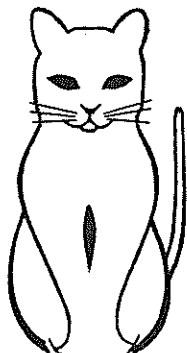


'CAT AFFAIRS'



JULY 1983

JOURNAL

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 PRESIDENT: Mr. Geoffrey Luton

HONORARY TREASURER: Mrs Judith Graham

COUNCILLORS: Mrs Leonore Bowman, Mrs Sybil Cozens, Mrs Elizabeth Francis,

Mrs Nancy Iredale, Miss Denise Tierney, (Hon. Asst. Secretary), Mr. John Kenny,

Mr. Fred Meyers. SECRETARY: Mrs Shirley Pikler.

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

Mrs S. Springfield, Mrs I. Tattersall, Miss D. Silins, Miss H. Heney

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

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CAT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 14th DAY OF AUGUST, 1983, AT THE Y.W.C.A.,
189 LIVERPOOL STREET, SYDNEY (OPP. HYDE PARK) COMMENCING AT 2.00 P.M.

BUSINESS

1. Read and confirm Minutes of 1982 Annual General Meeting.
2. Business arising.
3. Annual Report.
4. Balance Sheet and Financial Statement - Treasurer's Report.
5. Election of Executive and Council 1983-84 term.
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 Hon. Secretary's hands not later than 48 hours before the time of the holding of the meeting. Only financial members are entitled to vote, accept nomination, or nominate others for positions on Council.

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. Payment of subscriptions on day of meeting does not confer voting status on previously unfinancial members.

IF YOU CAN PLACE A CAT OR KITTEN IN A GOOD HOME, PLEASE RING OUR WELFARE SERVICE
'PHONE 51.1011

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Member and Animal Person: It's said that when one reaches a certain age, time and the years appear to fly rapidly by. I must have reached that age, for it seems but yesterday that I was preparing last year's Annual Report. Of the various reports published from time to time throughout the year, the Annual Report is of course the most important. In this, the report for the financial year just ended, 31st May, 1983, I intend to present to you a full and comprehensive account, plus some added information for the benefit of newer members who may not otherwise be fully informed of the way in which we operate.

Animal Welfare Activities. The staffing of our welfare section, the way in which it is organised, and the manner in which it functions are as follows: Mrs. Pikler, Secretary; Mrs. Iredale, Councillor/Hon. Welfare Officer; Miss Moss, Senior Welfare Officer; Misses Peachey and Porter, Welfare Officers; Mrs. Larsen, Hon. Welfare Officer, and the Treasurer, make up the present welfare complement. They are the only persons authorised to issue de-sexing vouchers and to deal with the public and other organisations on welfare matters affecting the Society. The President of the Society, by Council resolution, is Director of Welfare.

The office is manned every week-day by the Secretary and other members of the Section. Normal office hours are kept, and at present there is no week-end service. There is a recorded message service for out of hours enquirers and it is hoped to introduce a voluntary week-end service in the near future.

We have three ambulances in operation throughout the week attending to small, stray animals and birds which are injured or distressed; transporting cats for de-sexing to and from a highly regarded and very competent veterinary hospital and clinic with which we have a long-standing and satisfactory arrangement; delivering cats for shelter, or to those persons offering a home; trapping and transporting wild, feral, abandoned or surrendered cats which, if they have no future, are humanely and painlessly put down under veterinary supervision. Various other services and advice are extended to concerned persons or pet owners seeking the Society's help.

De-sexing vouchers which afford a considerable discount are issued to persons of inadequate income who do not require transport. These are only issueable from our registered office where all welfare activities are centrally administered. Persons receiving these vouchers must attend only those vets named on the voucher and none of the details may be altered. Any unauthorised alteration renders the voucher invalid and those vets who accept a voucher not in their name, are cautioned that it will not be honoured by us.

We have in excess of one hundred cages, cat traps, kitten pens and baskets which are in constant use, with each ambulance capable of holding 15 cages comfortably. Thus 15 cats for de-sexing can be transported at one time and if cats plus litters are involved, more than 30 can be handled in one operation. The ambulances are air-conditioned in the rear so that animals are not distressed in extreme weather.

It is my opinion that our animal ambulance service is the very best and most unique of its kind, offering a type of service unattainable not only in this State, but the entire country. To the best of my knowledge, no other organisation offers the facility of this de-sexing arrangement wherein owners are relieved of all worries in regard to arranging transport, time spent in waiting rooms, phone calls to vet, and a repeat of the performance the following day to collect the animal. All this at a vast reduction to what it would normally cost the owner. This service is marvellous for aged, frail, incapacitated persons who lack transport and means. It is also available to others who may consider themselves too busy, or reluctant to have their animal de-sexed, and is thus offered as an inducement to ensure the de-sexing of many more domestic pets. It can be done economically through our Society because of the large numbers involved and the fact that fifteen can be handled per trip. Our ambulances carry all the necessary equipment including suitable carrying baskets or cages to secure stray, surrendered, or cats for de-sexing. We do not require that persons seeking our help must have an animal secured in a wooden box

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT (Contd)

or some such before we will collect it. We are prepared to leave cages with people for those purposes, but in any case if that is not practical, our welfare team is prepared to offer all aid and carry out the job with a minimum of fuss and maximum efficiency.

All welfare personnel at the close of each calendar month, are required to forward to the Director, a form detailing number of jobs completed, vouchers issued, cats de-sexed, homes obtained, cats destroyed, details of other animals handled or picked up, plus other relevant data. This information can then be matched with our central register to verify the accuracy of our records.

Poison of any kind, gas, steel-jawed traps, animals for experiment, cat skins for the fur trade, have all been condemned by State Council. Only the most humane methods in dealing with animals are applied in our welfare section, and destruction is carried out with extreme regret as to its necessity. We are very proud of the service rendered by our welfare section, to animals and the community. The value of the section's efforts and its personnel, can be judged from the statistical analysis for the period 1.6.82 to 31.5.83, listed below:

WELFARE RESULTS 1982-83

1551 cats were transported by ambulance for de-sexing
1116 de-sexing vouchers were issued to approved and needy people
2667 = combined sum of de-sexing through the Society
529 approved homes were obtained for cats and kittens
3541 cats were humanely and painlessly destroyed
2312 jobs were successfully completed

Details of other animals handled: 27 dogs de-sexed; 2 dogs destroyed; 1 dog placed in home; 8 other small birds and animals transported to zoo or wild-life sanctuaries.

The above figures compare most favourably with those of 1981-82, particularly in the number of homes which went up from 368 to 529. Percentage of homes rose to 13.2% over that of last year which was 8.15% (headquarters figures only). It should be noted that all the above statistics apply only to headquarters and do not take into account the outstanding efforts of the branches. Their reports are featured elsewhere in this journal.

TOTALS ALL DIVISIONS OF ANIMAL WELFARE ACTIVITIES FOR YEARS 80-81, 81-82, 82-83

	<u>Cats Desexed</u>	<u>Vouchers Issued</u>	<u>Sum of Desexings</u>	<u>Cats Destroyed</u>	<u>Homes Obtained</u>	<u>Jobs Completed</u>
80-81	968	403	1,371	2,894	333	2,922
81-82	1,520	1,178	2,698	4,272	368	1,990
82-83	1,551	1,116	2,667	3,541	529	2,312

COMBINED SUM TOTALS SINCE COMMENCEMENT OF SERVICE (BRANCHES NOT INCLUDED)

4,039	2,697	6,736	10,707	1,230	7,224
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COMBINED SUM TOTAL ALL OTHER ANIMALS

<u>Dogs Desexed</u>	<u>Dogs Destroyed</u>	<u>Dogs Found Homes</u>	<u>Other Animals or Birds Attended or Homes Found</u>
103	23	6	13

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Cont'd)

Cat Refuge/Shelter: Despite what some members may regard as a lack of action on Council's part, there has been significant movement in this matter. A request to our Co-Patron and State Premier, Mr. Wran, that consideration be given to allocating to the Society a small parcel of Crown land for the purpose of establishing a shelter was acknowledged and duly forwarded by him to the Minister for Local Government & Lands, Mr. A.R.L. Gordon. Following from that, we were then asked to supply to the Minister further detailed information concerning our plans etc. An exhaustive and detailed submission was then prepared and forwarded by our Treasurer to the Minister and we await whatever may be forthcoming from that. Meantime, cats are being held for homes at Mrs. Foster's cattery at Dural and wherever else they can be maintained, including the homes of one or two Councillors in their own small cat runs.

It has always been open to all members who have something positive to suggest in the establishment of a shelter and who are willing to work for it, to come forward. So far none have.

Placing Cats: Although the establishment of a cat-holding depot is a desirable goal for us to aim for, I do not believe that it would result in the successful placing of more cats in suitable homes. A few members have expressed dissatisfaction when comparing our efforts with that of the Animal Welfare League's project at West Hoxton. It may come as some surprise, therefore, that despite our not owning a shelter, we have done rather better in the matter of placing cats.

With no desire to detract from the efforts of other organisations or to enter into competition of any kind, the remarks of those few make it necessary for me to set out the plain facts in order to put the record straight.

The League, in their periodical (March '83), published that 74 cats were placed for the 3 month period, December to February. The article further stated that their intention is to house a maximum of forty cats at any one time. As the League and we know full well, there would be more like 40 thousand homeless cats, and 40 or even 400 is a mere fraction. No matter how many we or the League were prepared to hold in shelters, they could be refilled daily, over and over again - that is, if sufficient homes were available, which they are not.

In this distressing and often heart-rending pursuit, a shelter may help to assuage our feelings and conscience, and be tangible evidence that some homeless animals are given a chance, but it is not the answer to the problem.

However, what I wish to point out is that despite having no shelter of our own, we have done remarkably well over the past year and in no way suffer in comparison with any other organisation. From December to February, the League placed 74 cats from their shelter. In the same period, we placed 156. Our best month was February in which we placed 75. In March we published our results for eight months (period June to January) - 329.

On averages, we could have looked forward to placing around 500 for the full year. As it turned out our final result was 529. Going on the same averages, the League should place about 300, and should their results improve dramatically (which I hope they do), it is reasonable to assume that they will not surpass our own.

Notwithstanding any of the above, we recognise that the League deals with a variety of animals which must add to the difficulty of their work. We congratulate them on their achievement at West Hoxton and wish them every success.

If we or the League did not take pains to ensure that the cats went to caring homes, desexed, immunised, and a charge made for them, there is little doubt many more could be placed. In my opinion, both organisations have adopted the proper procedure, and in making a charge it is done more to ensure that if a person adopting a cat proves to be an unsatisfactory owner, the animal will be returned and not dumped (for return of fee, no questions asked.)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Cont'd)

Meantime, there are many, many, unwanted animals desperately in need of succour, and both organisations strive their utmost to achieve the best possible result. Which one places the most should not be an issue. What is important is that both continue to do the best they can with what they have. When comparisons are made or complaints levelled, that such and such an organisation cannot help in some situation, it should be realised that none of them can keep up with all of the demands made on them, for sufficient wherewithal is simply not there. They can only perform within the limits of their resources and the amount of voluntary help available to them.

Talks, Functions and Events: Secretary, Mrs. Pikler, was guest speaker at two V.I.E.W. Club branches, one at Ashfield, the other at Croydon. The subject of her talk was, of course, animal welfare with the emphasis being on the importance of desexing domestic pets, plus the functions, aims and activities of our Society and the nature of the work performed by our welfare section.

Several fund-raising functions were held either at Enmore or at the home of Mrs. Cozens, President of the Auxiliary. Fashion parades were held at which it is suspected, several spies from the leading French couturieres out to copy the new season's designs, mingled with the guests. Highly successful "Bingo" days were organised and run by Jim and Josie Walsh. I attended the final Bingo day, and after practising all week to shout out the word "Bingo" in a loud voice, I disappointingly didn't get the opportunity as I failed to complete a card.

State Government Grant: The following reply has been received from the Hon. A.R.L. Gordon, M.P., Minister for Local Government and Lands (which incorporates Animal Welfare) in reply to our annual submission for a grant to assist us in our work:-

"Dear Mr. Graham,

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved a grant of \$9,000 to your Society for the 1982/83 financial year.

The invaluable assistance provided by the Cat Protection Society for the community in the area of animal care and protection, especially in caring for stray and unwanted cats, is recognised and very much appreciated.

I have pleasure in forwarding the attached cheque for \$9,000 which is to be expended towards the salary of one (1) full-time animal welfare officer, specifically to participate in a programme to encourage the desexing of domestic animals and to promote community education in responsible pet ownership.

While appreciating the need for assistance to enable the Society to operate its ambulance service, funds available are extremely limited and I am unable to assist beyond the amount now allocated.

At the end of the current financial year the Society is required to furnish to the Animal Welfare Section of my Department an auditor's statement certifying that the grant has been expended in accordance with the above provision.

I again take this opportunity of congratulating your Society on its praiseworthy achievements and I wish you continuing success in the future.

Yours faithfully,

A.R.L. Gordon
Minister for Local Government & Lands. "

Naturally, the grant was very welcome and we take this opportunity to thank the Minister for his consideration, and to express our appreciation of the State Government for the financial assistance given to our Society over the past three years.

.... /5

Auxiliary and Opportunity Shop: As it has done every year, the shop with its takings for the year was again very successful and the help this gives to our welfare efforts is inestimable. The tremendous job done by members of the auxiliary is very much appreciated, and we thank all those ladies involved for their unselfish efforts, particularly Miss Jo Tomkin and Mrs. Sybil Cozens, who continue to display remarkable organisational ability. We wish, also, to especially thank two fine gentlemen, Mr. Jim Thatcher, who has not only helped in the shop, but has also carried out much repair work on the premises, and Mr. Gordon Cozens, who comes out top of the class every year, carting shop goods and carrying out vital maintenance. These are behind-the-scenes guys, modest, unassuming, but indispensable. While on the subject, goods are always needed and appreciated. Volunteers also are welcomed with open arms. See your local recruiting sergeants, Jo or Sybil, for further details of enlistment.

In Summation: In attempting to sum up the work and achievements of our Society it is necessary to look back over the past three years to gain a true perspective of what has been accomplished. Prior to July, 1980, no official program of welfare activity, apart from the issue of desexing vouchers to selected applicants had ever been put into actual practice. To this day, no documented evidence can be found to say that this was not so. Most unfortunately, the very good work performed by individual members went unrecorded, for no regular reports were submitted and they each operated independently according to their own fancy. There was no official team performing as a cohesive unit in accordance with a laid-down policy. A good example of this is that at the November, 1975, General Meeting, as the Minutes confirm, it was revealed after repeated questioning by concerned members, that the meagre sum of \$70 had been expended on desexing for the year thus far. Despite further questions being asked, no figures were forthcoming regarding homes found, numbers of cats desexed etc. No evidence could be produced that any serious or worth-while welfare activity had been embarked upon except an unspecified number of vouchers doled out. It could be shown, however, that very good efforts had been put into fund-raising, and this has been singularly successful. This unsatisfactory state of affairs continued on up to July, 1980.

When the persons who formed the Council following the turbulent elections of July, 1980, took stock, they found they had reasonable funds at their disposal, and having fought and won the election for a principle, they felt it was now time to put into motion that for which they had fought.

The office was re-organised, a recorded message device installed, and our first ambulance purchased. For the first time a State Government grant was obtained, and with the indispensable help of Mrs. Iredale as Honorary Welfare Officer (in charge) and one staff member, we were off and away. Within two months of the elections (September '80), our animal ambulance welfare service was in full operation.

The expansion that has since taken place can be seen elsewhere in this report, and the amount of money now expended on animals (many thousands of dollars per year) is a far cry from the \$70 of 1975. The volume of our welfare work has grown dramatically, the amount of work we are asked to handle is enormous, which proves the executive of 1980 were right in the action they took. The animals were out there, just waiting for someone to come along.

Credit for those achievements (against great odds and determined opposition) must go to those original Councillors elected in 1980, and in particular to the spirit and courage displayed by Secretary, Mrs. Pikler, Treasurer, Mrs. Graham, and Councillor, Mrs. Iredale. I am very proud to have been leader of that team, and to have played a small part in the achievements.

We now look ahead to the 1983-4 term where fresh ideas should be examined, ways to improve efficiency should be tried, and if financially possible, further expansion should take place. The animals are still out there, needing our help.

Journal: We have continued in our efforts to improve this publication, and while making no pretence at being other than enthusiastic amateurs, we have no intention of turning it into a slick glossy. What we try to do is keep members informed, get a message across, perhaps amuse a little, yet remain a homespun little journal where members can feel welcome to air their views, or if they feel like it, to submit their own little animal stories. We think this has been achieved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Cont'd)

Perhaps at times, some members may wonder why other animals get so much mention. The reason is, we are concerned for the proper treatment and rights of all animals, and by talking about animals generally, people can come to understand just how intertwined and important they are to our lives. This can be particularly valuable to the education of young people in their responsibility toward all living creatures.

Election of Executive Officers and Council: Following this report there is all the information necessary for those interested in contesting a seat on State Council. We would ask that all interested parties give great consideration to whom they wish to nominate for the various positions, or if seeking election themselves, to be prepared to offer a contribution of value, not be just time-servers. It should be noted that Mrs. Pikler is engaged as Secretary, not honorary Secretary; therefore that position is open. All positions become vacant at the Annual General Meeting. Remember the old dictum: "people only get the government they deserve."

Conclusion: In concluding this report I would like to thank all those good people of the branches; the very kind members who with their encouragement and generous donations help keep us going (including the widows and their mites); all those whose names I don't know who donated goods to the "Op" shop, or helped in other ways; our Secretary, Mrs. Pikler, and all State Councillors for the service they gave to the Society throughout the year. Finally, but nowhere near least, Mrs. Iredale and the other fine girls of our welfare section who face up to the reality of what it's all about - the real cat work.

Hoping to see you at the Annual General Meeting.

Bill Graham

President and Chairman.

STOP PRESS by Shirley Pikler, Secretary.

In response to our invitation (contained in our letter of thanks to the Government for their grant), we were delighted to receive a visit from the Hon. A.R.L. Gordon, Minister for Local Government and Lands, which incorporates the Division of Animal Welfare, on Tuesday, 14th June, at our Enmore headquarters. Mr. Gordon was accompanied by his Press Secretary, Mr. Joe Court, and the Under-Secretary of the Department. Mr. Bruce Davies.

We were very pleased to have this opportunity to tell the Minister more about our welfare service and to point out some of the problems associated with stray cat control, and our ideas as to how the situation may be improved.

It was a very amicable and worthwhile meeting, and after refreshments our visitors were shown through our opportunity shop, office and storage rooms before inspecting one of our ambulances.

Our thanks go to the Minister for his courtesy and interest in making time to acquaint himself with our organisation and its activities.

.... /7

In accordance with the Companies Act, the following information is given per nominations and proxy voting:-

The instrument appointing a proxy to vote shall be deemed to confer authority to demand a poll. A demand by a person as proxy for a member shall be deemed to be the same as a demand by a member.

A Director of a Company shall give notice in writing to the company if he is a Director of a Public Company, of the date when he attained or will attain the age of 72 years. A person of or over the age of 72 years may, by a resolution reciting the age of that person, being a resolution of which no shorter notice than that required to be given to the members of the Company of an Annual General Meeting has been duly given, passed by a majority of not less than three-fourths of such members of the Company as being entitled so to do, vote in person or, when proxies are allowed, by proxy.

The election of office-bearers and other members of the Council shall take place in the following manner:-

- (a) Any two members of the Society shall be at liberty to nominate any other member to serve as an office-bearer or other member of the Council.
- (b) The nomination, which shall be in writing and signed by the member and his proposer and seconder, shall be lodged with the Secretary at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting at which the election is to take place.
- (c) A list of the candidates' names in alphabetical order, with the proposers' and seconders' names, shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the registered office of the Society for at least seven days immediately preceding the Annual General Meeting.
- (d) Balloting lists shall be prepared (if necessary) containing the names of the candidates only. The order in which the names of the candidates appear on the Ballot Paper shall be decided by lot, and each member present at the Annual General Meeting shall be entitled to vote for any number of such candidates not exceeding the number of vacancies.
- (e) The Ballot shall be conducted by a returning officer appointed by the members present and assisted by two or more scrutineers elected at such meeting.
- (f) In case there shall not be sufficient number of candidates nominated, the Council shall fill up the remaining vacancies.

Any member seeking election to a position on the Council should ensure that his/her nomination be in a form similar to that as set out below:-

"We, the undersigned financial members of The Cat Protection Society of N.S.W. hereby nominate for the position of*"

at the election to be held at the Annual General Meeting of the said Society on Sunday, the 14th Day of August, 1983.

Proposer. Address.

Secunder Address.

I, of
Born. being a financial member of the said Society, do hereby agree to such nomination, and if elected, agree to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association for the ensuing twelve months from such election.

Signed. Date

*President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, State Councillor.

TUGGERAH LAKES/WYONG BRANCH REPORT, 1982-83

Due to the almost single-handed efforts of Treasurer, Elsie Watsford, and President, Edith Duport, this branch enjoyed a wonderfully successful year. 305 cats were desexed, and homes were obtained for an exceptionally large number of cats and kittens - a singularly good effort.

Fund-raising from stalls, raffles, and sale of goods also went very well resulting in a healthy credit balance. Stalls alone brought in over \$1,300. Because of the work performed by this branch, much valuable publicity was generated for the Society throughout the Shire.

Elsie and Edith offer a hearty "thank you" to all those helpers, members and well-wishers whose support and help made the year such a success.

WOY WOY/UMINA BRANCH REPORT, 1982-83 By HON. SECRETARY DOROTHY HAINES

<u>Cat's Desexed</u>	<u>Euthanased</u>	<u>Homes - Cats & Kittens</u>	<u>Jobs completed</u>
151	108	174	648

During these difficult times we have endeavoured to explore ways and means of carrying out necessary field-work, and have enlisted the services of locals in each section of our area with a car and telephone. This facilitates urgent needs, trips to vets for the never-ending desexing, delivery of food and some checking on eligibility for assistance etc.

We were successful again this year in obtaining a grant of \$500 for the third year in succession from Gosford Shire Council. Local folk have supported our fund-raising efforts with much good-will, and we are inspired to greater effort by the splendid goods supplied to us by Sybil Cozens. As a consequence, our stalls and raffles are really quite out of the ordinary, and are real 'honey pots'.

In conclusion, many thanks to all members of Committee, supporters and members, whose unflagging efforts saw the branch through its 6th successive year of animal welfare work.

Thank you, also, to the State President and Treasurer, who despite a very heavy schedule, travelled many miles to deliver cat baskets and cages to the branch.

TREASURER'S REPORT

It is with great satisfaction that we are able to report another successful year. Expenses have been contained within income despite increased costs in nearly all areas including a twenty percent rise in veterinary charges in the final quarter.

The boarding/home finding operation at Dural has achieved reasonable success. The net outlay of \$7,243 for the six months ended 31st May, 1983, should be viewed as a necessary expense for the Society which is committed to placing as many cats as possible in homes.

As in previous years, legacies received have been invested to provide finance for our operations. The increase in accumulated funds is almost entirely due to legacies and the surplus on the disposal of shares.

The splendid result of the Opportunity Shop has helped considerably, and we hope that the level of income from this source can be maintained in the coming year.

The prospect of establishing a shelter/home is coming much closer, and 1983/84 could prove quite a challenging year.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Contd)

In conclusion, may we thank those dedicated members who gave so generously throughout the year. Without your support we could not carry out the humane work of the Society.

LEGACIES - YEAR ENDED 31ST MAY, 1983

	\$
Estate Late E.B. Jeffery	500.00
E.M. Scaliery	6,832.33
A.D. Day	500.00
M.J. Berry	780.65
B.H. Scholem	8,300.00
N.A. Pike	500.00
H.E. Incoll	1,063.56
L.J.S. McDougall	881.56
F.S. Incoll	500.00
S. Bayley	3,000.00
Minnie Gullett Memorial Trust	785.75
	<hr/>
	\$23,643.85
	<hr/>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Graham - Thank you for your Autumn Edition of the Journal, very interesting and much appreciated. Same handed over to a devoted owner of 6 cats of her own, and benefactor to at least a dozen strays. I met her in the butcher's shop yesterday where she spent \$17.60 weekly on cats' meat and almost as much again on tinned food. A kind generous soul. Best wishes always - you do a wonderful work. Sincerely, (Mrs.) Isabel Corderoy.

Dear Sir - Enclosed is a bank cheque for \$100. I think I already have life membership. Will you please verify that? If I am a Life Member the \$100 is a donation. A couple of years ago I found a wonderful home for a stray kitten. I love cats but being 85 years old, I cannot help much now. Thanks for all your wonderful work, I've brought goods to the Enmore shop. Yours Sincerely, (Miss) J. McMurtrie.

(Some of our elderly members are wonderful people, are they not? The Ed.)

A Letter in remembrance of a kind Grandma.

Dear Mrs. Cozens, Here are the boxes of clothes as promised - I do hope that they may help someone in need. I popped in a few balls of wool for the ladies who knit for you, it may save you having to purchase some as wool seems to be very expensive now, like most everything else.

Would it be possible to mention a small remembrance in your next newsletter for my grandmother, Mrs. Vida Bain ("Mammie" to myself and my younger brother, Kevin). Perhaps you could mention her love for all the cats she had in her 88 years. She loved all animals, (she used to say she thought more of them than people).

When going through her things I found again, photos I had not seen for years, pictures of cats she had way back in the 1930's when my mother was a child. My grandma had taken them with a box brownie camera!

Thank you again for all the wonderful work you do for the furry felines, they are more deserving love and affection than most people. Kind regards, Lyn Gembal.

(Mrs. Gembal is one of those very kind and thoughtful persons who help so much in providing essential goods for the 'op' shop. We thought it appropriate to print her letter in full to best express her affectionate memories of her grandmother. The Ed.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Contd)

Just briefly:- I go to a very understanding Vet. who doesn't charge like a wounded bull, so I am happy to pass on any savings I have to your great Society. Sincerely, L.J. Harrington.

(Your gesture is much appreciated Mrs. Harrington. The Ed.)

Dear Mr. Graham, - Appreciated the stories on Yomo, Possum, Mork and Mindy and the wild duck. Enclosed cutting from paper in case you didn't see it. Yours sincerely, Anne Taylor.

(The cutting Miss Taylor sent is headed: 'Cat scratches Rapist Attack'.

It reads in part: A cat who saved his mistress from a would-be rapist has been voted top cat of San Jose, California.

The woman told detectives that she heard a voice at the door. "I opened the door" she said. "I didn't know him at all, he was a stranger. He pushed his way into the room, tore my gown and forced me to the floor. He pulled down his trousers.

"Thank God my ordeal didn't last long," said the woman. "My cat saved me. He pounced on the man's back and dug in his claws. The man yelled in pain, pulled up his trousers and fled."

A county investigator said: "That's some cat. Wish we had more of his kind around.")

Here is an interesting note from member, Mrs. D. Jenkinson. She heads it: Ginger the Battler from Dundas, age unknown, abandoned he carries the scars of his misfortunes, a sorry sight indeed. For years he battled gallantly on, chased and hunted wherever he went. (Editor's note: chased he may have been, but not chaste). At last two old ladies Mary Fiore and Mrs. Duggan, from Housing Commission flats at Dundas, befriended him and Cat Protection had him desexed. He is affectionate, loveable and forever grateful and has given two old ladies a ray of sunshine. Mary worries that one day she and Mrs. Duggan will not be there to care for Ginger, and hope some kind person will give him a home. As Mary says: "beauty is only skin deep". As a result of Ginger's new appearance (although still scars) and gentle, loving nature, Cat Protection now have a few more members. D. Jenkinson, Member.

Then a letter from Mr. Garry Somerville, President and Secretary of the Sydney Metropolitan Dog Obedience Team. Dear Bill, - We thought we should be a member of your Society. Regards, Garry Somerville.

(Garry and his dog club have now been registered as life members, we are delighted to have them aboard. Garry Somerville, as many members would be aware, writes the column, "The Magic of Animals" which over a period of many years has appeared in newspapers and other publications. His column can be read in the Mosman Daily. The Ed.)

Dear Mr. Graham, - My two friends and I would like to give the Cat Protection Society this money. We raised the money by having a stall at the top of our street on a Saturday morning. We greatly enjoyed having the stall and both my friends and I would like to join. I think you do a great job. I love animals especially dogs and cats. - Yours sincerely, Lesly Jones.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Contd)

(Now wasn't that a nice gesture from those young people; they raised \$35.00 and donated it to the Society for the benefit of animals. Nice too, to be informed that they think we do a great job. Makes one feel well, pretty good. Lesly and her friends are indeed very warmly welcome to join us. The Ed.)

Dear Sir/Madam, - You may remember you referred me to the vet, Richard S. when I found a cat I had taken in had produced 3 kittens. Mr. S. has done a wonderful job - desexed mother cat and later saved her life (twice) and one of her kittens when they ate Baysol, an anti-snail bait put down by my neighbour. I had three rushes to the vet. The kittens now are to be desexed. One has been taken by a neighbour - they are all beautiful. With thanks, G. Brook.

(Many garden poisons are a curse and I don't know what can be done before the entire world and its atmosphere are polluted beyond saving. There are far too many toxic and dangerous substances sprayed around with gay abandon. I have a neighbour who will only use soap and water in her garden. We recommend her method be given a try. The Ed.)

Dear Mr. Graham, - As usual I must take the opportunity to congratulate you upon your editorship and production of the C.P.S. Journal. We find it most stimulating, and particularly enjoy your own personal stories and comments. It is also very heart warming to find, from the letters and reports, that there are so many people who really do care about animals. I know that there are not nearly enough in this world, but it is a start, and who knows how much influence may be exerted by these kind souls just by example?

Dear Pope John (the only Pope who ever appeared to care tuppence for animals) used to say: "you can never make a kind person cruel, but you can often make a cruel person kind."

The subject of animal slaughter on the roads having come up, do you know the enclosed poem? Would it be feasible to include it in the Journal. With thanks to you and all your helpers, and sincere appreciation from -
Gwendoline Thompson.

(Mrs. Thompson is a singularly kind person and generous in her praise. With regard to the Journal and its contents, I confess to a certain vanity, and for a hack, penny-a-liner like me, it's great to be told that some people enjoy it. Mrs. Thompson has quoted the late Pope John. I think most persons would agree that he was a most humble man, and his statements regarding cruelty were very true. In an effort to emulate that humility which he epitomised, and as a sharp reminder to myself: "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity". Ecclesiastes; Verse 2, Chapter 1. The Ed.)

Thoughts on Capital Punishment. By Rod McKuen

There ought to be capital punishment for cars
That run over rabbits and drive into dogs
And commit the unspeakable, unpardonable crime
Of killing a kitty cat still in its prime.

Purgatory at the very least
Should await the driver driving over a beast.

Those hurrying headlights coming out of the dark
That scatter the scampering squirrels in the park,
Should await the best jury that one might compose
Of fatherless chipmunks and husbandless does.

And then, found guilty, after too fair a trial,
Should be caged in a cage with a hyena's smile,
Or maybe an elephant with an elephant gun
Should shoot out his eyes when the verdict is done.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Contd)

Thoughts on Capital Punishment (Contd)

There ought to be something, something that's fair,
To avenge Mrs. Badger as she waits in her lair
For her husband who lies with his guts spilling out
'Cause he knew not what automobiles are about.

Hell on the highway, at the very least
Should await the driver driving over a beast.

Sir, - Perhaps you would like to publish my letter....it comes from the heart.

Shortly after I and my two cats moved into my present unit I discovered a stray tiger cat. He appeared quite young and very scared to the point where if food were thrown to him he thought it was being thrown at him! Through constant talk and feeding I gradually gained his confidence and was able to pat him and eventually to pick him up. When he realised all humans were not to be feared he got to like the fuss made of him. He was very clean, not desexed, but that was to come later. When I was home during the day I was able to observe him sitting patiently waiting in the yard, never demanding, just waiting for me to turn up with a hand-out. He had so much love to give someone and realised what he was missing out on.

I couldn't keep him as I had to have special permission to keep my own two. I felt so sorry having to leave him outside and although he had shelter it's not the same as being able to invite a furry friend into your home.

Recently, as I fed him, I noticed he had trouble with his eyes. I treated them with veterinary ointment but he wasn't too pleased about this and disappeared over the fence. For several nights I took out a meal for him but he did not appear. Then this morning when I opened my door he was there, hardly able to move his hind legs and shaking with shock. I carried him inside and fed him what turned out to be his last meal. He was ravenous and it was obvious he hadn't eaten in days.

Then I looked up my book and the classic symptoms of fractured pelvis were revealed. I placed him in a basket, took him to the vet's where he was quietly put to sleep. It was not that I didn't want to save him, but just that he had to live outside and there was no way I could have kept him with me. It was an awful decision to have to make, but after discussion with a friend we decided euthanasia was the kindest thing under the circumstances.

I wanted so much to help him, for in his pain he managed to get to the only person he trusted and who he knew would help him. Dear knows how long it took him, the trust in his eyes as he waited and I had to turn my back on him and walk away.

He only came into my life briefly but I will miss him for a long time and see those eyes for many years to come - he was named Spider because if he was caught anywhere he seemed to be able to run down walls of great height like Spiderman. Perhaps that is how he fractured his pelvis.....Norma Gray.

(Miss Gray did the right thing, the only decision that was possible. One can understand her feelings, but telling her story in the way she has, will help overcome some of the sadness she must be feeling. Unfortunately, there are thousands like poor Spider who don't have a chance. The Ed.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Contd)

Dear Editor, - I have only been a member of the Cat Protection Society for one year and have therefore only received two copies so far of your very interesting Journal.

I would have liked to have replied in some way to your Christmas bulletin but I was so saddened by the stories, etc. of the many homeless cats. My husband and I live in a unit, but we have our two wonderful cats with us which we brought out from the U.K. 3 years ago, otherwise I would have ordered as many as I could possibly accommodate. We treasure our cats.

Happily I was able to rescue an unwanted stray one year old cat and 4 month old kitten from this area where I live, gave them to a relative who has had them desexed and immunised and they are now two very happy cats.

We have some goods which we will give to your shop and whilst it is ever possible we will donate money to whatever appeal the Society requests. We can only help in a small way, but we are appalled and saddened by cruelty to animals, these days, whatever spare cash we have we donate to animal welfare, etc.

Keep up your magnificent work. - Mrs. M. Matthews.

(Mrs. Matthews writes a very kind and encouraging letter. We really have some very good people in this Society. The Ed.)

**SOME DISTURBING NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN
ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANE RESEARCH**

Dear Mr. Graham,

I was very pleased to receive your kind and thoughtful letter in reply to the Dr. Fox article. It was read at our last management committee meeting and we are all very glad to have your support in this difficult work.

You may already be aware of the enclosed draft proposals to control the use of animals in research. We are appalled by such a blatant attempt on behalf of the researchers to protect their own interests, and the omission of anything which would give any real protection to the animals. As you will see, Christine Townsend and I have both sent our press releases and shall be going to see the Minister concerned.

We should be very grateful for any support which the Cat Protection Society could give us. In particular, Mrs. Townsend needs as much backing as she can get on the Advisory Committee for Animal Welfare which appears to be composed largely of people who wish to protect the status quo.

I think you will be interested to read the News Bulletin about Professor Feinberg and his condemnation of deliberately inflicted pain in animals. His view that anaesthetics should always be used is born out by Dr. Richard Ryder. Why must Australia always lag so far behind the rest of the world?

Yours sincerely, E.M. Ahlston, President.

(In their attempts to secure some kind of just treatment for animals, Ms. Ahlston and Mrs. Townsend have the full support of this Society. Should such a proposal as that described in the above letter be allowed to go ahead, it would represent the greatest step backwards in the fight against cruelty to laboratory animals that one could possibly contemplate. It would condemn countless thousands of animals to the legalised agony of the experimenter's knife and to the doubtful mercies of those who have it within themselves to inflict what amounts to no less than torture on living and dumb creatures. What the Australian Veterinary Association is asking is that they be allowed to police themselves! They must not be allowed to triumph. Please read the following press release carefully and if you feel as I do, send a letter of protest to: The Hon. A.R.L. Gordon, Minister for Local Government & Lands, State Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 2000.)

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANE RESEARCH

A Farcical Proposal

A draft proposal to Control the Use of Animals in Research in New South Wales has been prepared by the Australian Veterinary Association. Animal welfarists have not been consulted and the Minister for Local Government and Lands is now circulating this document.

The proposed legislation will give ABSOLUTELY NO WORTHWHILE PROTECTION TO LABORATORY ANIMALS. It is a cynical exercise in protecting the interests of a small and powerful minority group.

SPECIFIC CRITICISMS

1. No definition of pain in animals or the compulsory alleviation thereof;
2. No mention of the use of "alternatives" to laboratory animals wherever possible;
3. Each research institution shall have its own Code of Practice and its own Ethics Committee, composed predominantly of animal researchers;
4. No independent inspectors;
5. No representation on Ethics Committees of animal welfarists as is the case in Sweden;
6. Even greater secrecy surrounding research than at present prevails.

Within the draft proposal are vague references to the "humane care and treatment of animals" and "prevention of unnecessary pain and stress" but these phrases are totally useless without the means to enforce compliance by researchers. Not surprisingly, it is also proposed that this legislation shall be separate from the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act!

If this farcical Act is passed, all those of us who truly care for animals can say goodbye to any hope of improving the lot of laboratory animals in New South Wales, or of ever knowing what inhumane and useless acts are being performed on helpless, sentient creatures. IT IS MORALLY AND ETHICALLY A STEP BACKWARDS, NOT FORWARDS, AND A DISGRACE TO AUSTRALIA.

CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Elizabeth Ahlston	660.1083	Christine Townend	498.3263
Ursula Jones	520.4584		

CONTACT

FOR ALL ANIMAL WELFARE ENQUIRIES
INCLUDING AMBULANCE SERVICE AND DESEXING RING 51 1011

Please do not ring this number on other matters as it is no longer connected with the "Op" shop. (If unanswered, leave message on answering service).

...../15

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Contd)

And another poem. This one sent in by Mrs. Rogers.

A mere man said to me one day, "What cats you women are!"
He meant it for an insult - but was it? not by far -
For if I've the qualities of a cat, I'm fit to be a Queen;
I hold myself with stately grace, I'm dignified - and clean.
When people tell me I'm a cat, it is in no wise detrimental,
For cats are always full of love, and yet, not sentimental.
Cats mind their own sweet business, they have a purpose clear;
In things that don't concern them, they seldom interfere.
Although they're not unsociable, there is, I must confess,
A certain air of mystery that keeps men "on the guess",
They're devoted to their family, and faithful to each friend;
They know exactly what they want, and get it in the end.
They're patient, they're persistent, but their business is their own,
When ill they don't want sympathy, they'd rather be alone.
They have a passion for their home, close by the hearth they stay;
A night out now and then maybe, youth must be served they say.
And so, my friends, if I'm a cat, I must be rather nice;
Although I can't quite see myself chasing after mice.
A new fur coat each year I'd have, and eight more lives to spare;
So tell me I'm a perfect cat - it's an insult I can bear!

A WELFARE INCIDENT - by Sandy Moss, Senior Welfare Officer

Recently, while transporting some cats in my ambulance on the way to a veterinary hospital, I came upon a dog which had just been struck by a vehicle. As is too often the case, the driver had not stopped, but callously driven on with no regard for the suffering animal.

Stopping the ambulance, I hurried to the dog but the poor creature was beyond saving and died before I could do much for it. The traffic was rather heavy at the time but I somehow managed to direct it clear of the dog and with the help of a kind-hearted pedestrian secured a blanket from the ambulance. After wrapping the remains in the blanket I placed them in the ambulance and continued on my way.

When I arrived at the vet's, I examined the dog which was a golden labrador and removed a registration disc from its collar. By this means I was able to contact the local Council where the dog was registered and obtained the dog owner's address.

When contacted, the owner was very upset and said that the whole family had been searching everywhere for the dog. They had been about to ring our Society for it had been reported to them that one of our ambulances (which are so clearly marked) had been observed at the scene of an accident to a dog.

Although very upset about their dog, the family were at least relieved to have definite information as to its fate. It was just one of those sad little incidents which we often become involved in but which illustrate the work and worth of our ambulance service. It also is a good example of the importance of identity tags for pets, which was the subject of an article in the March Journal.

ARTICLE - CATS IN STRATA UNITS

Does the Cat Have to Go? - We often receive queries from people living in units that they have been ordered under the by-laws applicable to strata titles, to remove a cat from their premises, and what can they do about this?

Such orders usually come about because of complaints to the Strata Titles Commissioner from persons living in the same block of units. The following advice was recently published in the Sydney Morning Herald: Anyone who wishes to appeal against an order of the Commissioner can lodge written notice of the appeal and pay the prescribed fee within the 21 days of the date from which the order takes effect.

If in doubt about this date, it is best as a starting point to use the date on which a delegate of the Commissioner signed the certified true copy of the order.

The people entitled to appeal are the applicant for the order, the persons who made submissions to the Commissioner regarding the application and anyone who has to do, or refrain from doing, some act by virtue of that order.

The appeal is heard before the Strata Titles Board, which considers the evidence pertaining to the original application and any new evidence admitted. The Board may affirm, revoke or vary the order appealed against, but it cannot make an order on costs.

Anyone appealing against an order should also realise that the appeal does not suspend that order, so they must apply at the same time for a stay of the order. The appeal forms supplied by the Commissioner include the provision for a stay of order.

The Strata Titles Commissioner would like to remind people that copies of the Strata Titles Act and Regulations can be bought from the Government Sales and Information Centre, 55 Hunter Street, Sydney. They are not for sale at the Commissioner's office.

EDITORIAL

A Hobart, Tasmania newspaper, The Mercury Suburban, copy dated 30.3.83, reached us some little time ago. Because of the similarity of experiences to our own, reported in an article headed, 'News from the stray cat centre', they are worth re-printing here, before commenting further on the stray cat problem:

"In recent months, the Centre has been advised of some cases of a distorted sense of animal welfare professed by people who claim to be animal lovers. Each case had several common factors. More than a dozen cats or kittens were involved. None of the adults had been desexed and had obviously been breeding for a number of years. All the animals were sick. At one address, 16 kittens were collected suffering from mange, malnutrition or cat flu. Some were so badly affected that their eyes were nothing more than balls of pus. No attempt had been made to seek veterinary treatment and no consideration was given to the suffering of the animals because the owner found it too upsetting. The defence was that the kittens would get well, and they were fed.

In another case, the owner was reluctant to part with a cat which was bald from the stomach down! And again the defence was that it would be "all right" and that it was fed. Feeding in this particular instance involved putting scraps in filthy containers in foul smelling surroundings. Apart from the fact that uncontrolled breeding of domestic cats should be avoided, the disease factor should be kept in mind, and unless basic rules of hygiene are followed, cats will inevitably become ill. Feline infectious enteritis, cat flu, ringworms and ear mites are all highly contagious, and enteritis is fatal.

...../17

EDITORIAL (Contd)

All animal owners should be aware of the risks and consequent ill-health and suffering their pets will experience if their diet, surroundings and veterinary attention are inadequate. It should not be necessary to point out that animal welfare is much better served by owners who accept full responsibility for one animal than by people who in a misguided way, undertake to feed a large number rather than to face the necessity of destroying some.

Like everything else, the cost of pet care is increasing, and this should be born in mind by anyone contemplating a pet or an extra pet."

That article in the Mercury Suburban said all that we have been trying to get across for a long, long time. The difference being that they put it so much better and more succinctly than our editorials have so far done.

We are acquainted with many similar cases where far too many animals have been forced to exist in unbelievably squalid conditions by misguided and cerebrally lacking individuals who are incapable of understanding that such squalor equates with cruelty. Cases where hundreds of cats have been permitted to multiply, defecate, spread disease and over-run premises to the detriment and distress of neighbours and the cats themselves.

Many times when we have been called in by Councils to collect these diseased, scabrous and half-starved animals, the owners have grown cunning and gone to any lengths to frustrate our efforts. One particular woman, artful dodger that she was, even sought help of the press by making deceitful claims that her local Council was forcing her to part with her few pets. She even gained some public sympathy through the press she had hood-winked, but the truth of the matter was her house was over-run by about 70 or 80 emaciated cats and kittens, all undesexed of course. Like the miser who hoards junk, or the farmer who makes an eye-sore of the countryside by piling his farm-yard with an assortment of old wrecked vehicles, others, through some distortion of their warped minds, collect cats to the point where they become neglected and consequently all suffer. The conditions in all such cases are sordid and filthy.

The more these cases of uncontrolled breeding are reported and exposed, the stronger will become our case for compulsory desexing of domestic animals. There have been threats of legal action, even physical assault from some of these individuals. One back-yard breeder having been exposed in an earlier editorial even sent her burly husband along to beat up the editor. Such threats have come to nought and we shall continue to hammer the case for compulsory desexing, more stringent legislation on back-yard breeders, pet shop and market sales of kittens, until the authorities eventually sit up and take notice.

We shall continue to campaign for improved animal welfare legislation, and we shall continue to speak our mind in these editorials. Intimidation of any kind will not cause us to deviate from that path.

Requests for Favoured Treatment

The normal facilities of the ambulance/welfare service are available to members at any time. Sometimes demands are made for specialised or favoured treatment outside our standard procedures. These come from persons who do not work within our Centralised system and who are members of long standing.

In no case has any member been refused service involving an animal so long as it is understood that such service must be within our procedures. We make no distinction between members whether they be long-term or newly joined, and no person is entitled to precedence over another. Let it be clearly understood, no member of Council expects or receives favoured treatment, and the same shall apply to all members. This rule also applies to all who work in our welfare system, whether honorary or staff.

EVEN ON HOLIDAYS - Article by Nancy Iredale (Councillor/Welfare Officer).

Taking a few days' break from cat work at Port Macquarie, I took a stroll through the caravan park to the sea-wall to watch my husband at that stupid game - blackfish angling. Along the sea-wall came a gorgeous black purring creature. Of course we exchanged greetings, but 'she' refused to give her address so we went looking for owners.

The usual story. The park was 'full' of cats - some tame, some not. My first call was to the office to suggest they try to gather the animals up. Complete indifference. Next call to police station to ask if Port Macquarie had a R.S.P.C.A. branch. One young constable said "No, love", the other said "yes, dear". The answer was really "no", so I asked what do you do about stray cats and dogs and with great relief they both said "dog catcher at the Council, love".

Off to the Council where the dog catcher was a cheery young man, "acting under the dog act", so had no avenues to help cats. I had begun to feel that the situation was hopeless when on the T.V. news that evening a local vet came on to talk about dog poisonings, about which there had been quite a stir in the local community. I determined to ring him the following morning, and upon doing so was informed beautifully that he had people wanting a young cat.

The thing was, there was a vacancy for a mouse catcher at the T.N.T. depot - but there were perks for the cat who got the job. Basket, dishes, food waiting and a cat loving secretary. I delivered "Midnight" to the manager's wife and what a clever puss she was. She smooched, rubbed her head all round the lady's face - an absolute hit. She was being taken straight to the vet to be desexed. What luck!

Can we count her, Mr. President, as a home found?

(Yes, indeed. But what's so stupid about blackfish fishing? The Ed).

AUXILIARY NOTES - By Sybil Cozens

Can no longer be called Ladies Auxiliary as we have a gentleman who is doing sterling work in the shop, both as a sales assistant and as a carpenter. Are there any other chaps who want to join Jim?

As always I personally and on behalf of Committee, sincerely thank everyone for their donations of time, goods and money. This goes for every individual who has at some time done something for the Auxiliary - ultimately our Society. All the thanks in the world are not enough for our "Lady in Bankstown" for the treasures that come from her workroom. All those coat hangers sewn up (from our two ladies who knit and crochet them), and the dozens of dolls' dresses that gladden little girls' hearts, pants, tops, dresses, skirts for the youngsters, cushions, aprons etc. etc. Last year her beautiful work earned over \$1,000.00 for the shop.

There are others who give their skills too in various ways. What would we do without them? Of course we wouldn't always have these creations without the basic raw materials to create them - so if you have any materials, laces, braids tape, bindings, press studs, hooks and eyes, wool, embroidery designs and cottons no longer required in your house, think about the Auxiliary, and of course, the "constant plea" goods for the shelves.

Forthcoming Functions

Housie Josie and Jim Walsh are having a Housie afternoon again at Enmore on Sunday 16th October, 1983 at 2. p.m. \$2.00 admission includes book of 20 tickets and tea and biscuits. Contact me for a chair to sit on.

AUXILIARY NOTES (Contd)

Forthcoming Functions (Contd)

End of Season Sell Out:

Once again Cynthia and Maureen are giving our members the benefit of savings available at this Parade of dresses, skirts, and blouses.
Venue: The Garden Terrace, 15 Best Street, Lane Cove.
Date: Saturday, 3rd December, 1983 at 12 p.m.
Chicken sandwiches, wine, coffee and cheesecake lunch.
Admission: \$3.00. Please let me know your numbers so I can collect enough "fruit boxes" to sit on!!

**OF CATS AND DOGS AND BIRDS AND THINGS
(and Cabbages and Kings)**

By the Editor.

WHO WERE ANNIS & GEORGE BILLS? Scattered throughout Sydney's Metropolitan area, in main streets and in less travelled thoroughfares - though the passing motorist in his haste would fail to observe them - lie the neglected relics of a bygone age. The simple inscriptions on each do not differ, and tell us very little. They merely read: 'donated by Annis & George Bills Australia'.

The age in which we live does not perhaps lend itself to nostalgia for there is little time to spare for such indulgence. But to the romantic with a feel for the past, especially one who is interested in, or loves animals, they can conjure a picture of a time long gone - which to indulge in a little personal romanticism - I like to think of as, a time when the horse was king.

A time when the traffic in this great metropolis was all, or nearly all, horse-drawn. When not only the baker, milk-man, 'bottle-o', greengrocer, ice-man, wood, coal & coke merchant, 'rabbit-o' and other tradesmen all marketed their wares in vehicles propelled by the horse, but also the larger commercial organisations such as breweries, the Colonial Sugar Refining Co, etc., all had to rely on the horse for carriage of their goods. A time when many people rode horse-back or travelled in Freeman Cobb's coaches. A time when, to quote one of Henry Lawson's stirring lines: "a thousand miles shall see to-night, the lights of Cobb & Co." A time when, because of the thousands of horses that formed the traffic's bulk, it was necessary to provide water for all those thirsting beasts. So the relics of which I write, are horse watering troughs; and the reason much of that so necessary water was made available, was due to the thoughtfulness of the long forgotten Annis & George Bills. As with the horse, time has passed them by.

Time and the modern age have also passed by the troughs. No doubt many have not survived the ravages of time, alteration or widening of roads, and thoughtless dismantling by uncaring local councils who have no sense of history. So there is little way of knowing how many there were originally, nor for how long the few remaining shall survive.

For the benefit of the true romantic (and are not all animalophiles such?), I have so far recorded the locations of some that still remain - Johnson Street, Annandale, outside the public school; Victoria Road near Church Street, Parramatta; outside Petersham Girls' High School; near the old flying-boat base at Rose Bay; one lies opposite the Clarendon railway station on what once was the old road and is now enclosed by the wire mesh fence of Richmond Air Force base; at Agnes Banks, just off the main road between Richmond and Penrith. (This last is placed on the lie of the old original track and is overgrown with weeds and rank grass. Many must be thus lost to view).

OF CATS AND DOGS AND BIRDS ETC. (Contd)

Consider, how years ago, many hundreds of thirsty beasts dipped grateful muzzles into those troughs to slake a parching tongue after a long, weary day in the summer heat and you will appreciate that now unremembered gesture of Annis & George Bills.

But who were Annis & George Bills, were they husband and wife? brother and sister? Were they wealthy people who left a legacy for the troughs, or installed them as a memorial to themselves? Or was it a donation given from a spirit of the highest altruism? We know so little about them, from whence they came or when departed. Just that simple inscription: "Donated by Annis and George Bills Australia" - but no matter, the horses would have been grateful.

What we do know for certain, other than their names, is that they had a true love of animals. So, Annis & George, though time, and the mechanical age hath passed you by, along with the horses you loved so well, we remember you here. Rest in Peace.

IN THE DAYS WHEN THE HORSE WAS KING

Hanging over the old sideboard in the dining-room of our house, is a reproduction of a painting by George Lambert. It is called, 'Across the Black-Soil Plains', and the subject is a wagon piled high with wool bales which is being hauled across those barren, wind-swept plains by a team of thirteen Clydesdales. Great silent beasts, the big white leader is straining in the van, while the bearded teamster, whip in hand, trudges alongside encouraging the horses to their task.

What is interesting to me is that the original was painted in the early part of this century in the very street in which I live. George Lambert at the time, was staying at an old Federation house which unfortunately is no longer standing. It is said that in the lunch hour he used to go down to the railway yards - which in those days was the main terminal point of the northern line - and persuade the teamsters to hitch up their teams to serve as his model. (As far as I am aware, the painting hangs yet in the Art Gallery of N.S.W.).

Across the black-soil plains! I haven't sat on the back of a horse these thirty years, but that picture takes me back many long years to a wet and freezing July night in 1940, when as a fifteen year old, I crossed fifty miles of those dreary plains on a chestnut mare with foal at heel. When I rode into the station homestead I was frozen and done in from exposure, but the mare was fresh though the foal was a bit sulky from being made to chase after his ma all that way. I had felt lost and frightened towards the end of that ride when with the last mile or two to cover, the sight of a wildly swinging lantern and the sound of a faint 'Coo-ee', cheered me over the final distance. Back down that long corridor of memory, I recall that the squatter was highly pleased with the mare's condition, but wasn't overly concerned about me. But it didn't matter, in those days it was all adventure and I had it all in front of me.

Later that year, still on the black-soil plains, I went to work for a man called "Bread & Dripping" Smith. "Bread & Dripping" acquired his nick-name by reason of he was the meanest man in that region, would short-change you on your wages given half a chance, and was widely supposed to exist on a staple diet of that which his nick-name implied. He was a mean, hard, friendless, taciturn old man - but he had one thing going for him - by my reckoning anyway.

On old "Bread & Dripping's" property was a paddock held in reserve, which had plenty of feed, adequate shade trees and sweet water. There must have been thirty or forty horses in that paddock, all animals that had served out their working life or become lame and couldn't be got right. There were stock horses, big old draughts, harness horses and a single sheep which had adopted those horses and figured he'd rather be a horse. In the evenings, just on sundown, I used to watch them all filing down for a drink at the water-hole (the lone sheep included) - one could sense their contentment.

IN THE DAYS WHEN HORSE WAS KING (Contd)

Old Smith, despite his miserliness, and questionable methods of making a pound, retired all his horses which were past work, for the money he could have made from selling them off to a knackery, was money too tainted for even he to stomach. Were he still alive, what he would say about those who trade such horses for the overseas market I couldn't print in this family Journal.

A few years later, just after the war, I had my last flirtation with the bush life. Returning from an ill-fated droving venture with nothing to show but a spare set of clothes in my saddle-roll, a first war army saddle, a pretty good stock saddle, two horses; one a well-worn chestnut, the other a good sort of a black, both geldings - and plenty of nothing in my pockets, I decided to call it a day. The chestnut I managed to sell to a farmer for two or three pounds as a quiet hack for his kids, but I couldn't find a buyer for old "Blackie". A stock and station agent advised he would fetch a fair price at a knackery - which advice sent a cold chill through me, for what man with soul so dead could do an old friend and companion that way, just because he was a dumb animal?

In the end I didn't sell old "Blackie". I found a man of like thought to that of old man Smith, who had a paddock-full of old retired horses. So I turned old "Blackie" into that paddock and walked away, with the stock saddle over my shoulder (years on I gave that saddle to a kid on a bare-back horse who reminded me of another of about his age who once rode a chestnut mare across the black-soil plains).

Old "Bread & Dripping" and I detested each other, but we had one thing in common; a deep love of horses and a feeling for that time when, once the horse was king.

Reading the March issue of the Animal Welfare League News, I came across an item which mentioned an old Finnish legend which says that at the Last Judgement animals are called first to give evidence for or against the dead man.

It is a pretty thought, and were it true, I am sure the horses would all speak with one voice for Annis & George Bills. Old "Bread & Dripping" Smith would certainly pass muster. As for me, well, although I worked him pretty hard at times, old "Blackie" might just give me the benefit of the doubt when my time comes.

The characters in this yarn were all of a kind with other more celebrated horse-lovers of an earlier time such as "Banjo" Patterson, "Breaker" Morant and the living counterparts of whom they wrote; Clancy of the Overflow, Harry Dale the drover, The Man from Snowy River and so on.

"All those of whom I've written, in this yarn of long ago,
Have long moved on to join the shades of the Breaker & Banjo;
But were their like around to-day, I wouldn't want to be the man,
Caught out in that shameful deed - shipping horses to Japan."

** Editor's Note: The above stories though hammy perhaps, are quite true. As for the poetry - my apologies. To those interested, I would love to receive 'info' on other horse troughs and their locations, plus of course, anything of interest regarding the Bills.

CAT ON A ~~HOT~~ HIGH TIN ROOF

'A cat is agile, but still fragile' - (heading of the article from 'Pet Talk' reprinted here). Cats are cool customers who can calmly catwalk between costly cut glass ornaments on a narrow mantelpiece without as much as touching them. But for all their delicate manoeuvring and daring jumps, sometimes the athletic precision fails and there is a terrible accident. Don't trust a cat on a window sill in a high rise building where the window is open. Falling from balconies in a common accident, some cats surviving fifth-floor falls with hardly a scratch, others not so lucky. It is commonly thought that cats make a four-point landing, but this is not always true. The most likely injuries are fractured jaws, often split where the lower jaw joins down the centre. These can be successfully wired. Another possible injury is a ruptured

CAT ON A HIGH TIN ROOF (Contd)

diaphragm, which may be indicated by laborious breathing. This can also be repaired by surgery.

MEMORY LANE

A donation in memory of 'Pussy Flodin', aged 20 years & 9 months.

Inserted by P. Flodin.

'Tawny' Ward - March 28th 1983 - Loved house companion of George Robert T. Ward of 1/606 Pacific Highway, Killara.
A victim of the road toll on Spencer Road, Tawny was in his 14th year birthday unknown. He "fell from Heaven" at Lindfield on the night of September, 20th 1972. My humanised cat, My Life, My World, My Everything.

A donation in memory of 'Salome', who went to the Elysian Fields in June, 1977. Wait for me my little love. from G. & H. Thompson.

A donation in memory of our lovely 'Tuffy' - put to sleep 16th April, after much sickness in his eleventh year. Also missed by his companion, 'Tiddles' of the same age.

Inserted by Mrs. E. Raynesford (Life Member)

A donation in memory of two faithful friends for 14 years, 'Liz' and 'Matey'

Inserted by May & Benny

A donation in memory of 'Spider', a one-time stray tiger cat.

Inserted by Norma Gray & Barbara Beames.

A donation in memory of 'Limpy' Ferguson, an old 3-legged friend when I found him in Kirribilli 9 or 10 years ago. Goodbye, old friend, you purred to the end as if you knew the vet and I were trying to help you, and we will never know how your jaw was broken and your foot crushed.

Inserted by Penny Ferguson, Coalcliff

A donation in memory of all the lovely pets in my life.

Inserted by Stella Kelly.

IN MEMORIAM A donation in affectionate memory of my dear grandmother, Mrs. Vida Bain, (Mammie). She loved all animals - Inserted by Lyn Gembal.

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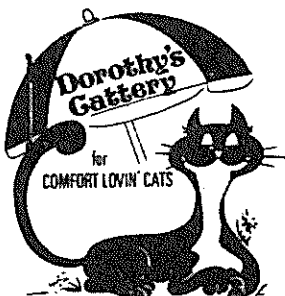
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Failure to include the words "of New South Wales" could, in all probability
(as has happened to the R.S.P.C.A. of N.S.W.) result in your hard-earned money
going into the Government's coffers instead! For any advice on the drawing up
of Wills in our Society's favour (either whole or in part), the Chairman will
be glad to help - 477 1316.

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