



# Animal Rights & Rescue Group Inc. Northern Rivers NSW. PO Box 987 Lismore NSW 2480. Ph/Fax: 02 66 221881 [www.animalrights.org.au](http://www.animalrights.org.au) XMAS NEWSLETTER November 2009 ARRG Patron: Phillip Wollen OAM

**Animal Rights & Rescue Group is a local, non-profit, No-Kill, Foster care organisation** run without any government funding. It is the only such group covering the whole Northern Rivers NSW area

ARRG rescues homeless & unwanted animals & hundreds of unclaimed dogs and cats from three local pounds that would otherwise be killed.

We provide them all with individual care, all necessary vet treatment and find them homes that suit their needs for life.

ARRG does not euthanase any animal unless too ill to respond to any veterinarian treatment.

There is no RSPCA branch or shelter in the Northern Rivers area.



Dear members and supporters  
No doubt you would be thinking the same about this year! that it has gone so quickly & that it's been a very eventful year.

For ARRG it's been the most demanding year yet as volunteers struggle to handle a higher intake of unwanted animals from the public & unclaimed animals from death row from our 3 local pounds. Plus running the centre & office every day & working on the 'Keep the Doors open Appeal' to raise funds for a wage.

During the last 6 months ARRG worked through a planned strategy & schedule of contacting & meeting with local councils, local members and the Lismore mayor. This involved alerting our local councils and local members to the crisis of ARRG closing and the huge impact on them, the pound animals, the communities animals, desexing programs, local welfare agencies such as Lismore hospital, Richmond Mental Health, Women's refuge etc. if we can't get funding to continue. While council representatives at these meetings acknowledged our closure would impact on them hugely financially and as one Lismore ranger said, "it will be like the dark ages, 20 years ago before ARRG" But in reality no local council can offer any funding at this point to help ARRG. The outcome was disappointing but no surprise, yet we felt responsible to make the imminent closure known to councils.

Other elements of our strategy have been writing to members, supporter's philanthropists, celebrities, current affairs, magazines and local papers.

ARRG also asked everyone who wants to help us write their own letters to any of the above about our plight, & many have already done a grand job even writing letters to overseas people We urge you to keep trying as we have had a great response and the media seems to respond better when the public contacts them. Please do what ever you think might work to help ARRG continue.

## ARRG CENTRE.

Work at the centre continues as normal and the small band of volunteers work at a huge pace every day to running the office, caring for an ever increasing number of animals held at the centre in temporary pens while we find a foster carer. Attending to the public & visitors who arrive at the centre and manning the phones. It's a very busy and positive place and we are doing our best, but the office and admin work is difficult to maintain, as the hands on animal rescue work and face to face comes first. We are hopeful of raising the funds to employ Suzanne & get her back to run the office in 2010

Volunteers Heather & Michael work hard every Monday, their day off to care for the gardens & grounds. **Can you spare a few hours to help them Monday morning or other days?**

The centre is open Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm (closed Tuesday). The volunteer phone is then redirected on Tuesday, weekends and AH to the home of a trained volunteer.

During public hols & the Xmas extended period councils are closed for several weeks with no after hour's service.

This leaves ARRG coping with a huge range of animal related issues and a very angry public. A difficult and less than satisfactory situation.

Boxing Day 2008 the Wardell police received an urgent cruelty report, they tried to contact the council & RSPCA, no one was available, so they called ARRG for help. We received their call late afternoon & a volunteer went with the police to rescue the animals. The police officer stated later he was disgusted that only a small group was available & willing to help.

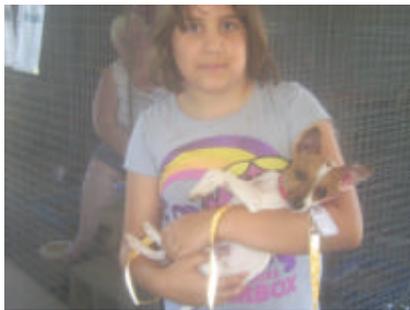


'Sandie' & 'Sunny' arrive at the centre. Dumped in a box on a very hot day. Now safe, fed and receiving lots of love from their foster carer

Saturday 5/12/09 we received a call from the public, they found a box in Terania Street Lismore with 2 pups inside they tried to ring council but they were closed so they called ARRG and we collected the puppies.

## Pg 2 SUCCESS STORIES

Some of our recent adoptions into wonderful new families



'Bella' a 3 month mini foxie pup rescued from the Lismore pound finds a dream home.



'Rosie' a lovely Coolie x rescued from Kyogle pound finds a home



Collie x puppy 1 of five unwanted puppies already loved by her family Photos not a/v but 'Sarah' 14 mth Cattle x finds the best home after 1 year in care.

'Monty' 5 year deaf red stumpy tail cattle dog rehomed with long time supporters after 2.5 years in care.

'Omega' 2 year abused & shy at first finds a wonderful home after 9 months.

## ANIMAL RESCUE STORIES

Every day brings a sad stream of animals unwanted by their owners & pound death row animals.



Buddy a male JR x Foxie rescued by caring people from an abusive home Still available



Lady & Lassie two 8 month Corgie x pups rescued from Casino pound death row. Now rehomed



Jenny cat 3 yr left locked in a caravan when her owner left. Suffering from neglect & a flea allergy. Now well thanks to her foster carer & a/v



Maggie a 2 yr old Mareema x rescued from Casino pound death row 5/12. One of the worse cases we have seen. Skeletal, massive hair loss & inflamed skin. Yet trusting and gentle on arrival. Maggie is so happy to be cared for and loved and her foster carer says she is serene and great with her other dogs. Maggie will need treatment for many weeks before available

## **FOSTER CARERS ARE THE BACK BONE OF ARR.G.**

We are very lucky to continue to find and enlist the help of dedicated animal people for fostering. Some carers enjoy a short stint and that is the beauty of fostering it does not require years of commitment yet you can still have a companion animal. Other carers are more permanent, have their own pets & want to help save homeless pets & some carers have been with ARR.G for years. It all adds up to a great team of people helping us save hundreds of animals. ARR.G admin works hard to make fostering our animals easy & that is vital, so that we can keep these wonderful people on board. We provide everything food, bedding, bowls, vet work & lots of support.

**ARR.G thanks Foster carers past & current for their hard work, their patience, co-operation and for the love and care they provide.**

**GREAT NEWS: ARR.G receives 'SHINING WORLD COMPASSION AWARD'** In November we were contacted by a representative from Supreme Master TV International, who wanted to make a documentary about our No-Kill work. We were thrilled at this opportunity & filming has been completed & sent to headquarters in America for editing. We were then called & told that Master Ching Hai the founder had given us this award & \$US10,000 & a wonderful presentation ceremony was held at our centre.

Our documentary will be aired on Suprememastertv early next year. Not only a great honour, but a great opportunity to get exposure for our work on this 24/7 television network seen in around the globe and in many languages. Master Ching Hai is a famous world leader & speaker on human & animal rights issues, global warming and has won many International peace and humanitarian awards during the past 20 years for her work around the globe.

Master Ching Hai personally funds all relief & aid work for famine, earthquake, flood victims in many countries and promotes & rewards positive actions with her Shining World awards.

The station is inspiring viewing & features many documentaries and research on these vital issues.

View [www.suprememastertv.com](http://www.suprememastertv.com) and watch for the ARR.G documentary. *(Copy will be available at the office)*

*CUT & PASTE COPY OF LOCAL MEDIA PIC HERE.*

ARR.G sincerely thanks Master Ching Hai, Suprememastertv International & the film & interview people who attended and made this possible.

**DONATIONS TO SAVE ARRГ**

ARRГ is very encouraged by the generous support & letters we have received from the public, our members, supporters & from our many website visitors.

**WE TRULY THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR DONATIONS.**

We wish we could list you all in this newsletter, but space would not permit & many people request no mention, but we thank you for providing help for the animals.

Without your financial support & your faith in us we could not save these animals or continue our work

The result of 'Can ARRГ keep going Appeal' has to date been very successful and we continue to hope that we can reach our target in time. Currently we have raised over \$32,000 of the \$50,000 to fund a wage for the clerical/admin position and keep our doors open.

With the help of Louise Hunter a dedicated volunteer who works at the centre 3 days a week, (plus she fosters) & a small band of hard working, caring casual volunteers, I am doing my best to run the centre, office, fund raising and the animal rescue and adoption work. Appeals and grant applications are handled by Christina Hart a very committed & skilled lady who for 3 years, works on Fridays at the centre & provides valuable support and assistance to myself.

My thanks to Louise & Christina, Ursula, Ben, Adelaide, Jennifer, Kay, Alex, Suzanne who still makes time to help, Heather & Michael, Katrina, new arrivals and our foster carers for making ARRГ possible & so effective.

Without these people I could not have hoped to cope with the workload during the last 6 months since Suzanne was forced to leave ARRГ for a paid position. My sincere thanks to all of you Barbara Steffensen President

The 'Can ARRГ keep going Appeal' remains vital as we must reach our target before our AGM in February. If we don't make the target our official closure will be presented at the AGM. **We do not want this to happen** and we urge you to continue to write and contact anyone you think might help us. ARRГ is trying any avenue to highlight our plight and to raise money and has several fund raising events planned.

**ARRГ DOOR KNOCK APPEAL LISMORE JANUARY 30/31.**

A way to raise funds from the public, the public that ARRГ has served very well for 16 years. We hope the Lismore people will say 'A big thank you' by making a generous donation at their door to help ARRГ 'Keep our door open' for the animals in this region.

Jennifer Simpson a new volunteer is committed to helping ARRГ from closing and is organising this event. She got approval from Lismore council and all we need is **YOU**, many volunteers on the ground to make the event work. Please email or call Jenny on [jennfryer@optus.com.au](mailto:jennfryer@optus.com.au) or 66580118 or call the ARRГ office to give us your support.

With plenty of willing volunteers to cover the selected Lismore areas & good media coverage we hope to push our funds closer to our target.

Currently we are now facing the **most difficult period of the year.** The dreaded Summer Cat breeding season & the Xmas holiday. We started to receive calls early November reporting dumped & unwanted litters of kittens, one box of 5 kittens left outside at our gate and many mums with kittens. During December & January it's at the worst & the calls are constant. We have 18 beautiful kittens & ten adult cats in care, 3 more dumped mums with kittens waiting to come in, when we have space. What a tragic mess this is & many thousands will die & yet the government still refuses to make desexing compulsory.

**Affordable Desexing /High volume/Low cost is the key solution** and we urge the public to ensure that the group you donate to spends your money on this life saving program.

**WISH LIST:**

A reliable & cheap wagon road worthy & registered urgently needed. Sadly our volunteer vehicle of many years known as 'Big Red' a Holden wagon just died, too expensive to get through rego now with a vehicle.

'Big Red' is gone and sadly missed

- \* Fencing dog mesh & large cages, aviaries for cat & kitten housing.
- \* Air conditioner GC urgently needed for the Cat shed at the centre

**ARRГ Annual Membership Form Due February 1<sup>st</sup> each year**  
 Junior ,, \$5.00 Concession ,, \$8.00 Full membership ,, \$15.00.  
 Life membership ,, \$150.00 Indicate if Renewal ,, **OR**  
**I would like to make a donation:..... Payment Options below:**  
 I include a cheque or money order for the amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 OR debit my Visa/Mastercard/Bankcard details below  
 Card Type \_\_\_\_\_ Card No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Expires \_\_\_\_\_ Card name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ph \_\_\_\_\_ DOB(if under 18) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mail to: ARRГ PO Box 987 Lismore NSW 2480**  
**Thank you for caring.**

Many thanks from all of us at ARRГ and on behalf of all the animals everywhere thank you so much for caring and your kindness.

**Best Wishes for a Happy & Safe Xmas and a very Successful New Year**

