

Annual Report

2015-2016





About Us

Animal Welfare League NSW believes that all companion animals deserve a safe and loving home.

We provide a safe environment where surrendered, neglected and abandoned animals can feel comfortable and nurtured, and we do our very best to match each pet to a suitable home.

AWL NSW operates three animal welfare shelters, a veterinary hospital, behaviour team, foster care network and 13 volunteer branches around NSW. We have a team of Inspectors on the ground protecting animals, providing emergency rescue and enforcing the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

How you can get involved

- Adopt one of our beautiful animals
- Open your home to become a foster carer for an animal that needs extra care outside of the shelter environment
- Make a donation to support the pets in our care
- Volunteer with us
- Leave a bequest to Animal Welfare League NSW in your will
- Become a corporate partner
- Board your pet with us
- Bring your pet to our veterinary hospital for a check-up or treatment

For more information on how you can help our animals, please contact us on 02 8899 3333 or visit www.awlnsw.com.au

The Committees

AWL NSW partakes in a number of committees in an effort to help increase companion animal welfare standards across NSW. We view these committee spots as a key way to make a lasting and positive difference in the lives of those we already work so hard to save.

The committees AWL NSW sits on include:

- Getting 2 Zero Steering Committee
- Animal Welfare Advisory Council
- Animal Management in Rural and Regional Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC)
- NSW Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area Committee
- Greyhounds Transition Taskforce

From the President

It is with pleasure that I present the AWL NSW Annual Report for the financial year 2015-16.

The wonderful network of AWL NSW – its staff, branches, volunteers and members – never ceases to amaze me. Even with our ongoing growth, this team continues to work tirelessly showing their passion, dedication and heart for the benefit of our beloved animals, despite limited resources.

In the year that was, we have once again outdone ourselves with our excellent desexing

program, with some 8,676 animals receiving treatment. This brings us to an astonishing total of 30,237 animals that have been desexed over the past four years. This notable achievement could absolutely not have been possible if it were not for the efforts of our branch members. I was delighted to visit many of our branches and attend a Branch Conference this year to witness each team's progress firsthand.

While it saddens me to know that there are so many animals in New South Wales who still remain in desperate need of our care, I am excited about the number of these we have assisted over the course of the year... 11,507! It's an incredibly rewarding feeling to be part of an organisation that really makes a significant difference.

Although we're exposed to some very challenging neglect and cruelty stories that come to AWL NSW, I am more than pleased to say that in the majority of cases, they end with happy outcomes. This has also been my personal experience. I'd like to introduce you to Dellie, whom I am proudly showing off in this photo. Dellie was found abandoned and pregnant in the searing summer heat. AWL NSW Inspectors came to her rescue and Dellie gave birth to 10 beautiful babies at our shelter, all of whom found their way to me for foster care. Of course, over time, all of Dellie's puppies went to loving forever homes. As for Dellie...well, we formed such a close bond that she just had to stay with me. We've been best of friends ever since!

It would be remiss of me to not mention the support of our community. The generosity of people contributing donations and bequests, as well as items such as blankets and toys, is truly remarkable. Each gift is valuable and there is never an amount too small.

This has been a year of transformation as we've set our sights on the future. The Board and I sincerely look forward to working with you throughout the coming year to deliver some very exciting plans.

Christine Richardson
President



Operational Report

Animal Welfare League NSW achieved some significant successes throughout this year. Single-minded through the challenging times, we worked together to fulfil our primary purpose... to promote and provide the best tailored care and conditions to the state's most vulnerable companion and at-risk animals.

This year, the AWL NSW team came together and worked to increase our rehoming rate for our animals, with 2,513 finding loving forever families. This great result also allowed us to deliver on our commitment to reinvigorate AWL NSW through the enhancement of our behavioural services.

AWL NSW was approached by the Baird State Government's Minister for Primary Industries to join the Animal Welfare Advisory Council, and to make submissions and presentations into the joint Parliamentary Inquiry into Companion Animal Breeders Practices. We were

also approached to provide submissions to the special Inquiry into Greyhound Racing and were invited to join the Greyhounds Transition Taskforce, as part of the team advising the government on actions required to protect the welfare of greyhounds into the future.

We implemented a series of new initiatives to improve the quality of managed personalised care, and we commenced planning on two major capital works projects at our Kemps Creek shelter: a new leading design cattery care facility, and a dog walking and agility track, which will showcase

best practice in animal welfare and increase our public profile and community engagement.

During this time of growth, we were very fortunate to be the recipients of generous bequests totalling more than \$6Mil.

AWL NSW would like to thank our large community of supporters, including our members, volunteers, branches, donors, adopters and customers, without which our organisation could not survive.

Collectively, we are continuing to have an impact and make a difference to thousands of animals in need.

Key Achievements

In the 2015-16 financial year, AWL NSW has embarked on some exciting new programs and initiatives to improve the lives of companion animals in the state. These include:

Staff to Animal Ratio

A new staff-to-animal ratio in our shelters ensures that every animal we receive gets enough tailored care, enrichment and attention from our animal attendants. This means our experienced staff members have more one-on-one time with each animal to assess their adoption needs, and provide any extra care or training to prepare them for finding a new home. Living in a shelter can be a confronting experience for a companion animal, and we believe it is important for adoption outcomes that our pets get as much human interaction as possible.

Open Admissions Policy

We have introduced an open admissions policy, meaning that we will never turn away an animal that needs refuge, regardless of its medical or behavioural state. This means that even if we know that an animal is not healthy enough to enjoy a good quality-of-life and will need to be euthanased for its own benefit, we will still take it in, regardless of the impact that it will have on our euthanasia statistics. We remain strongly committed to the Getting 2 Zero philosophy that all companion animals that are treatable and rehabilitable should be given the opportunity for rehoming, however we believe it is important for us to accept animals that we know are not treatable or rehabilitable. The consequences of allowing such animals to wander or be left in environments where they are unwanted can be severe – by taking all surrendered animals in, we are preventing them from potentially becoming

victims of road accidents, starvation, disease, mistreatment, abandonment or abuse.

New Cattery at Kemps Creek

Plans have been finalised for a new, state-of-the-art cattery to be built at our Kemps Creek shelter, with construction expected to begin in mid-2017. This new facility will provide optimum care and housing for our feline friends, catering to their individual needs and wants. Features include floor-to-ceiling play areas, multi-level climb and hide areas, plus spacious housing for individual cats, bonded pairs or families. The cattery has been designed with the input of our behaviourists, and they will be able to use the space to more accurately assess the personalities, temperaments and adoption needs of our shelter cats. Extra room also means that each cat will be able to interact

more freely and show off their charm to potential adopters!

Dog Walking Track at Kemps Creek

Stage one of our beautiful new dog walking track has been completed in the bushland environment behind the Kemps Creek shelter, and has been used on a daily basis by our animal attendants. The track provides dogs with the opportunity to enjoy a more scenic and enriching walk away from the typical shelter environment. Stage two will feature exercise and enrichment yards, an agility paddock, and the paths will be resurfaced with a variety of different textures that mimic the ground that dogs might be walking on in a home environment. This walking track has been funded with the generous support of The Goldie Knight Foundation.

Environmental Enrichment Program

Our shelters use an environmental enrichment program to provide for the physical, mental and



Work beginning on our dog walking track.



emotional wellbeing of all the animals in our care. There are many different tools we use to stimulate and enrich the lives of our shelter pets – for instance, our dogs are given training, exploration opportunities, chew therapy with delicious treats, and varied exercise areas to provide visual exposure. We try to emphasise to new adopters that these practices are important for an animal's wellbeing, even in a home environment, and provide them with information on how they can replicate these experiences to ensure a smooth rehoming transition and a happy, entertained pet for life.

Networking with other animal organisations

Our staff have helped to improve rehoming rates by building new relationships with other agencies, organisations, rescue groups and pounds who also work with homeless pets. This is a two-way relationship – we can help overcrowded organisations by taking their animals if we have the space and resources in our shelters, while we sometimes have pets that have very specific needs who are better-suited to niche

rescue groups (for instance, older pets, specific breeds). Working with other organisations in this way increases our reach for potential adopters, and allows us to match animals with their ideal living circumstances.

Desexing Scheme

We have increased our level of investment in our Companion Animal Desexing Scheme, which provides discount desexing to low-income residents across New South Wales through our branches and a network of veterinary clinics. We have also focused on educating pet owners on the importance of desexing – not only does desexing reduce unwanted litters, it also improves animal health by reducing cancer risk and some behavioural issues.

Increased focus on behavioural training

In the 2015-16 financial year, Animal Welfare League NSW continued to develop our behavioural service, which is already highly regarded. We welcomed a new animal trainer to our behaviourist team, to assist our shelter pets in improving

their behaviour and increase their chances of being adopted. Our team also assists new adopters with behavioural advice after they take their pet home, ensuring that the animal is being treated with best practice positive training methods, and reducing the likelihood that it will be re-surrendered.

Preparing for our future

After a busy year with many successes, we have plans to continue improving the reach and impact of our organisation. Key focus areas include:

- Leading standards in the animal shelter industry
- Continuing to improve our rehoming rate
- Promoting animal welfare to the public and government
- Educating the public on proper animal care
- Expanding and supporting our foster care network
- Further developing networks with other shelters, pounds and rescue groups
- Diversifying and increasing our financial donor base

Community Support

OVER 86,000
FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS

OVER 5,400
INSTAGRAM
FOLLOWERS

AVERAGING
24,000
UNIQUE WEBSITE
VISITORS EACH MONTH

150 VOLUNTEERS

Across our 3 shelters: Kemps Creek, Ingleside and West Hoxton, not including the 100's of Branch volunteers throughout NSW



114
FOSTER
CARERS
LOOKED AFTER
A TOTAL OF
446
ANIMALS

8,676
ANIMALS
DESEXED
Preventing unwanted,
neglected animals
being born

Shelters & Branches



2,542
ADOPTED
ANIMALS

339 Animals euthanased
184 medical &
155 behavioural issues

199 Students trained
onsite at shelters

535 Animals rehabilitated
due to behaviour problems

44 In-house training
classes for volunteers
and staff

Veterinary Clinic

1,558
SURGERIES

170
EMERGENCIES



8,534
CONSULTATIONS
FOR CARE

Bequests

Gwendolyn Allis
Beris Andersson
Len Ardley (Trust)
Bill/Joy (Trust)
Winifred Beckett
Danuta Bednarczyk
Alison Bender
Margaret Brownley
Edith Caldwell
Decie Cullen
John Davies
Jessie Farrar
Barbara Fitzgerald
Julie Fitzhardinge
George Foster
Judith Geddes
Joan Greenwood
John Heney (Trust)
Joyce Hippiisley
Elizabeth Hurd
Rosemary Jackson

Dragana Jovicic
Eileen McDonald
Maureen McDonnell
Frederica McKervey
Iris McLaren
Kerry McLeod
Annabel Moore
Elizabeth Osborne
Elsie Quinn
Lidia Rys
Shirley Samuels
Daina Silins
Arthur Spencer
John Thomas
Mavis Tyler
Amanda Vachalec
Marlene Verbeek
Pamela Wadeson
June White
Barbara Winter
Ema Yasui

Inspectorate



86,000 kilometres travelled
507 reported cruelty cases
200 cautions issued
52 trade inspections
173 animals brought into care
19 penalty notices issued
2 proceedings commenced

Treasurer's Report

2016 has been a year of consolidation and setting Animal Welfare League NSW on a path of continued stability. For a third consecutive year, we have generated a profit and managed to build cash reserves.

Financial Goals

The most important goal is to have sufficient cash flow to allow AWL NSW to continue to provide the high level of animal care required and have a sufficient cash buffer to weather future uncertainties. It is pleasing that this goal was met, however it was met through record bequests and legacies received. Unfortunately we cannot always rely of this funding and over time we need to develop sustainable businesses with cash flows to support operations. Such income currently comes from adoptions, vet fees and boarding and needs to improve.

Income

2016 was a record year for fundraising, bequests and legacies and League staff need to be congratulated on their work in this area. Over the year total income from all sources was well over \$10 million. If we deduct the overhead cost of fund raising and corporate office then we can proudly say that 78% of all income was directed to the caring of animals. Although this is a commendable achievement, it is the goal of both the Board and Management to ensure continuous improvement in this area so that an ever increasing percentage of funds raised is directed to animal care.

Income 2016	(\$)	(%)
Bequests & Legacy received	6,650,808	64.5
Fundraising	1,171,762	11.4
Animal placements	455,332	4.4
Boarding	357,499	3.5
Donations	389,809	3.8
Grants	75,000	0.7
Interest income	193,285	1.9
Memberships	14,376	0.1
Merchandise	63,330	0.6
Microchips	1,596	0.0
Op-shop	134,368	1.3
Vet fees	686,750	6.7
Other income	112,968	1.1
TOTAL INCOME	10,306,883	100

Expenditure

Expenditures did increase over the period reflecting higher animal numbers cared for through the shelters, the unfortunate effect of inflation as well as wages growth. Wages growth experienced the largest and most disproportional change. This can primarily be attributed to higher casual and other labour costs at the shelters and filling Management positions in 2016 vs. these positions only being filled for part of the year in 2015. Cost control remains a priority for the Board and Management, with the underlying goal of providing the best possible care as economically as possible.

Expenses 2016	(\$)	(%)
Advertising and promotion	68,106	1.0
Consumables	372,891	5.2
Contract fees	358,629	5.0
Depreciation	390,315	5.5
Food and Board for Animals	53,814	0.8
Fundraising	414,882	5.8
Legal and professional fee	239,200	3.4
Motor vehicle expenses	42,430	0.6
Repairs and maintenance	90,761	1.3
Salaries and wages	3,299,496	46.4
Salaries wages and superannuation adjustments – prior years	187,723	2.6
Superannuation	304,252	4.3
Telephone	66,371	0.9
Vet Fees		
- Branches	473,558	6.7
- Shelter external	44,268	0.6
Other expenses	699,043	9.8
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,105,739	100

I want to thank the most capable and committed staff, volunteers, branch members and supporters for their commitment and passion.

Audrey McGeown
Director / Treasurer

Abridged Financial Statements

Full audited accounts are available upon request
The Auditor for Animal Welfare League NSW is Berger Piepers

Statement of Financial Performance

	2016	2015
	(\$)	(\$)
INCOME		
Bequests & Legacy received	6,650,808	3,041,447
Fundraising	1,171,762	851,022
Animal placements	455,332	478,253
Boarding	357,499	348,748
Donations	389,809	209,977
Grants	75,000	75,000
Interest income	193,285	189,051
Memberships	14,376	31,140
Merchandise	63,330	56,861
Microchips	1,596	9,567
Op-shop	134,368	127,644
Vet fees	686,750	633,421
Profit on sale of Non Current Assets	-	1,364
Asset Revaluation	-	1,450,195
Other income	112,968	107,006
TOTAL INCOME	10,306,883	7,610,696

	2016	2015
	(\$)	(\$)
EXPENSES		
Advertising and promotion	68,106	60,187
Consumables	372,891	366,976
Contract fees	358,629	175,974
Depreciation	390,315	725,666
Food and Board for Animals	53,814	51,892
Fundraising	414,882	102,497
Legal and professional fee	239,200	37,737
Motor vehicle expenses	42,430	31,081
Repairs and maintenance	90,761	98,147
Salaries and wages	3,299,496	2,544,398
Salaries wages and superannuation adjustments – prior years	187,723	150,000
Superannuation	304,252	222,350
Telephone	66,371	77,181
Vet Fees		
- Branches	473,558	449,638
- Shelter external	44,268	29,006
Other expenses	699,043	622,751
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,105,739	5,745,481

Profit/(Loss) before income tax **3,201,144** **1,865,215**

Statement of Financial Position

	2016	2015
	(\$)	(\$)
ASSETS		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	1,923,434	720,282
Receivables & Prepayments	70,045	153,116
Investments	8,772,471	6,496,269
Property, Plant & Equipment	9,445,854	9,756,348
TOTAL ASSETS	20,211,804	17,126,015
LIABILITIES		
Trade & Other Payables	588,026	451,401
Provisions	283,921	535,901
TOTAL LIABILITIES	871,947	987,302
NET ASSETS	19,339,857	16,138,713
MEMBERS' EQUITY		
Reserves	3,379,084	3,379,084
Retained Profits	15,960,773	12,759,629
TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY	19,339,857	16,138,713

Overview

Vet

We have enjoyed another year of providing excellent veterinary service to our shelters and the general community with our dedicated team of six vets and nine vet nurses. The last 12 months has seen an increase in the number of animals that came through the clinic for medical and surgical care; this makes for a very busy clinic as we continue to strive to maintain the very best standards for our clients and their beloved pets. We're proud to continue to be involved with community events like Homeless Connect – an annual one day event providing pets of the homeless with free health checks, vaccinations, warm dog coats and blankets – which is such a rewarding experience.



One of the highlights this year has been our 'office cat rehab program', which has successfully rehabilitated many cats that would otherwise have been deemed unadoptable as well as being a great excuse to have cats in our offices!

Looking forward, we plan to expand our rehabilitation capabilities and provide more training options for the community. We also plan to continue our education of other animal rescue organisations in the field of behavioural assessment and rehabilitation.

Behaviour

This year, we have maintained our focus on two key areas – rehabilitation and training. Every animal that requires behavioural rehabilitation has an individually tailored management plan to help in its recovery, and includes information for staff and new owners. The department provides a free behavioural advice service to all adopters to ensure the transition to their new home environment is a smooth one. For one special case – a deaf dog named Luna – our behaviourist Erica Pankhurst was able to source a vibrating collar, which helped communication and proved to be an excellent tool in helping Luna learn how to live a full and happy life.

We continue to be proud of our canine/feline behaviour assessment program, using it as a reliable tool for evaluating animals for appropriate adoption matching.

Education remains our primary tool for driving change in our community. We have been out and about at events, community groups, schools and in the media to drive our key messages for respect, love and care for all animals.

Inspectors

AWL NSW is fortunate enough to have a committed Inspectorate team, who rack up literally thousands of kilometres each year, investigating cases of cruelty, neglect and abandonment. Ensuring the welfare of all animals and following up on complaints means hours out on the road, but their dedication and patience is rewarded when animals in desperate need are given a second chance at a new and improved life. This is coupled with the owner education that our Inspectors consistently do to prevent ongoing animal suffering and improve the lives of animals in need.



Ambassadors

Animal Welfare League NSW is lucky to have the support of some talented, passionate and familiar faces, helping to promote our homeless pets and great work. We're very proud to have these outstanding people supporting our cause and being a voice for our shelter pets.

Dr Katrina Warren – Veterinarian and TV personality

Dr Lisa Chimes – Veterinarian and Bondi Vet

Dr Robert Zammit – Veterinarian

Shae-Lee Shackleford – Presenter

Ace Bourke – Animal Champion

Dr Joanne Righetti – Behaviourist

Alec Campbell – Young Ambassador



Volunteers and Foster Carers

Volunteers and foster carers are an integral part of the AWL NSW team, without the ongoing support of these dedicated individuals we would not be able to provide the standard and amount of care to animals in need.

Our volunteers and foster carers provide an extra level of care to animals within the shelter environment as well as in their hearts and homes.

They fundraise to improve conditions for animals everywhere and assist with education and training programs for animals and the people who love them.

Our reach into the community to create awareness of issues and get the message of socially responsible pet ownership is broader through this network of people who already show such commitment and care.

Shelters

Over this past year, AWL NSW has rehomed 1,522 dogs and cats through our shelters at Kemps Creek and Ingleside. We are extremely proud to be able to offer our services and assist the community, taking animals in that need our assistance and compassion.

Our staff and volunteers are

committed to the welfare of those less fortunate animals that come into our care. Although working in animal welfare can be confronting at times, the rewards are great and the best reward of all is to see an animal recover and go to a loving new home.

Not only do our Ingleside and Kemps Creek shelters cater for those less fortunate animals needing our care and attention,

they also offer pet boarding facilities. A lot of our clients are animals that we have rehomed from our shelters and because their new owners know they have been loved and well-cared for comfortably, they keep coming back! A wonderful situation for our staff and volunteers to have follow-up visits from much loved fur kids.



The Branches

Far South Coast

Our branch is in its 15th year, and in that time we have rehomed over 3,000 companion animals! We have also helped many families keep their pets through our advice and support, and provided subsidised desexing to hundreds of dog and cat owners.

We have an increasingly positive reputation with our local Vets, Council and the general community, and have achieved media coverage in almost all avenues available in our Shire. We have a fantastic team to thank for these achievements.

To raise funds to support our programs, we held many fundraisers (including 'Santa Paws' as pictured below), with community groups and individuals in our Shire regularly filling our donation jars and food bins.

Our wonderful Vets and Kalaru and Pambula kennels provide continued help, local radio stations and newspapers continue to support us through free advertising, and our members, their spouses and friends have continued to work to make the branch a success.

Thank you to all.



Eastern Suburbs

Thanks to support from the local community - and the efforts of members and the hardworking committee during the past year - Eastern Suburbs Branch was able to desex 44 companion animals, and assist with veterinary costs in an increased number of cases.

We were also able to give help and advice to owners (through our Welfare Officer), and raise awareness of AWL rehoming activities via the Rose Bay Street Fair and Double Bay Festival.

We ran other street stalls and continue to operate a weekly

The Branches (continued)

information/fundraising table at Potts Point Market, Kings Cross.

We look forward to expanding our activities in the coming year and contributing further to the welfare of companion animals in our area.

Eurobodalla

As usual it has been a busy year! Our dedicated bunch of volunteers have been working hard. This year we desexed a total of 360 animals.

We have had 98 animals in care during this year. The number of dogs surrendered are down, but we had a massive kitten explosion, with at least 60 being surrendered. A shortage of dog carers has hampered our ability to take in more dogs in need, but we are hoping to recruit more carers through specifically targeted advertising in newspapers and on local radio.

Our fundraising continues to be fun and worthwhile - with three main raffles a year - we are so grateful to the people of Eurobodalla who are so generous with their prize donations. We are extremely lucky to have some amazing volunteers who go the extra mile to help us raise funds.

Our Tailwaggers Walk is our biggest fundraiser - last year we had over 110 dogs registered to take part in the walk along the beautiful Narooma foreshore. Once back at the oval, dogs and their owners were entertained with ring events and obedience and agility demonstrations.

From Bateman's Bay in the North to Tilba in the South, the volunteers of the Eurobodalla Branch are looking forward to going from strength to strength over the next year.

Hawkesbury Valley

The last twelve months have been extremely busy for Hawkesbury Valley Branch. The cat tsunami in

our area continues with kittens being born and coming into care right throughout the winter months. We currently have 22 cats and 20 kittens in foster care, and in the last year have assisted with the desexing of 632 cats and dogs.

Hawkesbury Valley Branch has had a great ongoing relationship with the local pound. A cat pilot program between the 2 entities has resulted in the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of hundreds of cats over the past 2 years. The desexing program has helped to reduce the number of unwanted kittens and improve the overall health and wellbeing of felines in the area.

During this year we have put a lot of effort into raising our profile by running fundraising functions in the local community. Our Facebook page is gaining momentum, and has resulted in new members and new foster carers coming on board. Our fundraising BBQs have attracted much attention - we even managed to get the Mayor to come along and cook.

We have donation bins at local Coles and IGA stores. Some of this donated food has gone towards helping homeless people with pets by association with local charities.



Great Lakes & Manning

The Great Lakes & Manning Branch continues to have a very well organised op shop which provides vital funds for our services. We have many ladies working in shifts to help raise the money needed for rescue and rehoming of animals in the area.

We rehomed 87 animals in the past year, and desexed 471 animals in the financial year. This is a very busy branch, with many active and well organised people helping to keep things running smoothly, while helping the local community.

Our local community are very supportive of our endeavours and we are fortunate to have sponsorship in our local media to highlight our animals looking for homes and the services we offer.

Narooma Dog Training Centre

We are the newest members to the AWL NSW branch network, and are delighted to give this first report on the dog obedience training.

The winter weather disrupted several of our weekly training sessions. We have



The Branches (continued)

had torrential rain, storms, and bitterly cold winds interspersed with public and school holidays. Consequently, numbers attending training have been down. Despite this, we have still managed to hold various events, with Rosy using her photographic skills for inclusion in the Woof newsletters.

We have a young trainee instructor, Tess Poyner, who is currently working her way through the various classes under the guidance of the more senior instructors. She is gaining confidence each week, and will join us as a fully trained Instructor at the end of the year.

Currently we have 81 dogs registered and 77 handlers, with the average number of handlers and dogs attending each week being 40 for obedience and 12 for agility.

This branch could not function without the dedication and hard work of all of our volunteers and instructors. On behalf of the Centre, we thank you.

Western Suburbs & Hills District

The volunteers from the Western Suburbs & Hills District Branch have been busy during the year with activities to help animals and pet owners. Our branch arranged for 2,064 animals to be desexed as part of the AWL subsidised

scheme and our Cat Welfare Officer Jeanette Emanuel did a wonderful job in rehoming 33 cats and 103 kittens. Our Secretary Glyn Boobyer rescued several litters of kittens born on the streets, which were socialised and placed into loving homes.

Other activities included providing pet food and veterinary assistance for pets whose owners suffer financial hardship. Of course, none of these activities would be possible without the hard work of a dedicated group of volunteers, who regularly fundraise for the branch. A special thank you must be extended to Joan Pearson, who opens her home each year providing gourmet food and wine for the branch major fundraising luncheon, auction and raffle. Most of the funds raised go towards the ongoing commitment of the branch to desex as many animals as possible as there is an urgent need in the geographical area in which the branch operates.

St George & Sutherland Shire

We have managed to have a rather successful year with subsidised desexing, albeit low membership attendance overall. We would like to thank Judith (who has decided to step down from the branch), for her years

of service especially to the desexing scheme. Taking calls and completing and sending the vouchers is a very time consuming task and we are very sad to lose her.

We look forward to seeing some new members attending in the coming year. To the members who put in a lot of effort, we thank you so much - your attendance and participation is greatly appreciated.

To single out any regular members would be unfair, because they all put in a wonderful effort and even step up with more help than they need to, but we have to say a special thanks to our treasurer for her hours and hours of work. Without her it would make running the branch very hard.

We look forward to another successful year ahead!

Illawarra

Our branch has been busy doing what it does best - rescuing cats and desexing pets.

We've had over 1,500 requests for subsidised desexing throughout the year. Our annual 'Spay in May' is always successful, offering greatly reduced desexing fees to local people. We may not be able to do it as cheaply during other months of the year, but we still help with the cost of desexing pets all year round, as well as providing help with the cost of vet consultations. We get many requests for help and always work in the best interests of the animals, doing what we can with limited resources, to improve the lives of pets.

North Coast - Mullumbimby

Thanks to a generous and anonymous donation, kittens at the Cat Adoption Centre are enjoying the freedom of a newly installed outdoor kitten enclosure, ending the year on a high note for



The Branches (continued)

kittens (and for cleaners!).

Tegan Hall, our Cat Welfare Officer, left the area unexpectedly in April. We acknowledge her love and care of the felines during that time, and welcome Jenny Hartigan as her replacement into the role.

71 beautiful cats and kittens were surrendered, and 67 have found new homes.

On behalf of the AWL NSW Board, we were pleased to again manage the operation of CAAS, (Companion Animal Assistance Scheme), from November 2015 to the end of May 2016. We issued 259 vouchers for the scheme amongst 15 veterinary practices, from Mullumbimby in the north to Coffs Harbour in the south. Additional practices have approached us for inclusion in the next financial year, subject to available funding.

The fundraising team has worked enthusiastically to continue with the task of raising money in support of the Cat Adoption Centre, operating 10 events over the year.

Branch activities and other items of interest have been reported in the Branch Newsletter - published January, May and September, thanks to Editor Jenine. None of the successes this year would have been possible without our small band of valued

volunteers, the generosity of the local community, and Head Office support. For the involvement of all, we are truly grateful.

North West - Moree

Three years ago, this branch was going through rough times, and was desperately in need of more volunteers to help. However, persistence pays off, and AWL NSW Branch Liaison Helen gave us the extra support we needed so we could continue providing our vital services in the area. We now see the branch flourishing - still only a small group - but totally dedicated to saving animals and spreading the word for AWL NSW.

Thanks to dedicated members and a strong President, the branch has managed to rescue and rehome 298 animals. This has also been possible due to two ladies who have assisted with providing boarding kennels and cattery, while the animals wait for their forever home.

The branch does many and varied fundraising activities and is spreading the word far and wide in the country area.

Shoalhaven

2016 was a very busy and productive year. Active membership fluctuated throughout the year,

but a lot was achieved.

Our branch conducted a two-day, cats-only event in two low-income areas of the Shoalhaven. We supplied CAAS vouchers for the cats, with 67 cats being microchipped. Throughout the year, our CAAS desexing was offered to local residents, resulting in 254 animals being desexed by local vets, all subsidised by AWL NSW.

Our branch also takes in surrendered animals - a total of 71 animals were surrendered to our branch for rehoming and 66 were adopted. There were 23 cats and kittens rehomed during the year, and in all, our branch desexed a total of 291 animals for the year, which is a great effort.

In June we organised an animal behaviour workshop, presented by AWL NSW Behaviourists Rosalie Horton and Erica Pankhurst. There were 27 participants and an excellent day was had by all. This was a first, and I do thank them both for a thoroughly informative and productive day.

Finally, many thanks to Helen Powderly, our Branch Liaison Officer, for her wonderful support throughout the year.

Corporate Sponsors



Donating food to help keep our shelter pets tummies full



Contributing significant funds to us via their Helping Hands program



Raising funds for AWL NSW by donating 100% of the Charity Dress sales proceeds to AWL NSW



For sponsoring our Find Love in February campaign as well donating product and contributing much needed funds via their workplace giving program



Providing our Inspectors with legal support



Who in addition to raising funds for AWL NSW helped us rehome 51 cats and kittens through the year



Kemps Creek Shelter & Veterinary Hospital

1605 Elizabeth Drive, Kemps Creek NSW 2178

Ingleside Shelter

11 Cicada Glen Road, Ingleside NSW 2101

Branch locations

- Central Coast
- Eastern Suburbs
- Eurobodalla
- Far South Coast
- Great Lakes & Manning
- Hawkesbury Valley
- North Coast
- Illawarra
- Shoalhaven
- Narooma Dog Training Centre
- Western Suburbs & Hills District
- North West
- St George Sutherland Shire

For contact details of Branches, visit:

www.awlnsw.com.au

Call us on 02 8899 3333
or visit www.awlnsw.com.au

**Report animal cruelty by contacting
AWL NSW Inspectors: 02 8899 3333**