

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

60  
YEARS

ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW  
60TH ANNIVERSARY 1958-2018









# 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.

Animal Welfare League NSW is proud to offer the services of our shelters, veterinary hospital, behaviour team, foster care network, an inspectorate team and volunteer branches across NSW.

## How you can get involved

-  Adopt a pet
-  Join your local AWL NSW volunteer branch
-  Foster
-  Donate to help us continue our work in saving animals from cruelty and neglect
-  Include AWL NSW in your will by joining our bequests and legacy program
-  Volunteer

# From the President



I am honoured to present the Animal Welfare League NSW Annual Report for the financial year 2017-18.

AWL NSW has had a successful yet challenging year. We welcomed a new CEO, Mark Slater. His vision, drive and energy has already resulted in a reinvigoration of the organisation.

All staff, volunteers and branches have done an amazing job assisting animals in need across the state.

Our shelter and branches rehomed 2,107 animals, a truly remarkable number, helping give them the second chance they truly deserve.

Our behaviour team has also succeeded admirably in the job of rehabilitating animals, and their success is appreciated by everyone here at AWL NSW.

The inspectorate yet again has done an excellent job assisting many animals. For example Nitro, a dog found in an emaciated state, was just one example of the animals saved by our inspectorate team. I am proud they are representing us as one of only three authorised agencies, and look forward to the year ahead.

Across the whole organisation, a total of 7,455 animals have been desexed. This figure is magnified by the prevention of all the offspring those animals would have produced in their reproductive life.

I believe the current year will see AWL NSW continue to grow and flourish. I look forward to helping formulate plans for ongoing progress and innovation to guide management, staff and branches to build on the successes to date. Above all, I am thankful for the tireless efforts and support of all our members.

Thank you,

**Dr David Hope**

President, AWL NSW

“The inspectorate has yet again done an excellent job assisting many animals. I am proud that they are representing us as one of the only three authorised agencies ...”

# Statistics



**93,581**  
FACEBOOK  
FOLLOWERS



**9,604**  
INSTAGRAM  
FOLLOWERS



AVERAGE  
**30,919** UNIQUE  
WEBSITE  
VISITORS EACH  
MONTH

**74**

## VOLUNTEERS

ACROSS OUR SHELTERS, NOT  
INCLUDING THE HUNDREDS OF  
BRANCH VOLUNTEERS ACROSS NSW



**75**

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS

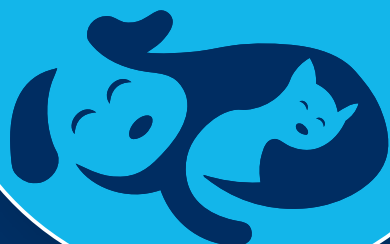
**7,455**  
ANIMALS  
DESEXED

PREVENTING UNWANTED  
NEGLECTED ANIMALS  
BEING BORN

OUR DEDICATED FOSTER  
CARERS TOOK CARE OF A  
TOTAL **323** ANIMALS

## Rescued

**411 ANIMALS**  
(147 CATS AND 264 DOGS) WERE  
RESCUED FROM THE POUND



## Rehoming

REHOMING FIGURES -  
ALL ANIMALS

**2,107** Rehomed  
**20** Reclaimed  
**376** in our care at the end  
of the Financial Year  
**396** Euthanised (medical  
and behavioural)

## VETERINARY CLINIC

**1,965** SURGERIES  
**4,878** CONSULTATIONS

## Cats and Kittens

**1,614**

IN OUR CARE  
2017-2018

**1,158**

REHOMED

**214**

EUTHANISED  
(MEDICAL AND  
BEHAVIOURAL)

**6**

RECLAIMED

**236**

IN OUR CARE  
AT THE END OF THE  
FINANCIAL YEAR

## Dogs and Puppies

**1,146**

IN OUR CARE  
2017-2018

**862**

REHOMED

**150**

EUTHANISED  
(MEDICAL AND  
BEHAVIOURAL)

**14**

RECLAIMED

**120**

IN OUR CARE  
AT THE END OF THE  
FINANCIAL YEAR

## Other animals (livestock, pocket pets, birds, native animals, etc)

**139**

IN OUR CARE  
2017-2018

**87**

REHOMED

**32**

EUTHANISED  
(MEDICAL AND  
BEHAVIOURAL)

**0**

RECLAIMED

**20**

IN OUR CARE  
AT THE END OF THE  
FINANCIAL YEAR

## Behaviour



**155**  
CATS



**86**  
DOGS

WERE PUT THROUGH  
BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION

## Inspectorate



**1292** COMPLAINTS WERE  
RECEIVED BY THE INSPECTORATE.

**1944** ATTENDANCES BY AN  
INSPECTOR WERE CONDUCTED TO  
INVESTIGATE THESE COMPLAINTS.

**59** NOTICES OF DIRECTION WERE  
ISSUED UNDER SECTION 24N OF  
THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO  
ANIMALS ACT 1979.

**29** PENALTY NOTICES WERE  
ISSUED TO OFFENDERS.





## Bequests

Animal Welfare League NSW would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the following supporters who have left a lasting legacy by leaving a gift in 2017-18.

- Banwell, Frances Elizabeth
- Barrie, Bill/Joy (Trust)
- Boczek, Amy Jane
- Butcher, Webster
- Callinan, Dorelle Nola
- Cameron, Kathleen Theresa
- Davies, John James
- Esson, Margaret Munro
- Fisher, Enid Grace
- Fitzhardinge, Julie
- Fox, Warren William
- Fraser, Donald
- Gibson, Irene
- Gleeson, Jack Joseph
- Grainger, Beth
- Harlow, Kenneth Dudley
- Haver, Dianne Margaret
- Heney, John
- Holly, Dulcie Helen
- Hudson, Fay Una
- Hutchinson, Bronwyn
- Kingston, Marion Armstrong
- Leonoff, Laura
- McBean, Esther
- McGarry, Sivan
- McKervery, Frederica Ruth
- Mennell, Olga
- Paddock, Gwyneth
- Parnell, Joan Felicia
- Paterson, Alisa Mavis
- Phillips, Norman Alan
- Podesta, Dorina May
- Price, Kathleen
- Proctor, Karin Agneta
- Relton, Wendy Jennifer
- Selg, Ellen
- Sutton, Doris May
- Theodore, Olga Gloria
- Towers, Maurice
- Verbeek, Marlena
- Walsh, Kerrie Laraine
- Ward, Helen Anne
- Webber, Joan Maug



# Treasurer's Report

Animal Welfare League NSW made a profit of \$328,535 in the financial year ending 2017/18 (Loss of \$1,104, 710 in the 2016/17 period). The reason for the positive turnaround in results from the previous year is due to increase in bequest income receipts of \$1.3M over the previous year. The five-year average on bequest income is \$4.3M per annum. See the following table.

## Bequests and Legacy receipts

5 Year Average	4,323,508
2018	4,512,102
2017	3,186,609
2016	6,650,808
2015	3,041,447
2014	4,226,574

## Financial Goals

The most important goal is to have sufficient cash flow to allow AWL NSW to continue to provide a high level of animal care and have sufficient cash buffer to weather future uncertainties. Fortunately, this goal was met in the 2017/18 financial year due to the level of bequest income received. The Board has worked on creating a sustainable financial model implementing a 5-year plan with cash flows to support operations to move away from relying heavily on bequests and legacies.

## Income

Bequests and legacies continue to be a significant component of AWL NSW's income representing 57.10% of total income. 2018 was another challenging year for fundraising as we look to focus and building on our brand equity through increasing our donor and supporter base. Other income was \$410K or 5.2% of total income, see details of other income under Note 1 to the abridged financial statements. Total income from all sources was \$7.9M. If we deduct the overhead cost of fundraising and corporate office, then we can proudly say that 76% 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 2018	\$	%
Bequests and Legacy received	4,512,102	57.10%
Fundraising	991,299	12.53%
Animal placements	428,131	5.41%
Boarding	104,696	1.32%
Donations	142,600	1.80%
Grants	190,657	2.41%
Interest income	188,383	2.38%
Memberships	18,647	0.24%
Merchandise	104,682	1.32%
Op-shop	136,432	1.72%
Vet fees	667,221	8.43%
Gain on sale of assets	11,339	0.14%
Other income	410,356	5.20%
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>7,906,545</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Expenditure

Expenditure decreased by \$385K overall from the previous year, the two largest line items with decreases in expenditure were salaries and wages at \$205K due to the closure of Ingleside Shelter as well, legal and professional fees at \$286K and other expenses \$121K. For a detailed breakdown of other expenses, refer to Note 2 of the abridged financial statements. 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 2018	\$	%
Advertising and promotion	11,666	0.15%
Consumables	345,346	4.56%
Contract fees	164,213	2.17%
Depreciation	979,959	12.93%
Food and board of animals	80,527	1.06%
Fundraising expenses	41,104	0.54%
Legal and professional fees	115,813	1.53%
Motor vehicle expenses	49,943	0.66%
Repairs maintenance	102,612	1.35%
Salaries and wages	3,728,462	49.20%
Telephone	94,998	1.25%
Vet fees		
• branches	673,908	8.89%
• shelter external	67,276	0.90%
Other expenses	1,122,183	14.81%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>7,578,010</b>	<b>100%</b>

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

Dr David Hope *Director/Treasurer*

# Abridged Financial Statements

Full audited accounts are available upon request

The auditor for Animal Welfare League NSW is Hall Chadwick

## Statement of Financial Position

Our net assets improved by \$5.6M over the previous year with \$5.3M coming from increases in property valuations. \$2.2M was spent on property, plant and equipment assets during the year, including purchase of a property at Bargo for \$1.55M and \$473K spent on renovations at our vet clinic at Kemps Creek. Financial assets increased by \$299K over the previous years and related to a bequeathed share portfolio and investment fund worth \$311K at 30th June 2018. Current liabilities decreased during the year by \$139K over the previous year including decreases in employee provision expenses of \$43K and \$96K in accounts payable and other payable expenses.

	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,724,890	1,119,597
Receivables and other debtors	170,370	30,317
Other current assets	134,780	130,436
Financial assets	311,532	12,929
Investments	6,578,868	8,717,618
Intangible assets	22,421	7,156
Property, plant and equipment	15,483,992	8,903,950
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>24,426,853</b>	<b>18,922,003</b>

## LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and other payables	323,165	419,376
Provisions	224,565	267,480
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>547,730</b>	<b>686,856</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>23,879,123</b>	<b>18,235,147</b>

## MEMBERS' EQUITY

Reserves	8,694,525	3,379,084
Retained surplus	15,184,598	14,856,063
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>23,879,123</b>	<b>18,235,147</b>

## Statement of Financial Performance

	NOTE	2018 (\$)	2017 (\$)
<b>INCOME</b>			
Bequests and Legacy received		4,512,102	3,186,609
Fundraising		991,299	1,108,344
Animal placements		428,131	481,314
Boarding		104,696	315,867
Donations		142,600	205,697
Grants		190,657	168,910
Interest income		188,383	226,210
Memberships		18,647	19,875
Merchandise		104,682	82,102
Op-shop		136,432	111,474
Vet feesz		667,221	636,073
Gain on sale of assets		11,339	2,289
Other income	1	410,356	313,764
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>7,906,545</b>	<b>6,858,528</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Advertising and promotion		11,666	19,244
Consumables		345,346	361,625
Contract fees		164,213	209,826
Depreciation		979,959	1,002,956
Food and board for animals		80,527	98,201
Fundraising expenses		41,104	125,046
Legal and professional fees		115,813	383,812
Motor vehicle expenses		49,943	42,795
Repairs and maintenance		102,612	100,076
Salaries and wages		3,728,462	3,933,337
Telephone		94,998	87,228
Vet fees			
· branches		673,908	544,507
· shelter external		67,276	53,336
Other expenses	2	1,122,183	1,001,249
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>7,578,010</b>	<b>7,963,238</b>
<b>Profit/(Loss) before income tax</b>		<b>328,535</b>	<b>(1,104,710)</b>



# Breakdown of Income and Expenses

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	(\$)	(\$)
<b>Note: 1 Breakdown of other income</b>		
External training	736	6,191
Rent	14,009	7,543
Sponsorship	1,775	11,985
Sundry income	37,961	70,013
Insurance claim reimbursement	156,000	-
Surrender fee	21,875	41,648
Corporate giving	38,319	59,544
Workplace/corporate giving	36,305	29,483
Corporate giving AWLA	100,897	87,357
Investment gain/loss	2,479	-
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>410,356</b>	<b>313,764</b>

## EXPENSES

<b>Note: 2 Breakdown of other expenses</b>		
Accommodation	16,017	9,549
Audit fees	19,139	17,300
AWLA	30,849	24,607
Bad debts expense	16,590	16,662
Bank charges	16,205	16,529
Companion Animal Desexing Scheme (CADS)	1,020	23,333
Cleaning	16,290	16,241
Computer	57,445	61,797
Consultancy expenses	154,005	33,207
Donations	2,350	-
Electricity	52,355	51,337
Events	2,638	2,096
FBT expense	23,937	4,021
Gas	16,095	26,937
Hire	13,441	29,956
Insurance	99,100	104,423
Legacy and bequest expenses	14,550	5,812
Licence and filing fees	1,537	1,185
Media	8,638	-
Meeting expenses	35,722	12,256
Membership	13,766	10,051
Merchandise	66,973	63,274
Microchips	4,209	4,028
Office supplies and equipment	26,312	39,393
OH&S	7,762	2,995
Publications and printing	69,558	42,569
Postage	47,417	71,144
Recruitment fees	18,061	31,338
Rent	31,002	25,503
Staff training, uniform and amenities	53,062	15,434
Sponsorship expenses	-	11,923
Sundry expenses	53,112	104,937
Trade waster	50,651	64,907
Travel	74,857	48,939
Water	7,518	7,566
<b>TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,122,183</b>	<b>1,001,249</b>

# Key Initiatives in 2017-2018

- To ensure AWL NSW is able to provide the best care possible to our cats and kittens, we are developing a new state-of-the-art cattery. The new facility will provide optimum care and housing for our feline friends, catering to their individual wants and needs. The cattery features will include floor-to-ceiling play areas, multi-level climbing and hiding areas, plus spacious housing for individual cats, bonded pairs or families. The cattery has received extensive input from our behaviourists; and will allow the team 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. The cattery will also offer a new retail space, and updated reception area, as well as kitten play rooms, a veterinary area and more. The completion date is expected to be mid-2019.

“Our key initiatives are foundation to the efficacy of our work. These new focuses underpin a time of positive change for Animal Welfare League NSW. I envision a bright future for Animal Welfare League NSW and look forward to the year ahead.”

**MARK SLATER, CEO**



- The 2017-2018 period saw the appointment of Mark Slater as the CEO for AWL NSW. Mark has employed multiple functional changes as well as renewed our organisation's focus on our branches and supporting our members. Effort to establish new commercial relationships to further our cause have also been a priority.



- Animal Welfare League NSW has been focusing on the inspectorate team and their work within the community in regards to educating members of the public and assisting them with caring for their pets, ensuring the animals welfare is at the forefront.
- Animal Welfare League NSW has also focused on establishing better support networks for our carers within the foster care network.

*Chief Inspector Sarah Stimson with Nitro*







# Celebrating 60 years of Animal Welfare League NSW making a difference

Just over sixty years ago, a group of prominent animal lovers attended the first ever meeting of Animal Welfare League NSW, with bright hopes of advocating on behalf of animals across the state.

The core focus of AWL NSW in its infancy was investigating animal cruelty, although it's advertisements from the 1950s also had a strong anti-euthanasia bent.

In its first year, the fledgling organisation faced many hurdles – it was denied an annual grant by the NSW government, and could not access tax or stamp duty requirements, with many politicians questioning the need for two societies devoted to animals in the state.

However, there were some early successes to celebrate, with 300 members and 1,245£ banked after twelve months. AWL NSW finally received its first government grant of 500£ in 1960 – quite a significant amount of money for the time.

The organisation's public profile was boosted by extensive media coverage of animal cruelty cases it investigated, with founding Inspector Mole gracing the pages of Sydney papers regularly.

Inspector Mole and his colleagues investigated concerns relating to all types of animals. An early case includes prosecution for a Paddy's Market dealer who kept 62 chickens in an overcrowded crate, leading to a fine for 7£.

In a 1959 article that is eerily reminiscent of recent headlines, AWL NSW successfully prosecuted two greyhound trainers for using a live rabbit as lure bait. The trainers were fined 5£ each.

While the Inspectorate was flourishing, fundraising was starting to pick up too, with a Ladies Auxiliary supporting AWL NSW in the city, holding stalls at Central and Wynyard stations to raise awareness.





The branches were also developing, with the first ever AWL NSW branch formed in Armidale in 1963.

Over the years, there were numerous attempts at finding a property suitable for an Animal Care Centre that would allow the AWL NSW to expand its rehoming efforts.

After many false starts, including a temporary shelter in Turramurra in 1980, AWL NSW purchased the 'Oleander Park' boarding kennels in West Hoxton and remains operational to this day.

The organisation's main shelter, located in Kemps Creek, was completed in 2008 and has recently been renovated with a new dog walking track and a veterinary isolation unit. AWL NSW is currently building a brand new cattery which is due to open mid-2019. The shelter welcomes thousands of animals through its doors every year, for quality veterinary and behavioural care prior to rehoming.



True to its roots, the AWL NSW has also maintained its Inspectorate department, and the branch system remains strong with 16 different branches around the state.

As we move into our 61st year of operation, we remember the principles that AWL NSW was first founded upon, and would like to thank members of the public for their support over the years, as we journey towards making New South Wales a kinder place for all animals.

Here's to the next 60 years of making a difference in improving Animal Welfare!





# In Loving Memory

Animal Welfare League NSW would like to express its gratitude to the following individuals who dedicated their lives to improve the welfare of animals in their local communities. We appreciate all of their hard work and commitment, and thank them for their legacy in helping those in need.

## **BARBARA DORMAN**

Barbara was an amazing member of the Eurobodalla volunteer branch, dedicating most of her time to care for animals in the community, as well as coordinate the local community assistance programs which saw more animals receive important veterinary care.

## **MARY PICKERING**

Mary was one of the founding members who worked tirelessly to establish the North Coast volunteer branch. As a dedicated and passionate member, Mary was vital in the successful fundraising efforts, as well as helping with the local op-shop and establishing the cattery.

## **PATRICIA ALEY GOTCH**

Patricia was an outstanding life member of the Western Suburbs volunteer branch dedicating over 40 years of volunteering to Animal Welfare League NSW and assisting over 3,000 animal rescues. During her time, Pat helped established a community desexing program which encouraged members of the public to desex their pets. The program assisted low-income earners to help desex their pets to reduce the amount of unwanted litters. Pat's community efforts have pioneered the way for other AWL NSW volunteer branches who now also follow the same or a similar program.



### A Shelter Dog's Poem



Once upon a time, you see,  
there was a little pup:

For reasons unbeknownst to me,  
his family gave him up.

Maybe it was chewing everything that he could find  
Maybe they were busy and just didn't have the time.

They took him to the shelter and they just left him there  
Outside, alone, in the cage shivering and scared.  
Even though they knew inside, if he went through those doors  
He may never have the chance to find a home like yours.

He sat there crying silently wondering what he did  
That was so bad that they just had to leave him like they did.  
However fate was smiling on that little pup that day

Because a lady named Pat saw him and she whisked him right  
away. He got a second chance at life that others may have not

And now he's in a loving home with everything he wants.

Every day he gets that love that he was looking for  
And silently is thankful for when Pat walked  
through that door.



# Stories

## PRINCESS

Given away for free online, kept in a small backyard with no water, and then left to suffer with a leg injury and no vet treatment; the tragic story of Princess is one that our Inspectors will never forget. AWL NSW Inspector Jamie Wakefield first met Princess back in May, after receiving not one but two neglect complaints about her. The first tip off was from a concerned neighbour who noticed Princess was kept in a small residential backyard with no fresh water to drink, but when Jamie visited the property to check on Princess, the backyard was empty. No horse to be found. It seemed Princess and Inspector Wakefield were fated to meet though, as just a few weeks later, we received another report about a horse on an agistment property in a nearby suburb that had a serious untreated leg wound – the very same horse that AWL NSW had tried to help previously. Princess had a serious wound on her lower left leg that we guessed had been caused by a barbed wire slash, and desperately needed veterinary treatment to prevent it from becoming infected. Sadly, Princess' owner had all but abandoned her – not long after procuring the horse on an online trading post website (where she was listed as 'free to a good home'). They had moved hours away with no plans for her future care. Due to her precarious medical condition, immense pain and the failure of her owner to provide adequate care for Princess, she was seized and came into the custody of Animal Welfare League NSW. In our care Princess received much-needed surgery for her leg wound performed by an equine specialist vet, and over time Princess healed to unveil a beautiful 3-year-old horse with a sweet personality, and a fondness for Inspector Wakefield. ●



## SHADY

Shady, a senior staffy, had been living in shelter kennels since her previous owners surrendered her in early 2017. She was first surrendered to a different animal care facility, then transferred to our organisation in June 2017. The reason she was surrendered was devastating, but sadly all too common. Her owners got a newer, shinier, younger dog and when the duo didn't get along, Shady was the one who got shafted. Years of devotion, loyalty and memory-making were repaid with a one-way trip to the shelter. Shady watched her family walk out the door, and couldn't understand why they weren't coming back for her. In a shelter environment, and like many other staffies, Shady was pegged as the 'boring' forgotten dog, who blended in with her brindle fur and advanced age, making many adopters look past her before even getting to know her wonderful qualities. Shady became our longest-term shelter dog after being looked over time and time again. After almost a year of waiting, Shady was finally adopted and has been with her loving new family ever since. ●



## MILKO

A tiny, scruffy white terrier was brought into our vet clinic by a Good Samaritan who found him on the side of the road with a bulging, painful-looking left eye and no owner in sight. With tufts of dirty fur covering much of his face, one eye was crusted with pus and blood. In addition to his obvious eye injury, Milko was riddled with fleas and was incredibly fearful of humans. An examination by our veterinary staff revealed that Milko's eye had been so badly damaged that it was barely functional, with no other option than to remove it. After the surgery, Milko became a brighter, happier dog that was no longer in pain and eager to accept human affection – a changed dog! Milko's story demonstrates the impact that such severe pain can have on an animal's overall wellbeing and behaviour, and the reason why it is so critical for homeless dogs and cats to receive vet treatment. After many attempts of trying to find Milko's owners, no one came forward for him. Milko's story however, has a happy ending with a perfect new home available as soon as he was better. ●



## HARMONY

Thousands of puppies are born into substandard conditions every year, and some of them even find their way to shelters like Animal Welfare League NSW. We received a tip-off from a concerned member of the public, reporting a property where the filth was almost indescribable. Amongst the despair, was Red the kelpie, who lived with two other dogs (one male and female), and had to fight for scraps of food to prevent herself from starving; a tragic and terrifying situation that no expectant mother should ever be in. When it was finally time for her to give birth, Red delivered her seven puppies under a dirty boat and had to live with the constant stress of protecting her little bundles from the other two dogs. In the meantime, the dogs' owner didn't notice that Red had given birth. The seven tiny puppy faces were quite the surprise to our Inspector when she visited the property, expecting only to be checking up on 3 adult dogs. Hearing the puppies' whimpers before she saw them, our Inspector had to crawl under a filthy boat with a torch and drag the tiny dogs out one by one, before bringing them (and Red) back to Animal Welfare League NSW. The smallest puppy was named Harmony who was the clear runt of the litter and struggled to latch onto her mum. As if that wasn't hard enough for the embattled puppy, as the days went by, we noticed that Harmony had developed an abscess on her hind leg and was failing to gain weight at the pace we would have liked her to. Our team at the AWL NSW vet clinic began supplement feeding her, drained the abscess and placed her on a course of antibiotics but Harmony was still struggling, as her siblings constantly pushed her off the teat. Harmony was placed in foster care where she began to gain weight and soon her leg was in a reasonable enough state to be x-rayed. The results were upsetting – despite the expert care she received, the initial infection in her leg had spread to her bone. Saving Harmony's life was dependent upon one thing – amputating her leg. As you can imagine, surgery is difficult and taxing on such a young animal, and so we had to wait a few weeks for the minuscule pup to gain even more weight and strength. You might expect a newly amputated animal to be disoriented or depressed, but Harmony was quickly back into action after her surgery. Because her leg had always been a source of pain, its removal only helped her move freely. AWL NSW knows there is no life too small, old, young, or too difficult to save. Wherever we can, we help all animals, and provide support and comfort where they may have otherwise suffered in pain. ●





# Branches

## EASTERN SUBURBS

In the last financial year, we have been able to desex 85 cats and 3 dogs, as well as assisting a further 25 pet owners with treatment costs. We are extremely grateful for all of the support we have received from the local community. It has helped our small group of active members achieve amazing goals. Thank you to the hardworking committee, we look forward to the year ahead.

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## EUROBODALLA



The year has been a challenging one. Our President Gabe Eichler moved out of the area, our Fundraising Officer Lisa Patrick went travelling overseas, and our Welfare Officer Ann Duffy stepped down. Our amazing Community Assisting Desexing Officer Barbara Dorman passed away, as did our dedicated volunteer Donna Vuksan whose lovely doggy biscuits will be missed by our four-legged friends. Over the last year, we would like to thank local newspapers and radio stations who have assisted us, as well as businesses that have held fundraising functions for us, and those that have our donation boxes on their counters. All of the money raised goes to the companion animals in our care, plus helping with our desexing subsidies program.

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## FAR SOUTH COAST

Our branch began a new project in the Wallaga Lake Koori Village, which hopes to improve the health and wellbeing of dogs and cats within the community. Funds have been secured to desex, vaccinate and provide worming treatment. Vet practices are involved, and the plan will be for them to oversee the general care and wellbeing of the animals at the village with monthly visits. There are hopes the project will lead to some members of the community gaining qualifications at TAFE NSW for their Animal Care qualifications.

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## GREAT LAKES AND MANNING

Over the last year, our biggest achievement was three desexing drives which desexed over 650 cats and dogs. 'Kitten season' showed no signs of slowing in the area, thus launching the first targeted desexing program. Throughout the year we also assisted 117 pets of low-income owners with urgent vet expenses. Our branch rehomed 90 cats and dogs. Our op-shops renovation in 2017 has had a positive impact on sales being a great source of revenue for the Branch. Our appreciation goes out to all those who assist our branch.

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## HAWKESBURY VALLEY

Our main focus over the year was to promote responsible pet ownership and to communicate our key desexing messages. During National Desexing month (July) 500 desexing vouchers were written. Vets estimate that 1,000 to 1,400 unwanted kittens were prevented. In accordance with the local council, microchipping days gave us the opportunity to inform the community about our subsidised desexing program. Adding to our normal activities, we attended the Hawkesbury District Agricultural Society Show, which gave us a wonderful opportunity to engage with the local community. Our branch also participated in a joint effort to provide food for working dogs and dog coats for newborn lambs in the Collarenebri area who are drought affected.



## ILLAWARRA

The Illawarra branch spent a lot of time this last year focusing on encouraging our locals to have their pets desexed, with our assistance. Our inbox has been consistently busy with requests for financial help. The branch continues to ramp up exposure of the service with our 'Spay in May' program. All in all, another busy year, and we all look forward to continuing to make a difference in the future.

## MOREE



Our branch has had an extremely successful year. We still have minimal foster carers. One for our cats/kittens and two for our dogs and puppies. As well as this we travel to country pounds, collecting animals on death row. We have again been overwhelmed with the numbers of puppies needing rescue and as usual are battling with emotional, financial and physical consequences of the parvovirus in our area. We are very proud that we were able to host AWL NSW Vets, Staff and helpers to Moree offering free microchipping, vaccination, flea and worming treatment and desexing. Thankfully we are also still managing to get many animals adopted.



## NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB

NDTC offers weekly classes in Obedience, Agility and Rally Obedience for handlers and their animals. We have had a record 130 handlers registered

# Branches

for classes. We have educational programs promoting positive reinforcement and gentle handling techniques, skills that enable dog's owners to build a strong, happy and long lasting relationships with their animals. On Saturday 21st April 2018, NDTC ran a successful Family Fun Day – a free public event with canine demonstrations, games and sales of dog equipment, complemented by a coffee van and cake stall. NDTC contributed \$1,000 to the 2018 AWL Christmas Appeal and \$500 to the 2018 AWL Drought Relief Appeal.

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## NORTH COAST

Adoptions' (48) were two less than in previous years including 32 kittens. Our assisted desexing program saw 224 dogs, and 162 cats carried out through 20 Veterinary Practices between Mullumbimbi and Bellingen. Generous donations, plus ten successful fundraising events, covered branch operating costs. A one-off donation of two full-size pages in a local newspaper as well as weekly advertising of our featured felines ready for adoption. To mark AWL NSW 60th anniversary donation of pet food packs were distributed to appropriate owners of dogs and cats through local community food outlets. A supportive community and dedicated branch volunteers led to a successful year.

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## NOWRA-JERVIS BAY



We have been very active with adoptions. Our Facebook page has also been getting more traction and has assisted with the rehoming of numerous animals. Our Branch has a garage sale that not only raised funds, but also found a gorgeous mature cat her forever home. Our Christmas raffle raised just over \$1600. In December we also held a desexing drive which was extremely successful. Our kitten room at South Nowra Veterinary Clinic has increased our adoptions. Our branch is looking forward to the year ahead and following up on some amazing opportunities. Thank you to all volunteers and staff that assisted our branch in making it through the year.

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## ORANGE

Inception occurred in September 2018; we never anticipated how much the community in the Central West would need us and how big we would grow. In this short time we have assisted the rescue of 102 dogs and puppies, rehoming 43 animals and currently have 80 animals in care. 16 animals who are already on trial or have confirmed adoptions. Majority of the work by our branch revolves around surrenders and rescues from our local council pounds. We have also had the opportunity to assist pregnant mothers and their newborns. We have been challenged both financially and emotionally throughout the year, but we are so proud of ourselves and what we have achieved. We are looking forward to a successful year ahead.

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## SHOALHAVEN



It has been another successful year in Shoalhaven. Our workload has increased by at least 150%. Each month we hold a desexing day which the council attend to assist with ownership registration. Unfortunately, we do not have many carers as part of our branch. We have been assisted by the Kemps Creek Shelter and other branches for a number of animals surrendered. This is a new and successful initiative. Our veterinary costs have increased by 30% this year. Our Homeless People and Their Pets program for desexing and rehoming in the Shoalhaven is still successful, and our branch continues to support the local region with care, respect and skill.

## TAMWORTH

Despite setbacks throughout the year, our branch has stayed strong and determined with no thought of giving up and now have a great branch! Our desexing program is thriving. We have a small number of carers and volunteers; they are amazing! We would also like to mention how grateful we are to Bunnings for all of their amazing support, with events such as 'family night'. The local pound currently rehomes animals without mandatory desexing which has seen us launch a program where we desex and vaccinate two animals that have been adopted from the pound each month. We appreciate all the support we have received, at current our local community is suffering to such a degree due to the drought causing great loss to many families.

## WESTERN SUBURBS AND HILLS DISTRICT

Western Suburbs have had a very busy 2018. Desexing animals throughout the Inner Western Areas. We have found the need to desex cat colonies great; we reduced our cost to encourage feeders to try and trap and desex. We see the problem stemming from street cats having kittens and the cycle continuing when those kittens are also having kittens. Unless we can stem the problem from where it starts our programs to help cats will never end. We have an amazing group of volunteers that are always ready to go the extra mile. We have desexed over 2000 animals in the 2017/18 period. We have placed 111 cats/kittens and 5 dogs into new homes. We aim to educate people and encourage people to vaccinate their animals.



# Corporate Sponsors

Animal Welfare League NSW would like to thank our corporate sponsors for their ongoing support. Their generosity does not go unnoticed and enables us to care for, and assist a greater number of animals. On behalf of the staff, volunteers and animals at Animal Welfare League NSW we thank you.

## Bayer Animal Health

Supporting AWL NSW by providing treatment for our shelter animals to help prevent unwanted illness and provide parasite protection.



## Purina Pet Care

Supporting AWL NSW by donating food to help feed and care for the dogs and cats that come through our doors each year.



## JB HI-FI Helping Hands

Supporting AWL NSW by contributing funds via their Helping Hands Program and sponsorship through AWLA.



## Armstrong Legal

Supporting AWL NSW by providing our Inspectors with legal support when prosecuting cases.



## Bunnings

Supporting AWL NSW by providing assistance through the donation of goods and services.




## PETstock

Supporting AWL NSW by holding adoption days and promoting the work we do in the community.







"We can do more than we give ourselves credit for. Everyday I marvel at the aggregated capacity of our branch network, staff, volunteers and corporate supporters. With this platform, our ability to further expand into the future is assured."

MARK SLATER, CEO





### **Kemps Creek Shelter and Veterinary Hospital**

1605 Elizabeth Drive, Kemps Creek NSW 2178  
PO Box 308, Kemps Creek NSW 2178

**Call us on 02 8899 3333**

**Or visit [www.awlnsw.com.au](http://www.awlnsw.com.au)**

### **Branch locations**

- Batemans Bay Dog Training Club
- Central Coast
- Eastern Suburbs
- Eurobodalla
- Far South Coast
- Great Lakes and Manning
- Hawkesbury Valley
- Illawarra
- Moree
- Narooma Dog Training Club
- North Coast
- Nowra-Jervis Bay
- Orange
- Shoalhaven
- St George Sutherland Shire
- Tamworth
- Western Suburbs and Hills District

**Report**  
animal cruelty  
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AWL NSW on  
**02 8899 3333**

