



# ANIMAL RIGHTS & RESCUE GROUP Inc.

## Northern Rivers Region NSW

### APRIL 2008 NEWSLETTER

ARRG is a volunteer non-profit No-Kill Organisation run with no government funding.

ARRG relies solely on donations from the caring public & membership fees.

It is the only group of its kind covering the whole region.

We rescue abandoned and unwanted pets & take unclaimed pets from local pounds that would otherwise be killed.

We provide them all with vet treatment and foster carers provide love and care until we find them suitable and screened new homes.

There is no RSPCA branch or shelter in this region.

#### Dear Supporter

ARRG has been really busy over the last few months and a bit disorganised while moving our group into the newly built centre in Lismore. This involved establishing a completely new office system with new phones etc in the office shed, building fences a car park area and basic landscaping for the move. While most of our plans are working well we have experienced hiccups and many delays that have regrettably created disruptions to our regular work and we apologise for any difficulties you may have experienced either contacting us or with our website. Also for the lateness of this newsletter.

While the move to our own centre has reduced the burden of rent paid at the many premises in Lismore during the last 6 years we have lost our small but regular income and are feeling the pinch. We must organise fundraisers immediately to generate other income.

We need your help and urge you to contact us with any fund raising ideas for ARRG.  
**Current FR appeals and Raffle see page 3**



The new centre is looking very good with the office nearly sorted and the gardens and walks well established due to the hard work of our volunteers and the rain! Located just a five minute drive from Lismore we ask you to come and view this great ARRG achievement. Our opening hours are Monday to Friday 9am–3.30pm or by appointment and open days.

All events will be held at the centre and will be advertised. .

Our phone line is manned 24/7 by volunteers either at the centre or home or by message machine.

***We are in great need of volunteers at the centre for the office & special need animals.***

#### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE FEB 08**

Annual fees were due in February and we urge you to renew if you haven't yet or to consider joining ARRG. All monies raised by membership fees go directly to cover the food and vet costs. Form on page three.

#### ***RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL DONATION***



During 2007 Richmond High School formed a 'Leo' club a program of the Lismore Lions that encourages local schools to start a club and support local charities.

ARRG was chosen as the first project by Richmond High School and the students have worked so hard to raise the funds for a much-needed trailer for ARRG.

In January a registered trailer was presented to ARRG and it hasn't stopped working since. Everyone at ARRG thanks all the students at Richmond High School for firstly choosing ARRG for their first project.

It's very thrilling to know these young people chose to support an animal charity and by doing this the students have done something really practical and are helping ARRG to help the animals.

### **SECRETARY SUZANNE LAVIS REPORTS**

For the previous 3 months Barbara Steffensen our Co-ordinator had been in the UK visiting family.

Taking on both roles during this time has been overwhelming and demanding and truly showed me how much work is being done at ARRГ to help the animals and the community. .

For seven years Barbara and myself have worked together as volunteers at ARRГ often working 7 days a week in the office or after hours on the phones, computer as foster carers. The work is constant, you sadly never get to the end but we just try and focus on the wonderful outcomes for the animals.

As a team with ARRГ we have achieved many goals and are committed to see stage 2 completed to build the emergency animals pens and vet clinic.

I am very pleased to have Barbara back as of last week and we are now working very hard to catch up and focus on fund raising and events for the year. I would like to thank everyone who helped me during this demanding time.

#### **Currently we are faced with another dilemma for ARRГ.**

The requirement that people receiving a pension must actively seek work has been expanded to include single mothers such as myself. The concern for ARRГ is that should a job be found for me and I decline I can lose my pension. While that might be okay in theory the down side is that people like myself and Barbara who already work and hold key jobs in a charity would not be able to do a full time or part time job and cope with our charity work. But there is no exception for genuine volunteer workers so I could very soon be forced to take on any job and have to give up my work at ARRГ

Many charities are feeling the same impact of losing volunteers.

We recently spoke to the department of Minister for Volunteering and while they understood the issue and had recently had meetings regarding this issue, at this point nothing can be done to help charities.

Having discussed this situation with the department it is clear that the only way to prevent losing a crucial volunteer would be for ARRГ to employ them part-time and that's the dilemma.

This puts more demands on everyone as we already struggle to cover the food & vet costs each month but we must face the problem and make preparation now.

#### **Can you help ARRГ by making a monthly donation of \$10.00 or more, by mail, bank deposit or credit card?**

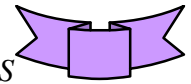
If enough people support this appeal we would be able to fund a part-time position for the ARRГ administration Secretary. Please contact the office for details.

#### **DATES FOR THE DIARY:**

- ◆ ARRГ AGM will be held April 27<sup>th</sup> time 12.30pm at 135 Three Chain Road Lismore.
- ◆ PET ADOPTATHON 2008 is on May 3 & 4 at the centre address as above 9.30am – 3pm. Foster carers to bring pets earlier to be arranged. **Volunteers much needed for the weekend to help tired regulars.**
- ◆ Working Bee urgently needed to help paint internal shed walls, date to be decided by response.

#### **FUND RAISING EVENTS:**

##### **RAFFLE A SELECTION OF WINES**



The selection includes 6 bottles of Wolf Blass Shiraz and 6 bottles of 5<sup>th</sup> Leg Semillon Chardonnay

The wine was kindly donated to ARRГ by foster carer Jane Spaeth a very generous gesture.

Please support our raffle by selling as many tickets as possible and returning books by the due date. If you can sell larger numbers of tickets call the office.

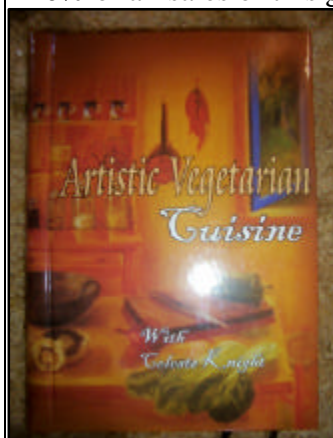


#### **LISMORE CARBOOT MARKET- Can you help?**

Donations for the Op Shop still come in, due to its closure we plan to hold a **monthly** stall. A way of turning donated items into cash rather than declining them. Storage is limited at the centre but the real problem is rallying enough volunteers for a monthly Sunday stall on a roster basis.

In January Tracy Johnson a volunteer held a stall at the Lismore Carboot and raised an amazing \$700.00. Tracy needs help to keep the monthly market stall going as she requires regular hospital treatment. Please call if you can help on the market stall roster.

#### **VEGETARIAN COOK BOOK OFFER SAVE 50% 20% of all sales of this great book go to ARRГ.**



Thanks to Celeste Knight Author and volunteer we now have a quantity of this wonderful cookbook on offer at the discounted price of \$10.00 plus \$2.00 postage.

A collection of wonderful and exciting recipes.

**Normal retail price \$28.00**

#### **ARRГ DONATION TINS are Great fund raisers**

Good sites raise a huge amount of funds with little effort and we need to expand this program.

We need more business sites in Lismore, Casino, Ballina, Byron Bay and surrounds who are happy to support the work of ARRГ by having a collection tin. If you have a business or know a business that would be happy to support us let us know.

Thanks go to volunteer Pam Baxter in Nimbin area and Christina Hart who is doing Byron Bay, Lismore and Ballina the tins are now being emptied and managed very well. But we need many more sites!

## ARRG CRUELTY CALLS

Many calls we get are reporting incidents of cruelty and neglect of a range of domestic pets including birds and livestock.

These calls are very distressing for all at ARRG, as we have no real power to respond & provide immediate help. We ensure the caller has called the RSPCA first as they are the official government law enforcement agency and should respond.

If they have called RSPCA and feel no action or appropriate action has taken place we are willing to take the case further even attending and taking photos.

Very concerning for ARRG and the caring public is the fact that the authorities seem to be very slow to take action and many animals are left in seriously abusive and neglected situations for unacceptably prolonged periods with no relief. There is no excuse for this as the large groups have all the power and resources on hand to do their job.

If you are concerned about the welfare of any animal in your area we urge you to also report your concerns to your local police station as we find the local police more willing to respond swiftly to cruelty cases.

Under the 'Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act' the police have the necessary powers to investigate and prosecute offenders that breach the cruelty laws and this in fact may help abused animals quicker than waiting for the RSPCA.

ARRG thanks Animal Liberation NSW for their hard work on their cruelty **HOTLINE 1800 751 770**  
If you see Cruelty in your area call.



Will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 9.30 – 3pm  
Our sixth annual Adoptathon and for the first time held at our own centre.  
We need volunteers for either or both days currently we are very short of helpers so  
**Please contact us ASAP.**

Foster will need to bring their charges to the centre by 8.45am  
Again we join with hundreds of organizations in over 30 countries with a united goal to rehome as many homeless pets in 48 hours.

Many thanks to North Shore Animal League New York who initiated the first Adoptathon and worked hard to enlist and encourage as many groups to join this exciting annual event. We also applaud NSLA for the amazing support given, including a great free poster kit posted to all groups holding an event  
**LOCATION:** 135 Three Chain Road Lismore (turn right at roundabout before Bunnings)

Lets work toward another successful Pet Adoptathon so come along and help us and take the opportunity to visit the centre.

### **Please Support ARRG by joining/renewing/ a donation** *Payment options below*

**Donate:** I enclose a donation \$.....

**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

#### **Payment**

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

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

Card

No:.....

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

Title.....Name.....Surname.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Tel: .....Email.....

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

**Post to: PO Box 987 Lismore 2480**

**THANK YOU** – To all our supporters' long term and new remember without your love for the animals and support for their welfare this work would not be possible.

To all our amazing foster carers who do a hard but rewarding job and to all our volunteers, on behalf of the many helpless animals thank you.

### **WISH LIST – CAN YOU HELP US**



- A Ride on mower to help reduce the hard work and mowing time at the centre
- Several handypersons to help us erect a small shed, slab done and waiting.
- Artist/sign writer for wall mural and much needed sign at the centre
- Another computer urgently needed
- Metal fencing for temporary pens and foster carers
- To win lotto or receive a large donation so that we can build the desperately needed emergency animal pens and fit out the vet clinic.

**SPONSORS FOR OUR NEWSLETTERS.**

ARRG is seeking advertisers for our newsletter. A business card size ad in our quarterly newsletter will cost \$35.00, space for two advertisers. Monies raised would help ARRG offset the cost of printing and mailing of this large circulation.

For information call 0266221881 or email [nonkill@animalrights.org.au](mailto:nonkill@animalrights.org.au).



Monty is a 4yr old Cattle x rescued from the pound. Sadly he is deaf and needs a special home. For more details on Monty go to the website.

**IGA Ballina Community chest report: To date the total amount ARRG has received is \$3,169.96 plus the total for March of \$147.35 which is about the monthly average. Many thanks to all the IGA shoppers who nominate ARRG for a percentage of sales to go our way. Please keep up the good work and encourage everyone you know to shop and support ARRG. A great initiative by IGA to help local charities.**

Australian shelters & pounds kill over 500,000 dogs and cats yearly, and many more die or become feral.

HELP STOP THIS.

PLEASE DESEX YOUR PET.



**Don't breed or buy  
while homeless  
shelter animals die**

**FROM:**



Animal Rights & Rescue Group Inc,  
Far North Coast  
PO Box 987 Lismore NSW 2477  
[www.animalrights.org.au](http://www.animalrights.org.au)

**TO:**