



NOVEMBER 1982  
**JOURNAL** OF  
XMAS APPEAL EDITION  
*The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.*  
(Registered Charity CC. 17122)

P.O. BOX A523, SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000. Registered Office: 103 ENMORE ROAD, ENMORE, N.S.W. 2042. TELEPHONE: 51 1011

EDITOR: W. GRAHAM • EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: D. TIERNEY

PATRONS: Lady Mollie Askin, The Hon. Neville Wran, Q.C., M.P.

OFFICE BEARERS: President: Mr. William Graham • Vice Presidents: Geoffrey Luton Esq., Mrs Kay Breen

Honorary Treasurer: Mrs Judith Graham • Secretary: Mrs Shirley Pikler

COUNCILLORS: Mrs Leonore Bowman, Mrs Sybil Cozens, Mr Fred Meyers, Mr Ronald Siebert

Hon Asst. Secretary: Miss Denise Tierney

LIFE GOVERNORS: Mr & Mrs L. Braby, Misses C. & E. Bryant, Mr A. Buchanan, Mrs B. Morrison,

Miss N. Pike, Mrs S. Springfield, Mrs I. Tattersall, Miss D. Silins

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS: Mrs A. Gillham, Mrs D. Haines, Mrs B. Harvey, Mr W. Luton,

Mrs P. Lynch, Mrs T. Nelson, Mrs J. Taylor, Mr G. & Mrs S. Cozens

### NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, 14th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1982, AT CITY OF SYDNEY R.S.L. CLUB, 569 GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY, COMMENCING AT 2.00 P.M.

#### BUSINESS

1. Read and confirm Minutes of March, 1982, General Meeting.
2. Business arising.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Treasurer's Report.
5. Notice of Motion (Proposed Amendment of Articles of Association).
6. General Business.

A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of the member. A proxy need not be a member. All proxies must be in the Secretary's hands not later than 48 hours before the time of the holding of the meeting. Only financial members are entitled to vote.

**REMINDER:** Many members' subscriptions remain overdue. Unfortunately, the cost of printing and posting this Journal precludes us from sending any further Journals to unfinancial members. If you are unfinancial and wish to remain on our mailing list, please forward your annual subscription without delay to:

The Hon. Treasurer,  
Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.  
PO Box A523  
SYDNEY SOUTH 2000

All subscriptions become due on 1st June each year.

**IF YOU CAN PLACE A CAT OR KITTEN IN A GOOD HOME,  
PLEASE RING OUR WELFARE SERVICE - 'PHONE 51 1011**

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Member,

Being only one third through our new financial year, there is not a lot that can be added to what was stated in the Annual Report other than our animal welfare service continues in its efforts to handle all calls for assistance - a near impossible task, really. However, what I wish to dwell on in this report is the urgent need for more volunteers to help man our opportunity shop, and to appeal for far more saleable goods as stocks run low.

The financial support received from proceeds of the shop is very vital to our humanitarian efforts, and should there be a falling-off in this area, the inevitable result would have to be a cut-back to our activities. Should this happen, it would be very discouraging to those who have supported, or worked so hard to make this Society one of the most progressive and innovative in the field of animal welfare in this State.

The shortage of volunteers at the moment is such that in order to avoid closing on certain days of the week, Mr. & Mrs. Cozens, who already do so much, have been manning the shop on Saturdays. Our Treasurer, Mrs. Graham, whose duties in my opinion are already sufficiently arduous, has lately been giving several days of her time to help keep it going. So how about it? Surely there are more members who could spare a little of their time, even just one day each month, for so worthy a cause.

Think of it this way: the benefits derived from the shop not only help animals, but the cheap clothing and other goods purchased by the many deprived citizens of the Newtown-Enmore region is a boon to them. Pensioners, deserted wives, unmarried mothers, the unemployed with whom the area abounds, all come to our shop seeking urgently needed clothing and other articles, with the knowledge they can be obtained at a price within their means. So, if you are prepared to help a little, you will not only be aiding animals, but providing at no cost to yourself, other than your time, a hand along the way to the needy, the poor, and the hapless and unfortunate victims of society who are much worse off than yourselves. Please give it a try. You will find it an experience to meet with the many interesting people who patronise our shop.

Having got you all interested and raring to go, please contact Mrs. Cozens on 427-3828 for all information re voluntary work in the shop.

**CAT SHELTER:** With two years still to run on the lease of our Kingsgrove property, we have to remain patient, but providing local council approval can be obtained, it is our intention, when the time comes, to see what can be done to transform this property into a suitable cat shelter. The site appears ideal for the purpose, but until expiry of the lease, little can be accomplished, and we would ask those members who are anxious for a cat shelter to bear with us a while longer. Of course, should Council approval not be forthcoming, it would be a possibility to consider selling Kingsgrove, using the money to help purchase a property elsewhere. We shall have to see what the future brings, but members can be assured, we have not abandoned the project of a cat shelter.

**I.F.A.W. DAY FOR ANIMALS:** Held Hyde Park, Sunday, 3rd October, 1982.

Our society was well represented on the occasion with two stalls selling badges, cat baskets and cushions and assorted other items. Both ambulances were on display, on one of which was mounted a first-rate coloured pictorial display which was very imposing and attracted much attention from the public. This was the work and brain-child of Councillor, Ron Siebert. The same old faithful helpers fronted to set up and work on the stalls throughout the day - most of them were there from 8.30 a.m. in the morning till after 5 p.m.

The occasion could not, perhaps, be accounted a financial success, as many of the goods remained unsold, but apart from the thousands who came only to attend! the "Little River Band" and other rock groups who kindly performed free of charge, very many of the more thoughtful members of the public were interested in our cause, and several new members were enrolled. All in all, the attention and publicity gained was more than worth-while.

Special thanks should be accorded to the sub-committee, whose members put much thought and effort into organising the display and stalls. We would also like to accord our special thanks and appreciation to the following persons: Vice-President Kay Breen, Mrs. and Kelly and Patrick Cantwell, Edith Easton, Mrs. Francis, Hon. Treasurer Judy Graham, Zena Kensey, Vice-President Geoff Luton, Sandy Moss, Secretary Shirley Pickler, Sandra and Ron Siebert, Moira and Neill Stirton, Mrs. and Miss Tierney, Jo Tomkin and Hilda York. Moira Stirton spent many hours painstakingly making up colourful cushions with a cat motif.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:** The notice of motion published in this issue and scheduled for discussion at the forthcoming Extraordinary General Meeting, is in effect designed to raise the life membership subscription from \$50 to \$100., and the pensioner subscription from \$2 to \$5. Rising costs of postage, printing, etc. have forced this move, and although (if passed) the pensioner subscription will be equal to ordinary membership subscription, should further rises become necessary in the future, it may be possible to keep pensioner membership down to \$5. Therefore, it is not intended to eliminate the pensioner membership class. There is no proposed change to junior membership subscriptions.

All for now. Hoping to see you all at the meeting.

Bill Graham, State President and  
Chairman, on behalf of State Council.

-----

#### NOTICE OF MOTION

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Mrs. J. Graham to move that -

(a) Article 10 be amended in the manner following:

(1) Para. (c) - By deleting the symbol and figures "\$50.00" where twice occurring, and by substituting in lieu thereof, the symbol and figures "\$100.00".

(2) Para (d) - (a) By deleting the symbol and figures "\$2.00" where firstly occurring, and by substituting in lieu thereof the symbol and figures "\$5.00", and,

(b) By deleting the symbol and figures "\$50.00" and by substituting in lieu thereof the symbol and figures "\$100.00".

(b) Such amendments to become effective on and from 1st June, 1983.

-----

#### MEMORY LANE

A donation in memory of "Salome", the good and beautiful. Always loved by her "Mum and Dad".

Inserted by G.M. & H.F. Thompson.

-----

A donation in appreciation of your Society's work, and in loving memory of "Minx", our Siamese sweetheart for almost 15 years.

Inserted by Jim and Shirley Harris.

-----

A donation in memory of "Pesto", (short for "Pestiferous") - my dear pussy friend of many years.

Inserted by Mrs. D. Kellaway.

-----

A donation in loving memory of my darling cats, "Cooky" and "Priscilla", whose devoted companionship I will never forget.

Inserted by Carla Firpo.

-----

A donation in memory of "Topsy", put to sleep 30th June, 1982, aged 12 years. A faithful, furry friend.

Inserted by E. Strachan.

-----

A donation in memory of our youngest and oldest cats. "Taffy", who died on 27th December, 1981, aged 15 years. Our lovely "Snowy", who died on 14th June, 1982, aged only 10 months, of a mystery viral infection.

Inserted by Evelyn Parsons.

-----

A donation in memory of my black cat, "Minnie", put to sleep aged 16½ years.

Inserted by Judith Stirling.

-----

A donation in memory of my cat, "Blackie".

Inserted by Rene Dagan.

-----

In loving memory of Mr. Fluffy Wilson, who died on July, 27th, 1982, prematurely old at 10 to 11 years after a hard start in life. He dropped his anchor at our place nearly 8 years ago, almost dead from starvation, and never strayed again. This is where he wanted to be, and this is where he stayed. Gentle Ginger Tom, full of love for his adopted family, he hungered for love as much as for food. At peace now, but missed very much.

Inserted by Miss Margaret Wilson.

-----

**TO A DEPARTED FELINE FRIEND** by Michael Joseph

I shall walk in the sun alone - Whose golden light you loved :  
I shall sleep alone - and, stirring, touch an empty place :  
I shall write uninterrupted - (Would that your gentle paw  
Could stay my moving pen just once again!)

I shall see beauty - But none to match your living grace :  
I shall hear music - But not so sweet as the droning song  
With which you loved me.

I shall fill my days - But I shall not, cannot forget :  
Sleep soft, dear friend, For while I live, you shall not die.

-----

### EDITORIAL

"It is an esoteric cult, this devotion of human beings to the mysterious, graceful, independent, charming and affectionate animals who occupy a unique place in our domestic economy. Unique is the right word, for the cat who lives under our roof and sits by our fire is not a domesticated animal.

He lives with us because he chooses to do so, but he is independent of mankind. Claw and fur are kept scrupulously clean for his own private purposes and advantage: even his playfulness with a fluttering leaf or a ball of paper, or - to unreasonable human beings a less pretty sight - his pursuit and apparent torture of bird and mouse are an essential part of his determination to keep himself physically fit at all costs; to preserve himself, if need be, in the ceaseless struggle for existence.

In the paved cities the homeless cat is at a disadvantage, and even in such artificial and formidable surroundings he can often contrive to live without human aid.

This natural independence of the cat, with one eye, as it were, always alert to the possibility of renewing his former primitive existence, gives him the right to bestow his friendship with discrimination. Many humans like their animal pets to display a demonstrative and almost slavish affection and to them there must be something discouraging about a cat. Even the most docile and affectionate cat never completely surrenders his independence. His friendship is not easily won: indeed it can never be won without active reciprocation. A good meal every day, a casual pat on the head are not enough to win the devotion of a cat, or even his respect.

Yet the cat does not ask for much. It is only necessary to understand his temperament and to respect his way of life. In my experience, which I know is common to others, a cat treated with kindness and intelligence will reward his human friend with a friendship that is deep and satisfying.

It is true that there are many men and women who have never felt the need of friendship with what we call (with such careless arrogance) "animals". I think they are the poorer for it. Friendship - as distinct from companionship - between man and animal can be, and often is, a dignified relationship, and how many human friendships are free from the base metal of self-interest?

The attitude of man towards animals, at different times and in different countries, is significant. Let it be admitted that man is a superior creature. He is lord of creation, homo sapiens, made (so he claims) in God's image. Animals are inferior. Anatomically, intellectually, yes: but can it be denied that animals are capable of that unselfish love which is the soul of a relationship between two living beings?

It is to the credit of mankind that we do sometimes (not, alas, in many parts of the world) become protective and affectionate towards animals in our care. I mean something more than consideration for their welfare. It is obviously sensible to care for the health and well-being of animals that render service. To neglect a horse, a cow or a dog is foolish as well as discreditable.

But what of the animals that render little or no practical service to their human overlords?

Of all the animals man has adopted for his own use or companionship the chief objects of his affection, when it exists, are undoubtedly dogs and cats. Of dogs much has been written, and more will be written. I am not one of those cat-lovers who dislike dogs, although I am always ready to champion the cat in any of the unsatisfying and inconclusive arguments which arise from time to time between cat- and dog-lovers. It is fitting that cat-lovers should extol the virtues of their favourite, for they are in the minority.

There are people who dislike cats to the point of suffering discomfort in their presence. These ailurophobes are to be pitied. There are many who are indifferent to cats. The enlightened felinophile may be forgiven for comparing them with the illiterate who are unable to appreciate the beauties of literature.

It must be conceded, however, that an inborn love of cats is the best passport to an understanding of their character."

The above words are not those of the Editor. They were written more than a generation ago by a man since passed on, who undoubtedly had a great affection for, and understanding of cats. Though I cannot claim the words as mine, they sum up my own conclusions on the subject better than any words I could match them with. I would also hazard that they echo the thoughts of most cat-loving members of this Society and would meet with their approval.

Taking that as being so, there are those who will ask, as some already have, why does this Society lend itself to the destruction of cats? As an organisation composed of supposed cat-lovers would not the establishment of a cat shelter obviate the necessity for this destruction? Any why don't we try harder to obtain more homes and thus terminate less lives?

There are those of a more extreme and irrational temperament who are wont to accuse our welfare personnel and Councillors of being monsters and animal murderers. There are the unstable who have hurled threats and screamed abuse when they have observed one of our ambulances going about its lawful and humane business. There are those who decry our policy and abuse our welfare personnel for trapping and arranging for the destruction of cat colonies which exist in a wild or semi-wild state.

Frequently, when our welfare officers are required to round up stray cat colonies - such as their recent adventure at a well-known public hospital, they have been harassed, labelled as animal murderers, and efforts have been made to sabotage their work by releasing the trapped cats. Even members of our Society have been guilty of this irresponsible and irrational behaviour.

If the persons who act or think in this way were to spend a day or two out with our ambulances, they might possibly gain some understanding of what it is all about and perhaps come to realise that our people are performing humane work cleaning up the mess caused by those dregs of humanity who dumped those cats or their progenitors in the first place.

Because organised destruction of animals by animal welfare Societies such as ours is a highly emotional and controversial subject, and because there are no easy answers or solutions to the problem, I am going to attempt, in this Editorial, to give an explanation of the reasons why; the situation as seen through my eyes as it were, and which will I feel sure, have the approval of my Council colleagues.

To people of good conscience who have a sympathetic concern and regard for animals - that is how I would describe my fellow Councillors and welfare personnel - the idea of having to terminate the lives of sickly and deformed animals is, no matter how necessary, depressingly sad. When it comes to destroying homeless but otherwise healthy animals it is repugnant and distressing in the extreme.

What should be understood is that people who are responsible for the management of animal welfare organisations are not the slaughterers. They are merely those who attempt to cope in the best way that can be managed with the end-product of society's greed, ignorance, indifference, callousness, meanness and downright selfishness towards their lesser brothers. Unhappily, man has been exceedingly slow to change his attitude towards animals, and neither I or my colleagues experience joy or satisfaction at the organised annual slaughter that this attitude has made so necessary.

Having experienced the folly of man's mindless slaughter in war, and having some little knowledge of what it is like to be afraid and in mortal danger, I had returned - as no doubt did many others - with the firm conviction that I wanted no further part in killing; man or beast. With that as my philosophy, my early years on the Council were spent with what I thought of as the sustaining and uplifting ideal of having an opportunity to help improve the lot of dumb and helpless animals. I was sufficiently naive then to believe that the mass annual destruction of domestic animals was neither just or necessary and that there must be another alternative. It never occurred to me likely that I would alter my view and eventually lend my agreement to the destruction of animals as being part of this Society's operations.

In those years our objectives were aimed mainly at desexing and in the establishment of "clinics" solely for that purpose. It was said by some (with a deal of self-righteousness) that we would never become involved in destruction, that kind of dirty work was best left to others whose ideals were not so lofty. It was even stated in

these pages by the then President of the Society that all the slaughter was not necessary, that the answer lay in cheap desexing and that this should be our only aim. This was fallacious nonsense, for experience has shown that there are literally thousands of pet owners who, for various reasons, will on no account trouble themselves to have their animals desexed, even were it offered to them free. And of course, a policy aimed solely at desexing does not take into account the many thousands of cats which do not have owners, and therefore, are left to proliferate into semi-starved and scavenging mobs. Thus it can be seen that desexing alone is certainly not, and never will be, the answer without legislation to enforce it.

From the many appeals for help received by our Society in those days - help which we were not organised to give - it became evident to a majority of Councillors, that if we were to become a genuine animal welfare agency, we would have to involve ourselves at the true grass-roots level. And, if we were to have any credibility, we could not allow ourselves the luxury of selecting only the "nice" bits and avoiding that part of the work distasteful to most people - destruction of unwanted animals.

Thus it was that, against the wishes of a very vocal minority, our animal ambulance and welfare service was formed. Once having established this service, it had to be accepted that a large proportion of its activities would involve the trapping, collection and destruction of a great many unwanted, dumped, homeless, feral and surrendered cats. It had to be further accepted that because of the staggering surplus of cats against the comparatively low percentage of suitable homes on offer, many healthy cats would have to be put down. (Where homes are concerned, we are dealing, generally, with a saturated market. We have far more people requesting to find homes for cats they no longer wish to keep than people offering homes in response to our advertisements.)

Were we to omit destruction of surplus animals from our welfare activities, we would not only be overwhelmed with vast numbers of unwanted cats, we would never have the funds to entertain such a notion. We would also I believe, be guilty of a disservice, not only to the Society and its members, but to the unfortunate animals themselves. To not destroy those animals which have no prospect of obtaining a home would be not only foolish and stupid, but self-defeating in the long run.

One can easily be swayed by sentimentality over the business of destroying surplus cats. If one allows this to happen, it is a mistake, for it shows that the facts are not being kept in their proper perspective. I would ask all those who are critical of our policies, or condemnatory of our welfare personnel, to give deep consideration to the following:

The cat is an introduced, unendangered species, and cats breeding indiscriminately in uncontrolled colonies soon become pests. When these colonies proliferate into plague or near plague proportions they are labelled as vermin. This then encourages the Harry Butlers to publicly come out with obnoxious theories on the introduction of plague among the general cat population; gives the cat-haters and other sick psychopaths reason to feel they have open slather to practise all kinds of cruelty on the unfortunate animal; and we all know about the cat-skinners and other odious beings who need little excuse to move in with gusto to practise their evil and brutal trades.

Very many of these unwanted cats picked up by our ambulances would ultimately have fallen victim to sadists, greyhound trainers, disease, horrific wounds and crippling accidents. At the best, they are fated to lead short and miserable lives. The results of their prolific and indiscriminate matings are very many deformed, sickly, and otherwise ill-favoured kittens that knowing nothing of the domestic state, are untameable and impossible to place.

Another matter which should concern us all is that far too many of these unwanted scavenging cats become feral, preying on our small native birds and fauna, many of which are endangered species and should be protected. Just because we call ourselves The Cat Protection Society is no reason for us to be blind to the rights and need for protection of other animals; particularly our unique and rare native animals. When we use the term "protection", it should be in the context of protection against cruelty and is not meant to be taken as meaning the "conservation" of feline life under any and all circumstances.

The ultimate question we must ask ourselves is - which is the more humane? To collect these unfortunate, dumped and unwanted cats and have them humanely and painlessly destroyed, or leave them to the mercy of a doubtful and often cruel fate?

Because it is the State Council's belief that the course we are pursuing is the most humane and practical that can presently be accomplished - taking into account the means at our disposal - it was resolved at the Council meeting held on 4.7.82: "That it was the unanimous feeling of State Council that our present mode of operation is the correct path for us to follow, particularly in light of the Government's attitude to the work we are performing and the guidelines laid down by it when making its Grant".

If ever I entertained a lingering doubt in regard to our policy on destruction it ended on the day one of our welfare officers, Sandy Moss, showed me what she described as one of the more distressing examples of her welfare duties. She warned me that it was not a pretty sight and would probably make me sick. Sandy then drew the cover from a cage in her ambulance, inside which was a starved, old black tom she had managed to trap. He gazed up at me with eyes which still showed courage and a certain defiance. Yet, they also held a look of supplication. Half this cat's pelt had been ripped away from the neck down and about one third of his body was a suppurating mass of raw, red flesh. What had caused the terrible injuries we had no way of knowing. How long this terribly injured animal would have had to endure his dreadful wounds before coming to a slow and agonising end is a matter for conjecture if it had not been for our ambulance coming to the rescue to transport him to a swift and merciful end. One could only be thankful that our ambulance had been on hand to perform this humane task, and would perform similar tasks time and time again.

Another example of the type of rescue work performed by our welfare service was the recent occasion when it was reported to us that a cat had been abandoned in a basket on a rain and windswept railway platform on a freezing July night. I was required to take charge of the animal until our ambulance was available to pick it up on the following morning. This little cat turned out to be a beautiful blue Burmese of an extraordinarily affectionate and friendly disposition, despite she was suffering from a severe bout of cat 'flu. Because she was so eminently suitable for adoption, this cat was transported via our ambulance to a veterinary hospital where she was treated for several days prior to being immunised and desexed. Naturally, this was a considerable charge on the Society's funds but it is an opportunity to illustrate to members that we do not destroy animals indiscriminately, and for those good people who have supported our welfare service so generously, to know how their contributions are used. The question is: had it been my decision to have this cat put down, on whom would the knockers place the responsibility? Me, or the callous oaf who left a sick little animal to suffer on a bleak and wintry night?

To those members who believe that a cat refuge would end the necessity to destroy so many animals, it should be pointed out that such thinking is really a snare and delusion. A cat refuge could at best hold only one or two hundred cats, and simple commonsense, combined with experience of the numbers handled by our ambulances, assures that it would be full almost overnight, which would place us right back where we started. The awesome fact is that we are dealing in thousands, not hundreds of unwanted cats.

The theory that a refuge would result in an upsurge of prospective cat-owners anxiously arriving to select a pet can be discounted. Not only, as stated earlier, is the market saturated, but from information received from the Cat Haven in Hobart, 70 percent of cats held by them fail to be placed and are ultimately destroyed. (In a pamphlet which they distribute, there is a picture of ten delightful cats over the caption "which seven would you destroy?")

Obtaining suitable homes for cats is an activity which our Society does not let up on. A large portion of our funds are spent on veterinary treatment, food and advertisements in the Sydney newspapers in an effort to secure as many homes as possible. The results are never as satisfactory as we would wish, and it follows that a refuge is unlikely to produce a more satisfying result.



When selecting a cat, people are usually very fussy (reasonably enough). Consequently, the aged, the plain or less "cute" remain unspoken for. This is a pity for often the less handsome cats are the most affectionate and try so desperately to sell themselves. Heart-breaking really.

If we were to be less scrupulous in the matter of suitable homes, no doubt our figures would be enhanced. All prospective owners are "screened" to ensure that the cat will be properly cared for. All cats for homes are neutered, immunised and vet checked. They are guaranteed healthy as far as can be humanly ascertained, and if the client becomes dissatisfied with the animal, we will accept its return, no questions asked and all donations refunded. All this is to ensure that no one of these cats will be abandoned or treated indifferently by a disgruntled owner. We would rather put down an animal than risk having it treated cruelly by an irresponsible or callous owner.

All this is not to say that we have abandoned the aim of securing a cat refuge, but it would be presenting a false picture of the facts to claim that it could become a reality in the near future or that it would result in a higher percentage of homes. One has only to consider the trials and tribulations that the N.S.W. Animal Welfare League has undergone in its attempts to establish an animal refuge to understand how difficult it is of accomplishment. And, when we do eventually establish our own cat refuge, it will do nothing to solve the basic problem - too many unwanted cats.

On the emotional subject of destruction, it might be appropriate to remark at this point that to all of us who have ever enjoyed the companionship of animals, there comes a time when a much-loved pet, either through old age, incurable disease or other cause, can no longer enjoy life. With deep regret and much sorrow, we are bound, no matter how reluctantly, to afford our friend the last and only kindness within our power to give: the solace of a swift and merciful end.

It might be remembered that some time ago I wrote about the badly injured young red and white cat which was dumped in our garden and adopted by my wife and I. We named him "Ocker" and since I wrote about him in passing, one or two readers have asked after him. Although "Ocker" was with us but a short time, he proved to be the most gently and affectionate animal I expect ever to come across. Good-natured with other cats as well as humans, he was a happily, laughing little clown; loving and desperately longing to be loved - impossible to adequately describe the beauty of his personality.

"Ocker" contracted a virus which no amount of veterinary treatment could overcome. On his final trip to the vet my wife took him inside while I waited in the car (not having the courage). When she returned it was without "Ocker". A wonderful little friend was gone; among people who love their animals, a scene so oft repeated.

As a final thought for those who may still have mixed feelings in regard to our policy on destruction: Many years ago I read somewhere of how the Australian Light Horsemen at the end of the war in Egypt, were given the choice of shooting their mounts (Australian Walers which were close companions to the men they so steadfastly carried in the campaign against the Turks) or leaving them to the mercy of the local inhabitants. Not surprisingly, they chose the former. Patsy Adam-Smith, in her excellent history, "The Anzacs", has this to say: "Before they left for home arrangements had to be made for the disposal of the horses; they would not be returned to Australia. There were plenty of rich Arabs and Syrians anxious to buy them but the Light Horsemen had seen too much of their cruelty to animals. The troops raised such an uproar at any suggestion that their mounts be left at the mercy of the Arabs that the authorities decided to destroy them. A final race meeting was arranged, the brave horses that had crossed deserts were given their final gallop, and the day after the races they were taken out onto a high plain and shot. With our horses gone, our camp seemed gloomy and depressing, Olden wrote. They had been part and parcel of our very lives all these years and now - the death sentence."

One can easily imagine how those Light Horsemen felt on the high plain on that day those many years ago. They were not callously indifferent. Nor are we.

Acknowledgements: "Charles" The story of a friendship." By Michael Joseph.  
"The Anzacs". By Patsy Adam-Smith.

---

### WYONG AND TUGGERAH LAKES BRANCH NEWS

Our thanks to State Council for sharing with our branch the bequest left to the Society by the late Mr. Frank Incoll, a foundation member of the branch. It will be used to the best advantage and is much appreciated. Mr. Incoll's cats were placed in good homes.

We wish also to express gratitude to all who have helped and supported us throughout the year - the Wyong & Tuggerah Lakes Advocate who helped with advertising and features during our desexing campaign. Thank you Elsie Watsford our hard working Treasurer, members and friends for their support in fund raising, stall work and transport.

"Sultan's" Story: Two-year old Persian male, name tag and phone number, was lost in transit from Sydney to Wyong. Ended up in Council pound and eventually rescued by our branch. After five days of fruitless phoning and checking, found owner who had re-married and living at Noraville. As no forwarding address had been left, eventually located new address through a Sydney estate agent. Happy reunion for "Sultan" and his owner.

"Linus", a ginger desexed male, missing for three months, was reunited with his owner after seeing our advertisement requesting a home for this animal.

More help and members is an urgent need here.

Edith Dupont, Branch President.

---

### THE CRIM, THE COPPERS AND THE CATS or A THOUGHT FOR XMAS

A true story by the Editor.

Once in a while, out of the blue, an event occurs which gives pause for reflection. The following incident took place in our opportunity shop on the afternoon of 13th September, and though the story is brief, it has all the elements of human interest, poignancy and genuine concern for animals coming from a quarter where one would not normally expect it.

Our Honorary Treasurer, Judy Graham, had given a day to serving in the opportunity shop, and being alone, had her hands rather full with a number of customers. Suddenly an agitated looking character flanked by two silent and grim companions, entered the shop. The central individual who was dressed in an old tattered football jumper and other nondescript apparel, and whose gap-toothed and battered visage most resembled that of a broken-down and unsuccessful footballer or similar gladiator, approached the counter,

paused, then proceeded around to the cash register side. Judy, who had by this time resigned herself to the till going off, felt her knees begin to shake. She was startled when the gentleman with the battered features spoke: "Lady, can you help me? I've just been arrested for armed hold-up by these here", gesturing toward the silent ones - "and I'm worried about me two little cats. They're lovely little things lady, I've had 'em wormed and immunized and was just about ready to have 'em desexed when I was lumbered. They're beaut little females, real good mates and sleep on my bed every night." Beseeching look. "Please lady will youse take them and get them homes; you won't put 'em down will you?"

Judy, who had by now regained some of her composure, verified that the two sentinals were indeed plain clothes minions of the long-arm of justice. On enquiring where were the cats, the detectives replied that they were in the boot of the police car parked outside and that at the alleged hold-up man's request, they had gone out of their way to bring the cats to the shop in hopes that they would be cared for.

With the help of our Secretary, Shirley Pikler, who fortunately was attending the office, Judy went to the police car and retrieved two seven-months old kittens, one a tortie and the other white with tabby and red markings. They were as the hold-up man described them, little beauties and very friendly. (They have since been desexed at the Society's expense and good homes were found for them by Mrs. Siebert).

As the prisoner was led away by the plain-clothes men, he halted at the doorway and reiterated his plea: Look lady, you won't put 'em down will you, you'll get good homes for them won't you?"

Well, that's the story and it does have a happy ending, - except perhaps for the hold-up man whom one supposes is now cogitating upon past errors in a gloomy prison cell.

However, one cannot but wonder about the strange ironies of life. For there are many people who may be perhaps regarded by others as stalwart pillars of the community, good neighbours and so forth. who nevertheless, when departing for their forthcoming Xmas holidays, will think nothing of leaving their pets to fend for themselves or worse, will dump them. Yet; a self-confessed bandit has enought thought and feeling for his animals to do the best he can for them by persuading the arresting officers to allow him to bring his pets to our Society where he fervently hopes they will be well cared for and kindly treated and make an emotional appeal on their behalf before being led off to commence his own long absence from the local scene.

Without condoning crime or criminals, one must confess to a twinge of sympathy for this particular individual, knowing that while those who have neglected or callously dumped their animals in order to be better free to enjoy their Xmas holidays, will be out doing so, another whose genuine concern for his pets was paramount to the calamity of his arrest, will spend his Xmas in gaol.

As this story has proved yet again that there is good in the worst of us, one hopes in this case, when judgement is delivered from the bench, that it will be truly tempered with mercy. We'd also like this hold-up man to know that his cats were well cared for and did go to good homes.

Our thanks also to the arresting police for their thoughtfulness.

N.B. A picture of the cats appeared in the Sydney Sun of 22.9.82 along with the story given to Ms. Sue Arnold of that paper.

## FUND RAISING JOTTINGS

by Auxiliary President, Sybil Cozens

Housie & Fashion: Both functions were a success and many thanks to those responsible for getting it all together.

As we are now approaching the Xmas season, there are no fund-raising "do's" on the immediate agenda. I think we're too busy raising funds for our own functions.

Opportunity Shop: As the President has spoken at length on the "Op" shop, I thought I'd explain how the goods are organised on arrival at the shop.

Household Items of all Kinds: These are unpacked and put onto the shelves in the back room on ground floor for checking, sorting and pricing. From here they go into the middle room or holding area for the daily workers to replenish the shop as needed. Books generally go straight into the shop bookshelves - paperbacks and hard covers in their respective areas unless they are in sets or pictorial etc. These are put aside for appraisal and pricing.

Electrical Goods: These are tested and cords repaired if necessary before being placed in the holding shelves. If they cannot be tested for some reason, we price them accordingly for the enthusiast.

Clothing: This usually comes in green garbage bags and is taken upstairs to the front room where it is sorted and put onto hangers and hung on racks. It is then separated into summer and winter. In the summer all the winter apparel is hung in wardrobes and racks (roughly sorted) and vice versa in winter. The next step is putting dresses, skirts, pants, coats and underwear (this applies to men's clothing also) in categories for pricing. Everything looks great now - all ready to cover with a dust sheet to await the shop racks. At this point our workers 'zip' along for a preview and usually buy up big - I know, for I often succumb. Unsuitable garments are stripped of their buttons, buckles and zippers, are de-threaded and put into sizes. Two workers do this at home. All cardboard boxes and paper is put into three big hessian bags left by the paper collector who calls when they are full - usually about 6-8 weeks.

Garbage: Household type from the kitchen and shop is collected weekly by the local Council. Miscellaneous rubbish which comprises a weird collection of old shoes (one of a pair) and other junk is collected by one of our Saturday workers who disposes of it in a local tip. We are very grateful to this gentleman as he saves us quite a lot of expense.

Aluminium Cans & Scrap Metal: We have a bin near the front door of the shop for cans and this yields a goodly number. We also have a kind collector near Channel 10. Don't know if this has a bearing on the huge number collected. Aluminium, brass and copper is sorted into respective alloys and once a year taken to a scrap dealer sympathetic to our cause.

Many thanks to the workers in the shop, behind the scenes, knitters, crocheters, needle-persons, who make baby clothes, aprons, bags, coat hangers - you name it. And lastly, but not leastly, the donors of goods without whom there would be no shop.

So there it is. I thought you might be interested to know what happens to your "trash" when it becomes our "treasure".

-----

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

As a recent recruit to your Society, may I first of all congratulate you on an excellent journal. It is very informative and well presented.

There is a story I would like to relate, it may or may not be of interest to you, but I enclose a S.A.E. hoping that you can comment.

I have two cats; one cut her hind leg recently and it was 11 p.m. when I discovered she wasn't too 'bright'. I rang two local vets, one of whom answered my page straight away. I placed my cat in the very expensive cat basket I have and the vet admitted her saying that she would have to have a G.A. and stitches. He asked me to leave my basket which I did. After the admission details, he asked me to leave a deposit of at least \$10.

After I left, having left my precious animal plus a basket valued at \$40, I thought about being asked for cash and became rather annoyed. There are times when one wouldn't have cash available and would arrange to have the correct money upon discharge of the animal. I wrote to the A.V.A. for their comments, which are, and I quote their reply ..... "My Committee has considered your letter.....it is common practice and not unreasonable for a veterinary surgeon to ask for a deposit when called after hours.....After hours calls contribute disproportionately to veterinarians' outstanding accounts and most veterinarians have experienced animals not being collected".... end quote.

My argument is, if I did not care about the animal's discomfort or well-being would I have hired a cab, taken the animal and myself out into a very cold night, left her and my basket and a bill for \$84 I might add, and not have any intention of collecting her? Surely they can tell by a person's concern and appearance if there is any doubt. There is in all fairness a sign in the waiting room which, which one of course does not notice upon entering due to the concern of the moment, that all patients to be admitted, a deposit must be left.

I trust that I have not bored you or worried you unduly; however your comments would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Norma Grey (Miss)

Miss Grey's letter has been answered in some detail, the gist of which is that, while it can be annoying to a person of integrity to be regarded with doubt, we would, under the circumstances, have to agree with the A.V.A.'s views on the matter. A reason for doing so is that there are many occasions known to us where people showing great concern have brought an injured animal to a vet, then failed to return to pay the bill or collect the animal. The unfortunate vet on such occasions is not only cheated of his rightful fee, but is also left with the problem of an unwanted animal on his hands. The following two examples are classic illustrations.

Some time ago, a well dressed gentleman of obvious means, brought an injured and valuable pedigreed dog to a vet of our acquaintance for urgent treatment. Although appearing to be much concerned and devoted to his dog, it was six months before this individual returned to pay the score and collect the dog.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Contd)

Then there was the occasion when a very upset vet contacted our Society for help. His dilemma was that a family had brought a cat to him which had a very badly injured leg. He had explained to them that the leg would have to be amputated and that the bill would be around \$100. He was assured that the cost was no problem and to go ahead with the operation.

Following successful surgery and recovery, the cat's owners were notified that they could now collect their pet. The vet was dismayed to receive the reply that the family had lost all interest in the cat and had no intention of paying the bill. The disillusioned vet had to accept the financial loss, but being a humane man, he felt that the cat which had undergone much suffering and which he had done all he could to save, deserved better than to now be put down. Consequently, he had sought out our Society in the hope of finding a home for the unfortunate beast.... The Ed.

-----

Dear Mr. Graham,

As a life member of the Society, it occurred to me that if when we become life members, we are sometimes inclined to think "we have done our bit". When the winter and Xmas appeals appear in the journal, are perhaps some of us guilty of thinking: "Well, they have our life subscription", and close our purses again? I believe all financial members should stop and think now and again that the work of the Society calls for the greatest financial aid we members can give.

So I write this letter in the sincere hope that when appeals are made, we all try and open our hearts and purses a little and donate what we can afford to help carry on the wonderful work the Society is doing for our furry friends.

Yours sincerely,

(Miss) Zena Kensey.

-----

Dear Mr. Graham,

As my husband is in a nursing home and incapable of signing any document, mine will have to suffice.

We are both animal lovers and do what we can to help any organization concerned with their care.

It is my personal belief that most pensioners are financially better off than ever before and think the fee could be raised, at least a little to cover postage. My regards to all concerned with the C.P.S.

Sincerely,

Phyl Schott.

-----

(The above two letters are from members who are very good supporters of our Society. Letters from members such as they are always welcome and their views are worth consideration.....The Ed.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Contd)

Dear Mr. Graham,

In the July journal a letter written by Elizabeth Ahlston, President, Australian Association for Humane Research, in relation to Con-Stan Industries and this Lady not being satisfied, our Mr. Nobbs' letter to her in relation to the products being suspect as far as animal experiment and animal hormone were concerned.... was published.

The products do not contain alcohol or any synthetics and I repeat - this Company does not have any part in animal experiment or cruelty to animals in relation to this product.

I am a consultant with Con-Stan and also a member of the Cat Protection Society and do much work in the field with strays and cruelty cases and I would not be associated with this Company if I did not have conclusive proof that they were free of any suspicion in that regard. I would be horrified if I were guilty of belonging to something that was part of any act of cruelty to animals, no matter what the animal was.

In defence of Con-Stan Industries, I enclose two letters, one from the Anti-Vivisection Union (S.A.) who list Nutri-Metics (which are Con-Stan products) and would ask you to publish this please, or part of it in defence of Con-Stan against the letter written by Elizabeth Ahlston.....  
.....Thank you for being a whipping post (again).

I am, Yours faithfully,

Lee Shields-Rossit  
(Consultant Con-Stan Industries)

(In the pamphlet issued by Anti-Vivisection Union (S.A.) enclosed with Ms. Shields-Rossit's letter, "Nutrimetics" products are listed among others as not tested on live animals. However, as we are not expert in the field of animal experimentation, or which products are acceptable in this regard, the above letter is published in fairness to the parties concerned and suggest, over to you Ms. Ahlston.

In the view of State Council of this Society, testing commercial products on live animals is abhorrent and disgusting. We condemn it and all who take part in it.....The Ed.)

-----

The following contribution is a poem sent in by Ms. M. O'Connor.

To a Much Loved Cat

In your cat's heaven will there be  
An ample lap, a cradling knee,  
Paper to rustle, wool to tease,  
Provocative birds or climable trees?  
  
Will milk be served on each miaow  
Creamy and warm from some godly cow?  
  
Will warmth be yours as you desire  
Basking in sunshine, drowsing by fire,  
And eternal mice with saucy eyes  
Provide celestial exercise?  
  
In your cat's heaven will there be  
Place for a mortal memory?  
The shape of a hand that knew your fur,  
The tune of a voice that roused your purr?  
Will these persist to comfort you  
When all the way of life you knew  
Has been transposed from earthly years  
To timeless cat-ordered heavenly spheres?

-----

**PRESS RELEASE**

No. 82/105  
CANBERRA  
7 September 1982

Senator Don Chipp, Leader of the Australian Democrats, today criticised animal experimentation which inflicted unnecessary pain and stress on animals.

Senator Chipp was commenting on the research conducted by Dr. Taub in Maryland in the United States. Dr. Taub was recently convicted of cruelty to one monkey but was originally charged with six counts of cruelty to monkeys.

Dr. Taub was being tried not because his research was cruel but because his laboratory was grossly unsanitary and because he did not provide adequate veterinary care.

Senator Chipp said he was horrified to hear of the unnecessary stress and neglect these animals were put through.

Senator Chipp has written to the Director of the National Institute of Health to urge him not to provide further funds for Dr. Taub's research and not to allow the return of the surviving monkeys to Dr. Taub.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Senator Don Chipp (062) 72.7175  
Linda Holub (062) 72.7556



## Contented Cat Inn

Accommodation for cats only.

Run by Members, Mr. & Mrs. Parke - This cattery is recommended to members for its sunny, spacious and clean runs.

All cats are fed according to Owner's instructions.

Location: 1403 Old Northern Road, Glenorie (near Dural)

Phone: **652 1162** for further details.

### IN MEMORIAM

In memory of a kind and understanding friend, Mrs. Sylvia "Sue" Hitchen, who passed away 23.7.82 - Inserted by Elizabeth Smith.





Hon. Secretary  
The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.  
PO Box A523  
SYDNEY SOUTH 2000

(Please cut out and return to  
address shown).

I/We apply for Membership or Renewal of Membership of the Society for the year  
commencing June, 1982.

Subscription    \$50.00 - Life Membership            Enclosed cheque/P.O.  
                  \$ 5.00 - Annual Membership            for \$ .....

\$ 2.00 - Pensioner Membership  
\$ 2.00 - Junior Membership

Please cross cheques and make  
payable to:

"THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF N.S.W."

Mr.  
Ms.  
Mrs.  
Miss

Initials .....

BLOCK LETTERS

Address .....

Pension No. .... Postcode .....

Phone No. .... Signature .....

Date .....

Hon. Secretary  
The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W.  
PO Box A523  
SYDNEY SOUTH 2000

(Please cut out and return to  
address shown).

Enclosed is \$.....(cheque, M/O, P.O.) as donation to the:-

XMAS APPEAL                    \$.....  
AMBULANCE SERVICE APPEAL \$.....

Mr.  
Ms.  
Mrs.  
Miss

First name or initial .....

Address .....

Post code .....

**WARNING:** For those benevolent souls who choose to remember us in their Wills -  
make sure that you clearly state "The Cat Protection Society of New South Wales".  
Failure to include the words "of New South Wales" could, in all probability  
(as has happened to the R.S.P.C.A. of N.S.W.) result in your hard-earned money  
going into the Government's coffers instead! For any advice on the drawing up  
of Wills in our Society's favour (either whole or in part), the Chairman will  
be glad to help - 477-1316.

PLEA FROM THE SECRETARY: DUE TO THE HIGH COST OF POSTAGE AND ENVELOPES, IF  
MEMBERS SENDING IN THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS WISH TO RECEIVE A RECEIPT, WOULD THEY  
PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. OTHERWISE RECEIPTS ARE NOT SENT.

