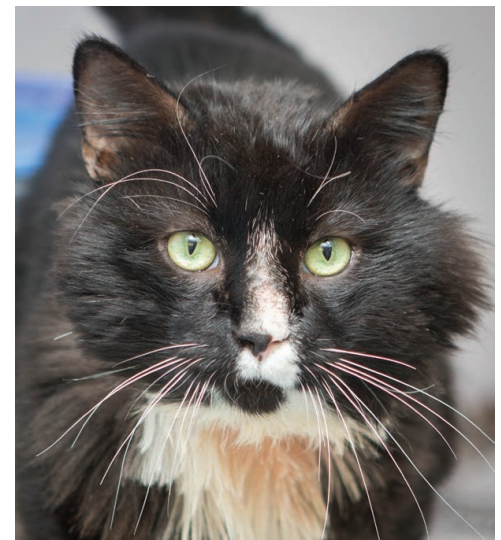


*Wolfie is currently in foster care
- Photo by Rachael Daniels*

Why do we rehome cats that are known to have a viral disease?

FIV infected cats can have a long period of normality, we are talking a number of years, commonly 5 years

or more. They carry the virus for a period of time (known as a latent period) where it may have no effect at all. After this period of latency the virus will start to suppress a component of the immune system and can then cause AIDS, a syndrome of immunosuppression. Signs that then may start to appear are related to the virus itself or due to secondary infections. Cats with AIDS are then less able to fight off these secondary infections.



*Titan is currently available for adoption
- Photo by Rachael Daniels*



Wally - Photo by Rachael Daniels

What special care is required?

Unfortunately there is no specific treatment for FIV. However it is very important to try and stop the spread of the virus by:

- Keeping FIV positive cats confined to indoors or a secure cat run
- Desex all cats to help reduce roaming and fighting
- House FIV positive cats in a stable household (ie a group of cats who are known to each other and who do not fight) or with other FIV positive cats

Specific care for the FIV positive individual

- Ideally house with no other immunosuppressed individuals (including humans)
- Prompt treatment of any illness or infection that may arise, sometimes longer treatment will be required
- Keep parasite control up to date to reduce the load on the immune system
- There are some antivirals that are available to help suppress the virus in some situations

Prevention?

There is a vaccine available for pet cats to protect against FIV. Speak to your veterinarian if this is of interest to you, keeping in mind only outdoor cats are at risk.

All the cats pictured on this page are positive to FIV and have found homes through the centre.

Wally & Titan are currently available for adoption.



FIV+ Otter has found his forever home

VETERINARIAN
Dr Tess Vitesnik BVSc(Hons)



Frankie

This is Frankie. We adopted him in February this year. We love him and he has completed our family. He loves purring and looking out the window at the birds. He also loves to sleep on our bed. He is our special friend. We are so lucky to have him.

Every cat has a story.
Are you part of it?

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HELP OUT A KITTY IN NEED

Goldie, featuring on one of our Christmas cards this year - Photo & Design by Rachael Daniels

The Hobart Cat Centre is 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.

As we move into our fifth decade of operation, it is heartening to note that our support base is ever growing and that the community as a whole is working together to improve the lives of animals in general across the state.

There are many ways you can help us and the amazing work we do; many take little time or effort and in

most cases cost you nothing.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

Donate

The Centre is always grateful to receive donations of old newspapers, woollen blankets, jumpers and towels which ensure our kitties stay warm, especially during our chilly Hobart winters.

Practical items too like copy paper, toilet tissue, dish liquid, washing powder, hand wash, paper towels, garbage bags and stationery products may be very dull but are extremely necessary in the running of the Centre.

Financial donations also provide ongoing care for cats and kittens as well as the maintenance of our facilities. Donations of over \$2 are tax-deductible and donations can

be made via our website, over the phone or in person at the Centre.

Volunteer

For an organisation like the Hobart Cat Centre, volunteers are a vital aspect of our operations. They provide essential support for staff, kitties and clients. We always need reliable volunteers to lend a hand.

You can work as an animal attendant, grooming and feeding our resident cats and kittens, cleaning cages and providing enrichment and care to our kitties. If you're a dab hand with a hammer, there's always plenty to be done in terms of maintenance around the Centre!

If you would like to volunteer from home, why not become a foster carer? Fostering is a truly wonderful experience which is extremely rewarding for you and lifesaving for the cats or kittens you care for. 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.

Become a member or sponsor

As a paid member you are able to assist in the financial support

The Hobart Cat Centre would like to thank the following people and businesses for their support: Zenep Jaffers and Southern Cross Austereo, Kerri Walsh and the Mercury, Rick Parker and ToxFree Waste Management





Rachael's own cat Keira - Photo by Rachael Daniels

of the organisation as well as contribute to the future direction of the Hobart Cat Centre. There's the opportunity to stand for election to the management committee and vote at the Annual General Meeting. You will also receive newsletters to keep you up to date on the latest activities as well as a 10 per cent discount on our nightly boarding rate and purchases in the Centre shop.

If you are unable to adopt a cat, but would like to have a cat in your life, then why not sponsor one of ours? For just \$20 per month your sponsorship will help us feed and house a cat or kitten and you'll receive regular updates on your sponsored cat. We encourage you to come in and visit your sponsor cat too, not only do you get some kitty therapy but you also help them settle into their environment and prepare them for their forever homes.

We also have a range of options for community-minded businesses who would like to get involved and support a worthy cause.

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: Your contribution no matter what the size helps us carry out our important work caring for our cats and kittens.

\$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	desex, 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

If you have an idea on how you might be able to help us please contact us on **6278 2111** or email info@hobartcatcentre.com.au



Ralph & Kristian

My fiancé & I adopted Ralph in December 2015.

He is such a beautiful boy, very cheeky and very playful! We thought we'd look for a little brother/play mate for him and we then came across Kristian. We fostered Kristian for a week to make sure he and Ralph would get along...

We ended up adopting Kristian in July 2016 and now they are best friends/brothers. They never leave each other's side. We love our grey boys so very much!

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SALEM'S STORY

Salem has become the face of our foster caring program, along with his wonderful story - Photo by Rachael Daniels

The Hobart Cat Centre's Foster Care Program is an essential part of our work looking after our kitties.

There are so many people who work together to achieve fantastic outcomes for the kitties who come to us in need.

Salem was abandoned by his family and left to fend for himself before a neighbour bought him into the centre.

This is Salem's story.

as told by his foster carer Miles

I would love to have a full time pet, but I travel so much for work that it just wouldn't be fair to leave an animal so often.

That's when I realised being a foster carer was the perfect option. I could offer assistance when I knew I was going to be home for a few weeks in a row.

I first met Salem in the middle of winter. He had been left abandoned by his previous family and was taken to the Hobart Cat Centre.



Salem with Miles

The Hobart Cat Centre put out a request for foster carers for Salem as he had cat flu. The adorable Salem was in need of some love and time to recuperate.

Over the next few weeks, all of my friends wanted to meet him.

They all fell in love with his awesome personality, but especially his little Manx tail.

My friend Amelia said she would love to adopt him permanently.



Salem with Amelia

I feel really pleased that this lovely cat now has a stable and loving home.

Foster caring is such a rewarding experience. To see how a little bit of effort from me - and the full support of the Hobart Cat Centre - can make such a huge difference for a cat in need.

If you can help a kitty in need please contact us today!



OLIVIA HARDSTAFF

Hobart Cat Centre Supervisor Olivia Hardstaff with a stray kitten. Olivia has adopted three cats from the Centre along with being a regular foster carer.

Who inspires you?

People who can be positive no matter what their circumstances.

What are you reading?

Currently nothing, however I do like true crime.

When you aren't at work...

I'm normally involved in some sort of hobby, right now its succulents and trying to grow vegetables for my rabbits.

What are your three favourite things?

The significant people in my life

My pets

Adventures

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

That it's okay to do things your own way and not try to live up to the expectations of others.

Most embarrassing moment?

One of many would be the time I was on holiday with my mum and went to turn on the outdoor spa but pressed the emergency button instead which set off an incredibly loud alarm. It was a high rise building and people came out on to their balconies and starred at me. I didn't realise you just had to press it again to turn it off.

What do you daydream about?

Things I can do on the weekend, like camping!

My motto is...

Life is short.. not very original but very true

Why the Hobart Cat Centre?

It's great to be around people with a common interest. The Cat Centre is great because there's a way for everyone to contribute and learn more regardless of their previous experience or skill level.



Fluffy

Fluffy came to the Centre as a semi-feral kitten. I took her home as a foster kitten but she fitted in with my other cats Morris and Billy so well she became a permanent resident. She can be naughty but she is very cute.

Every cat has a story.
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PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Later this year will mark the end of my second year as President, and the time has passed very quickly.

Visitors to the Hobart Cat Centre will have noticed a number of recent changes which is part of a new and exciting direction for the Centre and management of cats in the community. The Facebook page continues to show fantastic videos of the cats' antics at the Centre, and the new webpage looks modern and is very user friendly. I am told that the Shelter Buddy computer system is keeping the records and is providing a very effective tool to keep track of those wandering cats. The new veterinary surgery is up and running and the cats must be very happy now they have a hospital onsite.

Also, over the same period, there has been increased public awareness of cats in the community, which has been reflected in the media and in the fact that the government is looking into a review of the Cat Management Act.

Of particular note, it appears that our message of micro-chipping and de-sexing as part of responsible cat ownership may be getting through. Although cats and kittens continue to be surrendered to the Centre in large numbers, especially during kitten season, the public appears to be treating their cat ownership responsibilities more seriously than ever. We have all heard horror stories about the way people have mistreated their pets, but we hope that this sort of behaviour is fast becoming a thing of the past. However, we must continue to push these messages of micro-chipping and de-sexing as they are fundamental to the responsibilities of the cat owner.

We have been quite vocal in spreading the message and educating the community about responsible ownership, and dealing with delicate issues such as mandatory confinement. You may have the read in the newspaper the article with Rose Bray, our new education officer, where she pointed out that it was important that cats were well managed because she did not want to see our

State go down the same path as some of the newly developed NSW suburbs, which have completely banned cats. Although the issue of confinement may be controversial, the feedback has largely been positive in support.

In one of my more recent reports, I talked about cats and how they continue to amaze us. This involved the incident where "Mel", a one year old cat, had migrated from Melbourne to Glenorchy in a shipping container, and was subsequently surrendered to the Centre. I was lucky enough to foster care "Mel" for a week before he became adopted out. In more recent times I have fostered "Missy", a four year old grey/silver cat. Missy, unlikely my previous cat Eric, or the excitable Mel, is a very quiet and shy cat with an amazing ability to hide. She still has a good appetite and loves a cuddle.

The foster caring is an essential part of helping cats at the Cat Centre, as it allows the cats to have a holiday in respite away for the Centre. This has proven to be greatly beneficial to the health of the cats. We continue to hold information nights about foster caring at the Centre. I would encourage those people who wish to help out to seriously consider foster caring, and to keep an eye out on the webpage for advice on the next information night. As the webpage says, "every cat has a story", and you can be part of this story by fostering a cat.

During my visits to the Centre, I am reminded of the tireless efforts of the staff and volunteers, and their mutual love for the cats. I would like to express my continued appreciation of these efforts to everyone involved, from the Margate Shop Volunteers, the Staff and Volunteers at the Centre and everyone else who helps out.

I wish everyone a happy Christmas and an exciting New Year.

PRESIDENT
David Rees



MARGATE OP SHOP

The Hobart Cat Centre's Op Shop in Margate has been assisting us in the work we do for over forty years!

Charity op shops are amazing because . . .

There are more than 2400 charity op shops across Australia, but we reckon ours is the best. A traditional style Op Shop.

More than 76,000 Australians volunteer their time to support charity op shops, and the Hobart Cat Centre Op Shop has 14 of the very best volunteers that support our vital work caring for cats and kittens.

Charity op shops are the oldest recycling industry in Australia, tracing their beginnings to World War I fundraising for the Red Cross and returned soldier welfare programs

The Hobart Cat Centre Op Shop moved to its current location in 2007. The Op Shop has been operating in some form from at least 1975. If anyone has an earlier memory please let us know!

In 2015-16, charity op shops diverted more than 530,000 tonnes of clothing and other donated items from landfill.

Re-use of clothing saves 4kg of CO2 for every kilogram of donated clothing (source Danish Technological University study published 2010.)

Around 30% of clothing in the average wardrobe has not been worn for at least a year, most commonly because it no longer fits - we will be expecting some new stock after the Christmas cheer! (Source: UK government research)

Our Cat Op Shop is amazing because of the dedicated volunteers and the loyal customers that support it. You are all supporting the care of our cats and kittens.

Source: July 2016 NACRO research Charity Op Shops 2015-16 Financial Year

Pat Langford, who has been volunteering at the Hobart Cat Centre Op Shop for a staggering eighteen years, recounts the time the Op Shop had to be on the move ten years ago... Thank you, Pat, for that wonderful memory.

**HOBART CAT CENTRE
OP SHOP**
1717 Channel Highway, Margate



The Cat Centre's little hidden treasure

Ten years ago, our little shop at Blackman's Bay had to move out and we thought that we could have to close. Then came the rescue! one person found us new premises, another fitted out and painted the interior for us, then all the volunteers packed all the stock into their cars and we moved to Margate; we didn't even miss one day of business!

Since then the shop has just grown and grown thanks to all the wonderful customers and all the people that donate to us. The customers come for different reasons, some for a bargain, some for treasure, and some for little bits and pieces, but most come for the social side of it, we all have a laugh and sometimes a tear as we share their life stories but at the end of the day we all love to be here. So, to all the wonderful people that make it all possible keep it up; you are amazing.

Pat Langford
Op Shop Volunteer

**Every cat has a story.
Are you part of it?**

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BEQUEATH • VOLUNTEER
@HOBARTCATCENTRE**

Your purchase helps a kitty in need!



Anti-Slip Food Ridge



Durable



Whisker Friendly



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A whisker friendly bowl, with anti slip food ridges, to make every dinner for your kitty a WOW experience.

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