

CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF N.S.W.

November, 1978

Registered Charity No. CC 17122

P.O. Box A523,
SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

PATRON

The Hon. Sir Robert Askin, G.C.M.G.

COMMITTEE

President: Mr. Ronald Carberry, B.E.M.
Vice-Presidents: Mr. Geoffrey Luton and
Mr. William Graham
Honorary Secretary: Mrs. Shirley Bowles
Honorary Treasurer: Mrs. Judith Graham
Minute Secretary: Mrs. Sue Hitchen
Members: Mrs. Leonore Bowman,
Mrs. Sybil Cozens,
Miss Thea Dullo,
Mrs. Beulah Harvey, Mrs. Celie Smith

Please
Remember us



in your will

SPECIAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES to be held on SUNDAY, 26TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1978, AT CITY OF SYDNEY R.S.L. CLUB, 569 GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY, COMMENCING AT 12.30 P.M. to consider and if thought fit to adopt by Special Resolution Memorandum and Articles of Association copies of which have been available for inspection at the Registered Office of the Society and other places as per notice to members dated August, 1978.

Proxy votes are allowable if in the hands of the Secretary forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting.

By order of the State Council S. Bowles, Hon. Secretary

NOTICE OF MEETING

A GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES will be held on SUNDAY, 26TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1978, AT CITY OF SYDNEY R.S.L. CLUB, 569 GEORGE ST., SYDNEY, COMMENCING AT 2 P.M.

BUSINESS

1. Read and confirm Minutes of April, 1978, General Meeting.
2. Business arising.
3. Tri-Annual Report.
4. Treasurer's Report
5. General Business

Proxy votes are allowable if in the hands of the Secretary forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting.

By order of the State Council S. Bowles, Hon. Secretary

THANKYOU, CITY OF SYDNEY R.S.L., FOR USE OF THE MEETING ROOM.

Dear Fellow Members,

Your generous response to, and appreciation of the August bumper newsletter gave a lift to all of Committee. Whilst attempting to condense this issue, we have again expanded to accommodate all contributions which we feel are of interest and appeal to all readers.

The following pages contain a variety of articles which include - "President's Report", an up-to-date resume of the Society's activities, by Mr. Carberry; a piece by Mrs. Smith on "Desexing and those nasty tom cats"; "Book Review" and more of "Cockney Cats" by Mrs. Bowman; "Letters to the Editor"; "Central Coast Calling" by Mrs. Haines; a report on fund-raising activities by Mrs. Cozens; "In Memoriam" and "Memory Lane"; Editorial Comment; a nostalgic Xmas story set in the thirties; plus other items which should contain plenty of food for thought.

Members are reminded that all contributions are welcome and will be considered for inclusion in following newsletters.

Hoping you enjoy your newsletter and may you all have a happy Xmas.
The Editor.

WOOL. Mrs. Beulah Harvey of Committee, wishes to thank all those who so kindly responded to her request for wool. She says more is still needed, also braids, ribbons, trimmings, materials etc. All to be used in making goods for fund raising. Members who can help in this way are requested to contact Mrs. Harvey - 662 6085 - or Box A523, Sydney South.

TRI-ANNUAL REPORT

NOVEMBER, 1978

Dear Member,
PREAMBLE.

TIME BRINGS AN END TO ALL THINGS

As I mentioned at the Annual meeting, many years have passed me by and the gap narrows bringing with it the desire to relinquish active participation in matters which have been part of my life, and particularly so relative to composition for the Newsletter. Let others contribute such excellent material as evidenced in the recent issue (Annual Report). However, Councillor Graham (the new constitution gives the Administrative Committee the title "State Council"), our Editor, has prevailed upon me to convey some thoughts for this edition and I set out the highlights and thinking behind the three most important issues bringing the Clinic to reality. You may be able to improve on such outlook? In their order is the Constitution, the Property and the Auxiliary. They are all links in a chain if the clinic is to be a successful enterprise which will continue on into the future - without

end. Our plan should be to consolidate our position as a compassionate voluntary organisation doing our share to fill an essential need within our community. I know that State Council and the members share my enthusiasm for more rapid growth and the sense of frustration with the lack of that basic necessity money-money-money. Many also share my vision and imagination which sees our first property as the forerunner of many such and a challenge to the Government to honour its pledge to "set up a pilot scheme for the desexing of domestic pets", and to others to emulate our example. In the long term I know that there is a bright future for the continuation of our work by the many messages conveyed to me by kindly and sympathetic folk who have made provision to repay in some measure the affection and happiness they have received from their animals. But it is now, while we are struggling to take our place, that our growth is governed by what you and I, individually and collectively, are prepared to give in effort, finance, enthusiasm and constructive thought within our experience, means and ability to tie the aforesaid three matters together as a completed whole. Come to the meeting, express your views, and advise me where my ideas for progress are weak.

CONSTITUTION. As previously stated in the Annual Report, the Corporate Affairs Commission had approved our application to be constituted as a legal corporation - but there were strings attached. The officer concerned phoned me and stated that part of Clause 3, object (1) relative to vivisection, was against the law. I was astounded, and particularly so with the inclusion of "by every lawful means" in the following object as follows, with that portion in question underlined:-
"To protect from cruelty, particularly vivisection, experimentation, research and exploitation for testing commercial products, by every lawful means, animals of all kinds, to relieve the suffering of animals arising from cruelty or otherwise, to prevent the wilful abandonment of animals, especially cats and kittens, and to strive for the desexing of all domestic cats." Unquote.

There was no way I would accept such a ruling, apart from the fact that the well-attended General Meeting in April, 1977, unanimously endorsed and voted for the insertion of such in our Memorandum. However, the officer stated that he was writing to me further, and I give that communication in part as follows, quote: "Your application for a license under S.24 (1) of the Companies Act, 1961, has been considered. As the objects of the Society, particularly object one, do not fall within the spirit and intendment of S.24, I am unable to favourably recommend to the Attorney General that the Society be granted a license to omit the word "Limited" from the proposed Company's name. If you desire Corporate status the option to register under S.14 of the said Act is available". Unquote.

The writer was not prepared to accept this attitude. Some years of experience went into the compilation of the work lodged for acceptance under Section 24. Then the whole was examined by learned legal Counsel and we both knew that there was no impediment in the finished product and that the objection was phoney. We applied for registration under Section 24 of the Act, as this is specially designed for charitable and similar organisations. It omits the word "Limited" from a company's name. Section 14 does not extend this privilege, and to have this tag on our name carries commercial overtones to prospective new members and those kind people who make provision in their Will for the future needs of our Society. "Limited" also implies that our members receive dividends or financial gain from profit (if any) of Society operations. The reverse is the case. The memorandum states that no member, from the President down, can receive one cent from our assets, all of which must be used for our aims and objects.

It was decided to by-pass the officer and a direct approach through other channels was made to the Attorney General. This brought an immediate response, in part as follows:- "Having given the matter my careful consideration, I am of the opinion that this is a proper case for the issue of a license as requested. I anticipate that the license will be submitted for my signature without delay. F.J. Walker, Attorney General".

While our efforts to come within the scope of the Companies Act have been beset with difficulty and delay, that is all now in the past and the cumbersome procedure of having de facto (Trustees) owners is at an end and we can now accept property, both real and personal, in our own right the same as you, the individual member, or the Royal Society and the Animal Welfare League, both of whom have had company status for some considerable time. It is part of the process of growing up. Some members have asked why become a company? Why not plod along as we were? Well, by becoming a corporation, a body comprising many persons bound together by legislation, we become an individual and as a body corporate we can sign a contract for a clinic property, we can enter into a mortgage to complete purchase and can do all manner of things with all the rights, privileges and obligations that I enjoy as an individual person. Previously, some person had to act as trustee and accept our obligation for failure to live up to a contract or obligation entered into.

THAT CLINIC PROPERTY. Now that we are a Corporate body and have the rights of an individual to take conveyance and enter into an obligation to secure a loan the first step has been taken in what was, until recently, an imaginary vision. Committee, in its wisdom, has delegated to the writer, with a background in building and real estate, and to Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Bowles, with experience in the latter field, the unenviable task of seeking that particular piece of property best suited to our needs and which can be financed on the slender resources at our

command. Having to adopt a Scrooge-like outlook does narrow considerably the price field we can enter and begin our search for that which, with vision and imagination, will allow structural alteration for the various segments we have in mind. The three basic necessities are - sufficient accommodation for our activities, constant pedestrian traffic past the premises for the "Opportunity" shop to finance those activities, and close proximity to a railway station for easy attendance for those lacking their own transport. Having solved those problems in the structure we select, the "ifs" take over --- if the vendor will grant an option for the approach to the local Council and if their zoning and attitude will grant the approval for our Clinic, which can be dependent on - if not too many shopkeeper neighbours object to a few felines meowing around the place, and our type of work. A further desirable feature would be "on property" parking for a number of vehicles and, for the future, caretaker accommodation.

The initial steps taken have been advertising under "Properties Wanted" in the Herald, with poor results, and letters to selected agents, with concentration on Ashfield as being geographically suitable for a large area of the Metropolitan area, and a very busy centre.

Under the various Planning Schemes applicable to all Local Government areas we would be unable to establish in "Residential" zoning and are pinning our hopes on "Commercial". Failing consent under this category, "Light Industrial" is the only avenue and that would be prohibitive cost-wise.

Eventually we come to that last important "if"- if someone will lend us the balance of purchase money and, as we are providing a selfless community service, one would naturally look to the Government to honour its most recent verbal promise to "initiate a pilot scheme for the desexing of domestic pets".

AUXILIARY. Assuming that we secure our premises, the last remaining and all important question is "How do we finance running costs and maintenance?". If one can take experience as a guide, income will fall short of expenses when we take over the added burden of "overhead" with Water and Municipal rates, telephone, electricity, gas, insurance, stationery, drugs, disinfectant, and the various hidden items; together with veterinary salary, and maintenance of the property, will add up to a hefty annual sum. We do know that, once established, such a foundation will give incentive and stimulus to the community to give, but there is always a short-fall in what we have and what we pay and that slack can only be taken up in two ways - in the long term by bequests, and in this regard I know there is a bright future; and in the short term the dearth of folding stuff can only be made good by that DEDICATED AUXILIARY WHO BELIEVE IN WHAT WE ARE DOING. I have been punching this line for over four years without success. I cannot believe that we differ from our sister Society whose ladies have produced \$17,000 from one shop over twelve months and many thousands of

dollars from a more recent addition. However, I now find that our girls will accept the challenge when we have the place to display the wide variety of goods we will receive, and they can display their charms and salesmanship --- without their help we will find it very difficult to survive as a going concern.

YOUR WILL HAS BEEN WRITTEN

Your Will has already been written - even if you have never had your Will prepared the way you want it - should you die without a Will with your signature correctly witnessed the State is prepared to disburse your estate. Not the way you would have done had you not neglected to leave a Will but, nevertheless, the estate you leave, large or small, will be distributed. Of course, your debts will be paid first. Nearest of kin will benefit. If there are no immediate family members, distant relatives will put in claims. Even some you would have disinherited will have valid claims. What about your charities? Not one will receive a penny. What about the animal causes so close and dear to your heart? They will not receive a cent. Animals have no voice in such matters. Only your voice can speak for them -- now -- and time marches on closing the gap for you and I. Want advice?

A JOB WELL DONE. At the 1974 election of Committee a fruitless appeal was made for some member to accept the position of Honorary Treasurer. So Mrs. Beulah Harvey, although lacking any real experience in the science of arithmetic or book-keeping, accepted the position pending some more competent person coming forward. However, notwithstanding the enormous growth in the matters to be recorded, money handled and correspondence received, Mrs. Harvey was stuck with the position for four years. Her lack of training was more than compensated for with dedication, enthusiasm and zeal which has reflected itself in four successive Financial Reports all of which mirror the excellent standard of her work.

So, as a measure of its appreciation and earnest desire to applaud, State Council have conferred on Mrs. Beulah Harvey Honorary Life Membership on her relinquishing those duties so that she can now again devote the whole of her time to her field work and associated matters.

As one door closes, another one opens, bringing A WARM WELCOME to Mrs. Judy Graham as Honorary Treasurer. Mrs. Graham brings to the position years of experience and training in the field of accountancy, together with unselfish devotion to our cause and the desire, I feel, to shine in the eyes of her asset - our Vice-President, Bill Graham.

MISS ELLIE MARGUERITE SCALIERY, late of Turramurra, who passed away in October, 1977, was a member of this Society over some years and she now speaks to us through her Will dated October, 1965. That document tells us the depth of her affection for animals and her regard for those whom she knew in the C.P.S., with a legacy to the Greek Society for the Protection of Animals, and \$5,000 to our Clinic Fund.

MRS. VIDA PRATT, late of Ermington, who passed away August, 1978, was one of our original members who gave her financial support to many kindred organisations and was active in welfare work over many years. Our work is the poorer for her passing.

The foregoing Report compiled for Committee by

R.K. Carberry

"IN MEMORIAM"

Donation in lieu of flowers - The late Mr. Ian Gow

Donation in lieu of flowers - The late Mr. W.A. Dullo

Inserted by Mrs. B. Harvey

In memory of a dear friend and cat lover, Miss Elsie Mason

Donation in lieu of flowers - Inserted by Miss Zena Kensey

In memory of a kind man, good story-teller and wine lover,

Sgt. Roy Hungerford, late N.S.W. Police, and Cessnock

Inserted by the Editor and Mrs. Graham

In loving memory of Mrs. Margaret Sutton who made many worthwhile contributions to help animals in need.

Donation in lieu of flowers

Inserted by Mrs. E.B. Smith on behalf of pussycat "Smiggin Sutton-Smith"

"DOWN MEMORY LANE"

Farewell "Suzie", 15 years of faithful and loving friendship. We do miss you so much. You have left us with a memory which we will keep in our hearts and cherish forever.

Inserted by Betty and Ted Holland.

Goodbye "M/s"

Inserted by the Editor

ADVERTISEMENT

CONTENTED CAT INN. Exclusive boarding accommodation for Cats only. Run by MEMBER, Mrs. D. Foster, the cattery is located at 1403 Old Northern Road, Glenorie (near Dural). Phone 652 1162. All cats are fed according to owners' instructions. Rates \$2.00 per day. Committee members, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Cozens, Mr. Graham and Mrs. Graham, have personally inspected this Cattery and were all impressed with the sunny, spacious and clean runs provided for cats fortunate enough to spend a holiday there. The cattery also has the endorsement of the Kuringai Animal Hospital.



Editorial Comment.

"The White Cat" - A Christmas yarn.

Most editorials deal with events that are contemporary, but the following story took place more than forty years ago. It happened on Xmas day, 1937, on a run-down homestead in North-western N.S.W. The people involved in this minor bush tragedy have all been dead these many years, all that is, except the central character, from whom I heard the story.

It was not a good year for country people on small selections such as this. It was a time of terrible drought, locusts in plague proportions lay like a dense carpet on the cracked and barren earth, and the effects of the great depression were still being felt. On this Xmas day of 1937 a small, barefoot boy, about 12 years old, sat idling in the scant shade of an old pear tree. As the boy gazed across the paddocks through the shimmering heat haze, he beheld in the far, far distance, what looked to be a small white creature of some kind, painfully making its way toward the homestead. When the apparition had drawn nearer, he could see that it was a small white cat, hobbling on three legs. When it finally reached the boy it placed itself in front of him and held up for his inspection the mangled remains of its left foreleg which was no more than a rotting stump and which gave off a fearful stench. The cat sat, her big eyes regarded the boy; they seemed to say; "Look, something awful has befallen me. Help me". To the boy it was obvious what had happened. She was not a wild cat and had probably strayed from some farm miles away and been caught in a rabbit trap. She must have been days in the trap before eventually chewing off her leg for she was starved. Her flanks were hollow and all her bones stood out sharply. The boy felt both pity and horror. Surely he could persuade his Uncle to harness old "Hugget" to the sulky and then they would take this poor trembling creature to the Vet in town and then, when she was well, he could make a special pet of her. He already had a dog and a collection of frogs, but this cat was unique - she had come to him out of nowhere and sought his help.

Several adults were gathered at the homestead for the traditional Xmas and the boy hurried to tell them of the white cat, but they had already observed the incident. The boy was stunned at the reaction as his pleas fell on deaf ears - "Get that stinking thing out of here. Go and fetch your BB gun and take that cat down by the creek and get rid of it for good. You're always making a pest of yourself shooting bottles off the cow-yard rails. Now do something useful with that gun and make sure that animal doesn't come back. We won't have it hanging about here". The boy knew that if his Father were here it would be different, but times were hard and his father was away in the bush anxiously seeking whatever odd jobs he could find.

So the boy took the gun and the cat and went down by the old dried up water course. Having placed the white cat among the rocks the boy, through his tears, commenced firing pellet after pellet at the cat's head, but she would not die and was in terrible pain. The boy had never killed any creature; he was not expert and was making a dreadful botch of the job. Frustrated and sick with horror at the cat's stubborn refusal to die, the boy took the gun by the barrel, and overcoming his terrible revulsion, bashed the cat to death. Then, trembling and sobbing, the boy slowly made his way back up the slope to the homestead to report the terrible deed done. He would never forget the way the white cat had purred in his arms as he carried her down to the creek to her death place.

And so the years passed and the big war came, and the boy went off to that war where he experienced other horrors and eventually did forget all about the white cat -----

On a day forty years later, a man travelling outback N.S.W. with his wife, found they were approaching the town of ten dollar note fame. He was keen to show his wife some of the scenes of his boyhood and he headed the car in the direction of his Grandad's old selection. The road which had once been composed of corrugated red earth and full of pot holes was now a well travelled bitumen highway. As they topped a rise he saw the old homestead in the distance, still standing, but abandoned and decrepit now. It was no longer a human habitat but had become a haven for bush creatures and the occasional wild fox. Leaving the car the couple walked across the paddocks until they reached the farm yard. To the man it was strange, after all those years, to be standing there in the place he had known so well as a boy. Old "Hugget's" stable still stood. Oddly, some of the harness still hung on its pegs, though rotted now. Over there was the dog's kennel, still in place just outside what had once been his bedroom window. Broken bottles still littered the ground just by the cow-yard.

As his wife rummaged about amid the ruins the man stood near where the old pear tree had once been and gazed out across the paddocks through the shimmering heat haze. He stared into a far, far distance that was not measurable in yards or miles but only in years. And as he stared out across those forty years, he remembered that barefoot kid that had once been he, and he fancied, though his sight seemed strangely misted, that he could see what appeared to be a small white creature of some kind, painfully making its way toward the homestead.

And that is all there is to the story of the white cat, except to say that it is a true story for I once knew that boy. Just one thing more before moving on to the problems of 1978 and leaving that barefoot boy back in 1937 where he belongs; I have always had a hatred of rabbit traps, that is, ever since I was a barefoot 12 year old, out old Gulgong way.

Abandoned Pets. This coming Xmas of 1978 many, many people will be guilty of callous, unthinking cruelty equal to, and worse than that meted out to the boy and the white cat. Animals will be left to fend for themselves, pets will be left without adequate food, water and shelter and many more strays will roam the streets whilst their owners will be enjoying holidays elsewhere. If you become aware of any such cases, don't stand idly by, report them!

XMAS APPEAL. The story of the white cat was just an incident that occurred many years ago, but in telling it for the first time I hoped to arouse compassion and stir resentment against any form of cruelty. Unfortunately, while governments and others in authority refuse to face up to their responsibilities, it is left to Societies such as ours to cajole, wheedle and beg for funds to carry out our desexing campaigns and to finance our own clinics. Therefore, as we are left to go it alone against a problem which affects the whole community, we ask you: Please, if you can, support our Xmas Appeal.

FUND RAISING AND RAFFLES. By Sybil Cozens of Committee, Phone 427-3828
The A.G.M. raffle of the Elizabeth Arden soap was won by Mr. A. Gillan, and \$17.00 was added to the record kept by our Treasurer.

"The Raffle". Please get your sold, or otherwise, books back to me at least one week before the General Meeting to be held on 26th November. We are going to draw the prizes, as you know, at this meeting. I want to personally thank Committee for the tremendous number of books sold - so many by so few. The proceeds should run to about \$300. Those dedicated raffle sellers on the Central Coast have requested some of my "raffle goodies" which I am despatching forthwith. I spoke of this in the last Newsletter in the hope that some members would organise their own raffles. Sometimes they can raise a lot of money.

The Country Barbecue held by Miss Coralie Edwards at Hilltop on the 16th September raised the magnificent sum of \$160. The sun shone after several days of dismal weather and the assembled gathering was entertained by Scottish bagpipes after a surfeit of delicious food and wine. Thankyou very much, Coralie, for organising such an enjoyable function.

A Fashion Parade will be held on Saturday, 2nd December, at the Hon. Secretary's home at 6 Taro St., Blakehurst. This is the ladies' chance to buy their summer wardrobe at "clearance" prices. Refreshments will be provided and the cost of this afternoon's outing is a mere \$1.50 per person. Please try to arrive at 1.30 p.m. so that the Parade can commence early, giving everyone the opportunity to try on the garments afterwards. Phone Mrs. Bowles on 546-1546 (evenings) to make your booking.

APPEAL FOR HOMES FOR CATS By Sybil Cozens 'Phone 427-3828

As I, and other members of Committee, are constantly being asked to place cats and kittens but never receiving requests for them, it might be an idea if you would let us know if you can give a home to a feline (and save it from euthanasia). There may be those among you who know of someone who would like a cat or kitten. Contact me or any Committee member and register your preferences. We may not be able to come up with a "Black Persian", "Blue Sealpoint" or common adorable "Tabs" immediately but given time will come up with the required "Puss". If desexing is necessary the Society will help in this regard.

ADVERTISEMENT

YOUR "BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY" PRODUCTS CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

TRUE HEALTH AIDS PTY. LTD.

443 George Street, Sydney

Mr. Vince Russell (Prop.)

Mr. Russell, who is a Life Member of the C.P.S. is to visit England where he plans to meet Lady Dowding and Mr. Piccioni, U.K. Manager of "Beauty Without Cruelty", to discuss aspects of B.W.C. in Australia.

More from "COCKNEY CATS" by Warren Tute & Felix Fonteyn. 1953.

Contributed by Len Bowman of Committee

"Old Bill of Blackfriars", the Railway or Station Cat, lived just across the way from "Tiger of the Times". Bill was a black and white, seven years old at that time. He got full measure of care and attention lavished upon him and spent most of his days gazing over across Queen Victoria Street in a somnolent fashion.

Blackfriars could not be said to be one of the more salubrious or attractive stations in London, but, as so often happens, the warmer-hearted and more human people worked in it. They had a whip round of pennies every week to keep Old Bill in a daily half-pint of milk and food. An old lady travelled through the station at 1.30 a.m. to present the station cat with a chicken carcass each night. Small wonder that night time was the time for Bill - then he really came alive. Cats have idiosyncrasies just like humans. Perhaps because he arrived as a bedraggled and frightened kitten, or because of a natural caution of London traffic, Old Bill was never known to cross the road - yet on some

mornings he would be sitting under the bridge on the other side. To do this he had to descend to the Underground Station, walk along the subway like any other commuter and emerge safe and sound on the other side.

CENTRAL COAST CALLING: By Dorothy Haines (Hon. Secretary)

Busy mainly desexing and placing all the little wards in our Kitty Clinic into loving homes. Many requests for kittens but, being out of season, had just to take the orders. We feel pretty certain that quite soon the supply will again exceed the demand - up here in midsummer they are as plentiful as stone fruit, and rather harder to absorb. Had a most successful Spring stall at Umina on Sat. Sept. 30th - netted \$235. We would like to thank the Sydney Committee ladies for their kind help in selling our raffle tickets. We seem bitten with the "Stall Bug" and have booked the final one for the year - Saturday, 18th November, at Umina. We offer the kind public Xmas gifts and summer plants.

We are holding a "Mystery Bus Tour" to the Northern beaches, including a Xmas cake splurge at Sara Lee kitchens, a visit to Burbank flower nurseries, a wine-tasting, lunching al fresco at Toukley - on the 26th October. Even the Committee may cast care aside this day, and enjoy some of the "fun" promised on the trip??

A couple of Sydney Committee members have been really good scouts in helping us over some of our problems recently, and transported a particularly worrying pussycat who had to be caged up to prevent her returning to her previous home where the folk had become bored with animals and threatened her with a really sticky end. However, all's well now and we can proceed with our efforts to catch two families of wild ones.

Is there still a wee space for us to use your media to express our thanks to the members and supporters who gave so generously in money and kind and so ensured our recent successful stall? "Muchas Gracias!" from Kath, Dorothy, Doris, Gwen, Gladys, Lindy, Zilla and Marie M.

(Editor's note. It is a pleasure for us to move over and make a little extra space for our "Country Cousins".)

Anyone interested in helping the Central Coast "girls" may like to contact Dorothy Haines by writing to her at 73 Mount Ettalong Rd., Umina Beach, 2257.

PET'S POCKET ENCYCLOPAEDIA for the care of cats, dogs and birds - Members may obtain copies free of charge by applying to the Secretary, C.P.S. and enclosing 25c in stamps to cover postage and wrapping.

Cat Group's Success.

The following extracts are from an article which appeared under the above heading in the "Central Coast Express" of 13th September, 1978, a newspaper which incorporates the Wyong News, Woy Woy Herald and the Trolley and The Entrance Times.

"You have done a wonderful job - I'm proud of you" were among the sentiments expressed by the State President of the Cat Protection Society of N.S.W., Mr. Ron Carberry, when he addressed the first annual general meeting of the Woy Woy District Group of the association. Mr. Carberry, together with State Vice-President, Mr. Bill Graham, Mrs. Judith Graham and Mrs. Gwen Abdy, travelled from Sydney to Umina to congratulate the local group on its first 18 months of hard work. The Group's organising Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Haines, said the Group had dealt with a total of 214 cases during the year. Mrs. Haines said the local people had been generous in their response to fund raising efforts. As the Group was entirely voluntary and did a great deal to assist pensioners and low income families with their veterinary bills, continued public assistance was necessary, she added.

Mrs. Haines, co-founder of the Animal Care Group in Gosford Shire, said she hoped cat lovers would set up branches of the Cat Protection Society in Gosford and Wyong where the need for such services was great and growing.

Officers elected at the meeting for the coming year were: President, Kathleen Robinson; Secretary, Dorothy Haines; Treasurer, G. Arnold; Committee, Doris Jackson, Zillah Cooke, Gladys Hagan and Linda Coop.

A letter of congratulations on the year's work from the Minister for Education, Mr. Eric Bedford, was read at the meeting.

Message to the Cat Protection Society of N.S.W. - Woy Woy Group

I had the pleasure eighteen months ago of supporting the establishment of the Central Coast branch of the Cat Protection Society.

It gives me great satisfaction, therefore, to see the support which the Society has received and the sympathetic and generous assistance to animals which the Society has provided since its' inception.

I believe that animals have an important role in our suburban, industrial society. They bring an added warmth and interest to many people's lives and can play a role also in the personal development of children.

The possession of animals, however, also brings with it the responsibility to look after them adequately and to see that unwanted cats in great numbers do not constitute a nuisance to the Community.

It is generally agreed that de-sexing is the only effective answer to the breeding of unwanted animals.

The Cat Protection Society, by its promotion of animal birth control

and its assistance to animals and owners, is performing a major public service to the community of the Central Coast.

I congratulate the Society on its fine work and hope that it will be strengthened by still greater public support in the future.

(sgd) Eric L. Bedford, B.A., M.P.
Minister for Education.

THOSE MARAUDING TOM CATS

By Celie Smith of Committee

It is small wonder that we meet people who "can't stand cats" when their only encounter with the feline population is to be kept awake at night by noisy, smelly tom cats. The owners of these pests are not worried -- "He's no trouble". Of course, not to his owner, because he does his courting, with its accompanying cacaphony, away from home, leaving his foul-smelling calling card for others to clean up.

Owners of male cats should face up to the responsibilities of pet ownership and have their cats desexed. Too often we hear that the males don't need to be desexed --- consider how many kittens a male cat can father in one year and you will be horrified. Male cats attack new born male kittens and kill them to reduce sexual competition.

Apart from their offensiveness to people, and their attacks on other cats and kittens, entire male cats are a menace to themselves. They develop abscesses, chronic infections, and spend most of their miserable lives in a sore and sorry state after battling it out every night for a lady's favours.

The ideal age at which desexing operation should be done is six months for a male but - NO CAT IS TOO OLD TO BE DESEXED.

If you have an un-neutered male cat, have him desexed NOW.

You and he will be delighted with the happy result and you will earn the undying gratitude of millions of unborn kittens who will be saved from a world that has no homes for them.

If you know someone who does not receive this magazine, and who has an un-desexed male cat, please pass this message on.

Road accidents involving animals - One of our members has requested that we publish the following article for the benefit of people who may not be too clear on the subject:-

If your car hits an animal the R.S.P.C.A.'s emergency No. is 707 2828. The R.S.P.C.A. will send an ambulance if one is available. It will also accept an injured animal at the Shelter at Yagoona. The law says that any driver who injures an animal on a public road must take reasonable steps to alleviate the suffering of that animal. Maximum penalty for failing to do so is \$400 fine or six months jail or both. If you know who owns the animal you must report the accident to the owner. The best action is to keep the animal carefully warm and take it to the

nearest Vet. He will phone the R.S.P.C.A. for approval to treat the animal if he is of the opinion its life can be saved. Otherwise he will put it to sleep. The R.S.P.C.A. pays the veterinary surgeon for his services.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our first letter this issue comes from a member who, among other things, points out certain pitfalls in the purchase of animal medicines.

"I found the Newsletter very interesting and certainly some of the items set one thinking. I will send that coupon to the Minister of Health with a few extra names and addresses added. The cruelty to animals is appalling and quite sickens one. It is marvellous to realise we will soon have our clinic.

There is something I would like to bring to your notice. I met a friend as she came out of a pet shop after buying a lotion for her cat's eczema. The bottle was unwrapped and I told her I thought it was for dogs and not cats as it had a picture of a dog only on the label. She went back into the shop and the sales lady insisted it was for cats as well as dogs. I read out the directions and it said at the end, "Warning - do not use on cats." We went to another pet shop but they had nothing for cats eczema, so we enquired at the Chemist shops which sold animal remedies. One had none for cats and the other tried to sell us another for dogs only and became quite cranky when I pointed out it was not suitable for cats. I am mentioning all this as I am worried as to how many times people have been sold remedies which may poison their cats - people who don't read well or people from other countries who can't read English. Some sales people don't seem to realise that what won't harm a dog may well poison a cat.

I would like to say thanks to all who were concerned in presenting the Bumper newsletter."

With all best wishes,
(Mrs.) Hilda York

And thank you, Mrs. York. This lady makes a very good point with her warning. "Caveat Emptor" apparently applies even to cat medicines.

Of interest to our Junior members comes this letter from Master Robert Jenkins of Springwood.

"At our High School there is an I.S.C.F. Meeting held every Friday. I would appreciate it very much if you could send me pictures and other proof of what happens to cats and other animals so that I could show them. Someone, even one person, might be interested (or shocked!) and join the C.P.S. and other leagues.

Also, at a theatrical group which I go to, while rehearsing one day I came across a tiny little kitten. One of the girls found it wandering in the toilets. So, another nice girl and I were the only ones who

really cared. She brought it some milk and it drank almost 1/3 pint (for a little kitty, that's untold). I brought it inside and started asking everyone could they give it a nice home. And, hard to say, two men even said: (and I quote) "There's a toilet out back; why don't you flush it down there - and -: "There's a busy street out the front; why don't you leave it in the middle of that."

Need I say how I felt. If only they knew - Thanking you - "

Robert Jenkins

The following letter is from the "Australian Association for Humane Research".

"We are most grateful for the help your Society is giving us in our Campaign against the LD-50 test, and we hope shortly to be circulating all animal welfare societies in Australia with further suggestions for continuing with the Campaign.

Mrs. Shirley Brutry, who is a member of the Cat Protection Society and also a member of my management committee, has shown me your most recent Newsletter. I think I should point out that the Working Group Against Animal Experiments no longer has its address at P.O. Box 356, Broadway, and that Beauty Without Cruelty is affiliated with the Australian Association for Humane Research and not the W.G.A.A.E.

Both FRAME Australia and the Australian Association for Humane Research are registered as separate charities and neither of them is connected with the World League for the Protection of Animals.

I am enclosing our last Newsletter for your information and would thank you once again for your valued support."

Yours Sincerely - Elizabeth Ahlston
Chairman

(Judging by the many letters received commenting on the campaign against the LD-50 test, the response is very gratifying. Further, any support we are able to give other organisations in the common fight against any form of cruelty would, we feel sure, receive the full backing of all our members. The Ed.)

The final offering is penned in lighter vein:

"In the August "NEWSLETTER" our revered President mentioned, inter alia, "that (with one exception) the LADIES earn the money while the men ... talk". I'd just like to mention that - behind every good woman is usually a good man .. working quietly in the background and doing all the humble tasks, and supplying many of the essentials, so she can go out, time and time again, carrying the banner, fund raising and field work .. AND HOURS ON THE 'PHONE!

To prevent a squawk from these rather Forgotten Men, we DO rather want to express a word of thanks for their support and ... forbearance.

Dorothy Haines, WWDG.

For Editor's comment see next page!

Editor's comment on Mrs. Dorothy Haines' letter:

(Madam, I would not worry too much about the men referred to as most of them are only husbands and after all, what is a husband? Nothing but a bachelor with the nerve removed. Ed.)

TOXICITY TESTING ON LIVE ANIMALS AND THE LD-50 TEST. by W.G. Luton of
Committee.

Members who attended the Annual General Meeting of the Society on the 27th August, 1978, will no doubt recall the discussion that was generated by the item "Toxicity Testing on Live Animals" which appeared on page 14 of the August "Newsletter".

At the conclusion of the discussion I informed those present that on 23rd August, 1978, the State Member for Gordon, Mr. Moore, gave notice of his intention to introduce a motion in the Legislative Assembly in relation to the use of animals for experimental research. Not having a copy of the notice with me, I was not able to acquaint members with the text of the same; so will record it here in full, as follows:-

"That this House calls on the Government to present legislation to control the use of animals for experimental research in New South Wales based, in general terms, on the Animals For Research Act, 1968-69, of the Canadian Province of Ontario, and calls on the Minister for Services and the Minister for Health to implement immediately, as an interim measure, the formation of an adequate statistical base and reporting system on animals used for experimentation in New South Wales, including animals used in the LD-50 test".

On 7th September, 1978, Mr. Moore moved and spoke to the above-mentioned motion in the Legislative Assembly, upon which it was replied to by Mr. W.H. Haigh, Minister for Services and Minister Assisting the Premier.

In his reply, the Minister revealed that during the preceding twelve months the Government had been in constant consultation with the principal animal welfare organizations and with the Australian Veterinary Association with a view to introducing legislation modelled on that of the Animals for Research Act, 1968-69, of the Province of Ontario, in Canada. However, the animal welfare organizations had themselves made it clear to the Government that they have yet to present their final submissions and, accordingly, had requested that no action should be taken by the Government at this stage.

The Minister was very generous in paying tribute to the assistance that had been afforded to the Government by the animal welfare organizations and this was also acknowledged by the Members for Wakehurst and Charlestown, Messrs. Viney and Face, respectively.

Members of our Society will derive some consolation, I am sure, from the revelation by our Minister for Services and our Minister for

Health that, to their knowledge, no LD-50 experiments were performed in New South Wales - indeed, they are willing to rely upon and accept LD-50 data derived from overseas. Further, they assure us that analytical tests are relied upon, wherever possible. From the tone of the debate members may be assured that something good and constructive will emerge therefrom. For full details, any member is invited to refer to New South Wales Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) Thursday, September, 1978, at pages 1201 to 1214.

BOOK REVIEW By Leonore Bowman, Committee

"A biographical tribute to the Memory of Trim" by Matthew Flinders, 1809, illustrated by Annette Macarthur-Onslow, published by Collins. Available from Angus & Robertson's, Dymocks & Grahame's, illustrated hard cover book only. Price \$5.95.

TRIM, "the best and most illustrious of his race", was the much loved cat who accompanied Matthew Flinders on several of his famous voyages. It was while Flinders was in Cape Town in 1799, obtaining food for the new and struggling settlement of Sydney Town, that Trim was born. His personality and intelligence were such that he soon became the favourite of all on board.

Trim was to sail on four ships with Flinders - Reliance; Investigator; Porpoise; Cumberland - travelling from the Cape of Good Hope to Botany Bay, to England and back to Sydney Town, then to be part of the excitement of the circumnavigation of Australia. Trim even endured illness and malnutrition along with the rest of the ship's company when the Investigator was off the coast of Arnhem Land.

Then, on the ill-fated return trip to England, Trim survived six weeks on Wreck Reef only to finally reach the island of Mauritius where he and his master were held by the French. It was during the seven years of captivity that Flinders wrote Trim's story. The warmth and affection, the fun and humour of Flinders' writing, have all been captured by the imaginative and delicate drawings of Annette Macarthur-Onslow.

To the memory of

TRIM.

The best and most illustrious of his race,
the most affectionate of friends,
faithful of servants,
and best of creatures.

He made the tour of the Globe, and a voyage
Australia,

which he circumnavigated; and was ever the
delight and pleasure of his fellow voyagers.

Returning to Europe in 1803, he was shipwrecked
in the Great Equinoxial Ocean;

The danger escaped, he sought refuge and assistance
at the Isle of France, where
he was made prisoner, contrary to the laws of
Justice, of Humanity, and of
French National Faith;
and where, alas! he terminated his useful
career, by an untimely death,
being devoured by the Calophagi of
that island.

Many a time have I beheld his little merriments with delight,
and his superior intelligence with surprise:
Never will his like be seen again!

Trim was born in the Southern Indian Ocean, in the
Year 1799, and
perished as above at the Isle of France
in 1804.

Peace be to his shade and
Honour to his memory.

The original of this is in the back of the book written by Matthew
Flinders by hand (not too easy to read, the copy being so old).

ANIMAL LAB. TESTS. From our reading we are pleased to note that more
and more scientists are beginning to protest against cruel and needless
animal experiments. Lately the media have been making people more aware
of what really goes on, and as more people become better informed we
might hope for a snowballing storm of protest. Everyone by now is
familiar with the famous quote - "Life was not meant to be easy", but
surely it does not have to be unnecessarily cruel. For those who may
not have seen the article, we reprint below some extracts which appeared
in the Sunday Telegraph of 10.9.1978.

"Laboratory tests on animals in the name of science were as horrify-
ing as Nazi methods of medical research under Hitler. Dr. Alice Helm
called for new regulations to protect animals from the "abject terror and
inescapable pain" they suffered during laboratory experiments. Dr. Helm,
a Medical Research Council scientist, told the annual meeting of the
British Association for the Advancement of Science that information
gained from experiments did not justify the prolonged suffering. She
said she had come across hundreds of examples of outrageous torture in
laboratories. Experiments in maternal affection involved baby rabbits
dying of burst bladders after being taken from their mothers before
their ducts could be licked clean. In tests on maternal deprivation
baby monkeys and their mothers were left in anguish after being
separated. Dr. Helm said students quickly grew to accept the experi-

ments they saw and looked on feelings of sympathy as being silly and sentimental. These attitudes could be dangerous if students went on to try to condition human patients to the same single-minded ruthlessness. Dr. Helm said humans were the proper study and there were plenty prepared to take part in experiments."

STATE GOVERNMENT'S ANIMAL PROTECTION POLICY. Mr. Wran, Premier of N.S.W. has announced plans for a new policy on animal protection. The Government is to set up an animal welfare division within the Department of Services. Mrs. Jill Wran, a noted animal lover who has two cats and a dog, has been given some of the credit for the new policy. Mr. Wran said: "If you think Mrs. Wran insisted that went into the policy speech you are correct". Mr. Wran went on to say that the new division would initiate a pilot scheme for the desexing of domestic animals.

"PUSSYBANK". The Australian Veterinary Association is to make a submission to the Federal Government to run "Pussybank" along similar lines to Medibank. The scheme is an alternative to the execution squad set up by the Queensland Agricultural Society which plans to shoot feral cats (our fear is that they may shoot a few domestic cats while they are about it). As we understand it, the scheme is to offer subsidised desexing of cats as a method of overcoming the wild cat problem.

PROSECUTED FOR CRUELTY. In line with our policy of exposing the guilty we reprint the following item from the Australian Association for Humane Research Newsletter of 2.9.78:

Mr. Stafford Bullen who is establishing a research foundation near Penrith to breed rhesus monkeys for medical experiments, was successfully prosecuted by the R.S.P.C.A. in 1974 for cruelly ill-treating a monkey in whose neck a chain had become embedded.

CAT COLLARS. Recently some Vets have come out with a warning against flea collars. Chemicals used in the collars could be dangerous for some cats they said. Some manufacturers caution that the neck area should be checked for irritation every few days. Apparently a lot depends on the sensitivity of the animal concerned. Some side effects are irritation to skin and loss of hair. In any event, Members would be advised to exercise extreme caution in the use of any cat collars, particularly the non-stretch or non snap open type, which can cause a cat to choke if caught up on a branch or other projection.

TELEPHONES: Administration and Desexing - 662 6085 Mrs. Harvey
Desexing (North Shore) - 427 3828 Mrs. Cozens
Animal Welfare - 798 6767 Mrs. Faulkner
(6.00 - 7.30 p.m.)
Membership queries and) - 477 1316 Mr. Graham
Letters to Editor) (A.H. & Weekends)