



ARRG 2006 XMAS  
NEWSLETTER

# ANIMAL RIGHTS AND RESCUE GROUP INC. FAR NORTH COAST



## ARRG XMAS APPEAL FOR THE PETS

Dear Members and Supporters

We are taking this newsletter opportunity to inform you of our latest position with a brief summing up of the year. The year included many wonderful animal success stories, a win with the Tax Department. But tragically we have to report that the animal intake this year has exploded due to the relentless discarding of owned pets and unwanted litters no longer wanted.

We are sorry to have make this newsletter a very urgent appeal rather than our normal newsletter but we are facing the most critical time and this is the most urgent appeal to date and we need your support NOW.

### ANIMAL CENTRE PLAN IN CRISIS

During 2006 we have worked so hard to try and finalise the plan for our Animal centre.

We have the land ready, leased from Lismore council. We attained DA approval in June a great success but then lost our financial sponsor in July due to unseen financial problems and we are now facing closure unless we can find another sponsor/s to help us raise the remaining \$50,000. Many media stories have covered our plight, but to date we have not received other funding.

By the end of the year we will not have a base for the group to operate from unless we can build on the land as our current rented premises in Lismore is being sold

### TAX WIN FOR ANIMAL WELFARE GROUPS

A win for ARRG, we recently gained our DGR status (Donated Gift Recipient) approval from the Australian Tax office.

*Which means all donations over \$2.00 to ARRG will now be Tax Deductible.*

This represents a real benefit and incentive for anyone making a substantial donation to ARRG.

From August 2006 the Australian Tax Office finally amended the tax law and added a new category for Animal Welfare groups. For the first time in history Animal welfare groups assisting domestic pets are eligible to apply for DGR status. Prior to August 2006 only the RSPCA Australia held this DGR fund raising advantage for their supporters. ARRG applauds the ATO for this recent law change that now sees all animal welfare groups and their supporters get the same advantages.

### SURRENDERED PET NUMBERS GROW 2006 - "AUSTRALIA NOT PET FRIENDLY"

2006 demand has stretched our foster care system beyond capacity, leaving us with no other choice but to use private kennels for many pets at risk, especially unwanted adult dogs.

ARRG can't afford to pay kennels and the extra cost this year has eaten up our funds. This is why we urgently need our centre to support our overburdened foster care system, if we want to continue our rescue work and realistically cope with the numbers; we have to build this centre.

The number of rescued pets in care at the moment is one of the highest to date and we also have a waiting list of animals needing our help.

We now face the start of the Summer Cat breeding season and litters have already arrived

From November through to May hundreds of unwanted and dumped pregnant cats and kittens will depend on ARRG to save them from death and if the 2006 pattern continues we will not be able to provide enough animal housing or cover the veterinarian costs without your support.

### URGENT FUND RAISING APPEAL

2006 has been the most difficult financial year yet, due to the added cost involved with our centre project, it's a catch 22. To cope with the growing work we must build our animal centre and to proceed with this project more expense is involved.

We do not want to turn any animal away but we simply can't afford to cope with the numbers.

We are not prepared to compromise our principles, as we all passionately believe in doing the very best we can for each and every animal. As you know, we take pride in treating each animal as an individual but that costs money.

To assist in the shortfall of funds for both our animal centre and our operating costs we are desperately appealing to our supporters to help us, see page 2 for details.

All ARRG volunteers are unpaid workers and work hard to run the office and volunteer phone line, Op shop, attend schools and stalls, care for foster pets, run raffles and drive great distances to collect rescue animals and take others to the vet.

ARRG thanks and applauds every volunteer in this group, you are amazing people

The Animal Rights and Rescue Group is a local, non-profit, volunteer organisation, run without government funding. It is the only such group covering the whole of the Far North Coast. We rescue homeless and unwanted animals. We also take unclaimed dogs that would otherwise be killed from local pounds. We provide them with care and vet treatment and find them suitable homes. ARRG does not euthanase any animal unless it is too ill to respond to veterinarian treatment.

There is no RSPCA branch or shelter operating in this area.



## 2006 SPECIAL CASES



**'LU LU'** an 8 month old Burmese kitten was unwanted and severely neglected and was being taken to the vet for euthanase. Luckily the driver made a detour to ARRG to ask for our help. Her hair was so matted she had sores and bald patches and a scissor wound from attempts to cut her hair. Lu Lu was rushed to the vet for treatment and then went to her foster carer to recover. She will take a while to recover but has recently been adopted by a wonderful lady who supports ARRG and LuLu is very happy with Maureen and the other pets.



**'MACKIE'** is a 2 year old Shitzu x terrier. He was suffering injuries to his face following a dog attack and was left without treatment and found wandering in Casino. ARRG was called to help and he was rushed to the vet for treatment. Luckily he responded well to antibiotics and his foster carer collected only days later. Mackie was a loving little dog and got on well with the carers dogs and he just loved all the attention. He has since been adopted as a playmate to another small dog.



**'LUCY'** mum a 1year old Manx cat and her 6 kittens had been left without food or care for days when ARRG was called. We contacted the local police and with their help and authorisation we were able to enter the premises and rescue mum and kittens and a pet rat. All are now safely in care.

## FUND RAISING APPEAL

We are urgently in need of funds this month to help us meet the costs an extremely demanding couple of months. **Could you become a regular monthly donor** to secure funds for the animals? If you can assist in this way call the office on 66221881 or Jenny on 66242578 to pledge a monthly donation **or** if you prefer just make a regular donation as soon as you can.

## XMAS RAFFLE FUND RAISER

If we have enclosed a small raffle book can you sell them? It's a great prize! This raffle is huge thanks to helpers Heather Dunn and Rebecca Wells.

- 1<sup>st</sup>. 20 " Cyclops Bike donated by Wollongbar Medical centre.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Snooza Pet Futon donated by Petcare Superstore Lismore Square.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Stainless steel Pet Food pedal bin donated by Howards storage world.
- 4<sup>th</sup> \$50. Gift Voucher donated by In Your Dreams Keen Street Lismore.
- 5<sup>th</sup> "Field Guide to Australian Mammals" book. Donated by Book Warehouse
- 6<sup>th</sup> ' Lunch ' donated by Dr Juice bar
- 7<sup>th</sup> 'Basket of Beauty Products donated by K-Mart Lismore Square.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Gift certificate donated by Gloria Jeans Lismore Square.

Tickets are \$2.00 or 3 for \$5.00 and draw date is December 22. Please return ticket stubbs sold with money or unsold by December 15. Write name and phone number on stubb of sold tickets. Please help us by selling these tickets.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR ARRG.

Lismore Lions Club has a new program, the 'Leo program' that works with local schools. The aim is to get local schools involved in supporting local charities of their choice. ARRG was thrilled to hear that Richmond River High School Lismore chose ARRG as their first charity project. We were invited along to their first meeting to meet the Leo committee and other students. ARRG volunteers Barbara Steffensen and Paul Slessor attended with three of Paul's foster puppies. which created quite a distraction Pet food was also presented on the day donated by the students and families.



## PLEDGES FOR THE ANIMAL CENTRE FUND.

Pam Baxter	.....	\$2,000
Frances De Glas		\$1,000
Celeste Knight		\$2,000
Phillip Wollen		\$5,000
WLPA		\$5,000
Wendy Brent		\$5,000
George Lewin		\$10,000
Pam Laughton		\$500
Barbara Steffensen		\$2,000

We truly thank you for these generous pledges for the building of our animal centre

ARRG needs more pledges to make this happen. We still need to raise \$50,000, but we are very nearly there.

We must start the project by the end of the year or we are out of time. **Please help us**

## IN MEMORY

A bequeathment is being finalised from the estate of Ruth Merchant of Ballina, a wonderful lady who dearly loved animals and a long time supporter of ARRG. The amount will go to the centre fund.

## THANKS TO SPONSORS AND LOCAL SUPPORTERS

\* Rod Bailey Oz pets Alstonville for large donation of cat litter

\* Animal Welfare League Qld for donations of pet food when we needed help.

\* Alison Walker for the wonderful dog jackets sold at our stalls and in the OP shop.

\*Patrick Dunn of Macleans Ridges for donating his odd job savings for our centre and for his effort at Eltham School

\*Eltham school students for their recent raffle fund raising efforts.

\* Lions Club both Lismore and East Ballina for their donations in 2006.

Tracy and Geoffrey Donaghy Solicitors Molesworth Street Lismore for donating their time and work, pro bona, in a recent matter.

\*Mr Thomas George member for Lismore for his representation for funding on behalf of ARRG to the Minister Ian Macdonald. Sadly the Minister failed to help.

THANK YOU ALL FOR CARING

### ARRG FOSTER CARERS

A thank you on behalf of all the rescued pets that have arrived at ARRG this year.

Once again you have worked so hard to provide emergency care, lots of love and a safe place in your home for the homeless. Together we coped with a very difficult year that sadly saw our animal intake greatly increase with many of those animals badly neglected and injured. The demands at times have stretched us all to breaking point but while the "Animals Can't Speak For Themselves" Our Results Do and we are very proud and thrilled at the results this year.

We wish we could name you all but due to lack of space or risk of overlooking a caring person, we thank you very much.

### ARRG VOLUNTEERS T

Thanks to all volunteers who do a wide range of work that is crucial to this group.

Our committed Op shop volunteers Ursula, Amber, Rebecca, Cristina, Morrie, Aldo.

The volunteer drivers who travel great distances to pick up and deliver animals to carers and vets, or pick up donations for the shop ARRG VOLUNTEER OFFICE Suzanne Lavis our secretary has worked endless hours for over six years to support this organization and without her support I certainly would not cope with the workload of managing this organization and we all thank her.

### ONLINE VOLUNTEERS

Who assist our office by doing research work from home, helping ARRG to be informed on issues. Skilled graphic volunteers who create display posters and others who print the posters from home and circulate them in the region. This online work provides ARRG with skills and quality results that we wouldn't otherwise have.

Many of these dedicated volunteers are willingly multi skilled and many of them do all the above and so thanks goes to everyone of you.

ARRG is only a name without you.

### THANKS TO THE CARING PEOPLE WHO HELP ARRG

We don't get to meet some of the people who kindly donate to help the animals

But we could not do this work without your support.

**We** thank the caring people who donate pet food every week in our food donation bins that represents a huge saving for us.

**We** thank the caring people who regularly donate saleable items to our Op shop.

### ARRG COLLECTION TINS

We thank everyone that has an ARRG money tin on display. These small tins are great fundraisers. If you know a business that can take a tin call our office.

### "ADOPT A PET" SAVES LIVES

This pet adoption feature has been successfully run for over eight years with the Northern Star and has helped thousands of pets get a second chance in a loving home. Many thanks to go to all the business sponsors, without their support the "Adopt a Pet" feature would not be possible.

ARRG asks you to consider patronising the business people who support ARRG. By supporting them we receive more assistance from the business community. By doing this it becomes a win situation for all and this is a very positive way to gain support.

### DATES FOR THE DIARY.

ARRG 'GENERAL MEETING' will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> at the Op shop 181 Keen Street Lismore. The meeting will start 1pm – 3pm main topic 'The Future for ARRG'. The meeting will be followed by a well deserved off duty Xmas chat and cuppa or drink.

Attendance by our members and volunteers at this very important meeting would be appreciated.

### WISH LIST

? Calling all trade, skilled, semi skilled workers that could donate their time to help build the animal centre

? All colours A4 Photocopy paper

? Dog collars & leads and plastic key rings for ID tags for our pets.

? Any Pet worm, flea, tick and heartworm medication for our pets.

### **I WANT TO SUPPORT ARRG.**

MAKE A DONATION TO KEEP OUR DOOR OPEN tick

**CENTRE PLEDGE** A donation of: \$500 \$1,000 \$2,000 or other \$..... could make this happen. Payment options below.

### **DONATIONS TO ARRG OVER \$2.00 ARE NOW TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

**Membership Due Feb 1<sup>st</sup>** Junior \$5.00 Concession \$8.00 Full membership \$15.00 Life membership \$150.00

Indicate Renewal by ticking

**Buy a Book for Xmas 'Artistic Vegetarian Cuisine'** by Byron Bay author & artist Celeste Knight. An amazing book featuring original artworks. 20 % of all sales go to ARRG \$28.00 incl postage

### **Payment Options**

I enclose a cheque or MO for total \$.....

OR Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Bankcard details below:

Card No:.....

Expires.....Signature.....

Title.....First Name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Tel: (home).....Tel: (work).....

Date of Birth (if under 18).....Date posted.....

Post today to: ARRG PO Box 16 Wollongbar NSW 2477.

### **TO REMEMBER THE ANIMALS IN YOUR WILL**

Call our office and speak to Suzanne Lavis ARRG Secretary for details.

Contact ARRG on fax/phone 02 66 221881 [nonkill@animalrights.org.au](mailto:nonkill@animalrights.org.au) [www.animalrights.org.au](http://www.animalrights.org.au)



**We thank you for helping us to save so many pets again this year.  
and we wish you a very Happy and Safe Xmas and we have big hopes for 2007  
especially for the animals.**