



ARF PRESIDENT'S REPORT

First of all, the highest of praise for our foster carers, the wonderful people who totally commit themselves to the care of ARF dogs and the process of re-homing them to new owners offering forever homes.

Since ARF began in 2001, our carers have rescued and rehomed over 2,750 dogs and our growing networks throughout the community have helped rehome hundreds more. Our training program for carers continues strong and underpins our high standards of care and rehoming.

We continue to rescue from animal shelters in the region, with ARF behavioural assessors regularly visiting shelters in Canberra, Queanbeyan, Yass and Goulburn.

Our ARF vets continue to provide excellent support all year round and we are most grateful for this.

Public donations continue to rise, especially this year with two major donations of \$10,000 each.

As I reported last year, our public profile remains strong through our use of social media as well as press, radio and television.

ARF is now quite a large and complex organisation, and thanks to the work of the ARF Committee and its sub committees maintains good standards of governance and administration.

Thanks to all our members and sponsors for their support - we look forward to it again in 2017.

Wendy Parsons
President
ACT Rescue & Foster

November 2016

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RESCUE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

2015/16 has been another great year for ARF. It is not always easy to measure the success of our Rescue team as our responsibilities are so varied:

- The foster carers without whom we could not perform our core business - there are currently about 45 of these brave souls
- The recruitment and support, including education, of these invaluable foster carers
- Our newly established mentor network who support and coach foster carers, particular the newer recruits, with both the foster and adoptions aspect of their role
- The behavioural assessment teams who work with the local and some regional pounds assessing the dogs in need of rescue to enable the carers to choose the best fit for their situations and assist pounds in promoting their dogs to the community
- The private rehoming liaison work, which helps ARF's workload by assisting dogs' owners, rehome them directly without the need for impounding.

Thanks to Rae for bringing together a comprehensive education and program for our carers and dogs. As well as encouraging greater attendance by carers at ARF training sessions, Rae coordinated approvals for individual assessments and management reports from behaviourists for a few problem fosters.

Formal training provided during the year included:

- Group presentation on the first two weeks in foster care, incl. admin, quarantine, crate games and initial training
- Raelene Koerber showed us nose work and helping our fosters to switch off and settle.
- Eleni Butler from All Round Good Hounds shared her wealth of knowledge and experience with puppy training and provided us with some great material for the VL for ongoing use by our carers
- Jess McNamara from ABC Dogs conducted an Impulse Control and Learn Through Play Workshop.
- Karen Swan, Canberra Pet Stylists, held a grooming workshop in her salon

Rae is also putting in place purpose designed foster carer training courses to be held hopefully twice a year, both Northside and Southside. The first of these has already been completed and hope to report fully at the end of the current financial year.

We are unbelievably blessed to have this range of training to continually assist and support our team through the complex though rewarding work of foster care.

The behavioural assessment teams work week in and week out, contributing to continued high rehoming rates from DAS, Queanbeyan, and Yass pounds and big thanks must go to our pound liaison officers Beverley Margosis and Lyn Boyer who go above and beyond to ensure these dogs get to safety. This year was the first full year with a dedicated Goulburn pound liaison officer, Lucy Butterfield, and her efforts saved 38 dogs from that pound.

Thanks Lucy

A huge thanks must also go to the Rescue Sub-Committee (RSC) made up, at various stages of the year, of Helen, Tess, Lyn, Bev, Sarah, Nerida, Rae, Lisa, Lucy and Emily. The

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RSC meets monthly and is responsible for anything to do with foster carers and dogs, including organizing training, equipment and developing new procedures and guidelines.

Special thanks to Nerida who has continued in the Vet Liaison role providing much needed advice and assistance even at short notice.

And the stats we can provide:

- We rehomed 180 dogs this financial year, up from 133 in 2014/15.
 - o Large 27
 - o Medium 93
 - o Small 60
- The average stay in foster care for the adopted dogs was **51** days. The shortest stay was **6** days (a surrender) and the longest was **546** (DAS)
- We took in 178 dogs from 10 pounds and private surrenders incl former ARFers needing our help
- We inducted 10 new foster carers

This year was our first full year without a Foster Carer Coordinator – no one person could replace the redoubtable Dallas Burkevics - so our wonderful mentors and the RSC have shared this role.

Teresa Kent
Chair
Rescue SubCommittee

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COMMUNICATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The Communication Sub-Committee (CSC) is one of a number of ARF sub-committees, and looks after a variety of issues including communication and fundraising. Our main focus is *Chinwag*, stalls and events, social media, raffles, the ARF website and Facebook, and ARF publications and advertising.

The CSC manages the stalls and organises volunteers, and carers and fosters are welcome at the majority of events. A group email address, communication@fosterdogs.org, has been used and publicised on the ARF website to channel enquiries.

The ARF CSC team has been involved in another year of hard work and exceptional achievement.

Key supporters include:

- Canberra Labor Club Group (Belconnen providing the trivia night venue)
- Handmade Markets (charity bucket collectors)
- Brodburger (Kingston providing the calendar launch venue)
- Tradies Dickson and Woden (use of meeting rooms)

Fund Raising Events

- Major events have been spaced throughout the year, several of which are noteworthy, including the ARF Bucket Collectors at the Handmade Markets, stalls, Trivia Night and Calendar launch.
- The 2016 Trivia Night, hosted by Larry Appley from 2CA, was a huge success with over 200 participants and over \$10,000 raised. Popular activities on the night included gold coin donation to play the table games, \$20 lucky dip, and a slide show of current foster dogs in care.
- Key sponsors for the Trivia Night included Canberra Labor Club—Belconnen, Canberra Raiders, The Nest Gundaroo, Yvette Fitzpatrick Art, Canberra Pet Stylists, Pups4Fun, and many other small and medium size local and regional businesses.
- Several CSC members were instrumental in helping ensure the success of the evening including the organising team Sarah Rullis, Lauren Canellis, Emma Hotham, Harold Hotham, Aine Dowling, Ruth Wheeler, and Mel Martin, with Petra Bright assisting on the day.

2017 Calendar Launch

ABC TV Presenter, Virginia Haussegger, launched our 2017 calendar on 9 October at Brodburger, Kingston. The calendar's doggy stars were photographed by four independent photographers including The Dog Tog, Kelly McInnes Photography, Tracy-Lee Photography, and TwoCollins Photography. The calendar launch was extremely successful with around 50 people and their dogs attending. Calendar sales exceeded those at last year's launch. Brodburger also provided a substantial donation to ARF with \$1 donated from every burger sold on the day.

Calendar sponsors are *Teachers Pet All Natural Pet Treats, Weston Woden Animal Hospital & Clinic, Curtin Veterinary Clinic, Pups4Fun, Canberra Pet Stylists, and Canine Compass – Dog Behaviour & Training.*

ARF Stalls

- A busy program of stalls continued during 2016 with stalls in Canberra and the region. These stalls are very successful both financially and as a promotion of our work.

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- New stalls added to the list this year included the Royalla Country Fair, Cancer Convoy in Goulburn and the Popular Pet show at the NGA. Existing stalls that continue to be very successful in terms of awareness raising and fundraising include the Collector Pumpkin Festival, and Living Green. New sale items that have proven to be successful include mugs and magnets.
- There will be a continued focus for the remainder of this year, and into 2017, on holding events during the week as well as on the weekends. Foster carers and dogs have been welcomed at many stalls and have proved popular with the public. This, together with very active promotion on Facebook, has led to a healthy promotional combination.

Social Media and ARF Members site

Facebook is proving extremely effective. There are **currently 11,450** members *liking* the page. Daily updates are provided on events, milestones, foster dogs, and DAS and Queanbeyan pound dogs in need. The page is managed CSC representative Sarah Rullis, with assistance from Dallas Burkevics, Pound Liaisons officers Lyn Boyer and Beverley Margosis. There have been a significant number of direct ARF foster dogs rehomed as a result of their profiles on Facebook, and many dogs rehomed directly from local pounds after members of the public have viewed their profile on the ARF Facebook page. We are working towards increasing our following on Twitter. There are plans for our YouTube presence to be increased allowing for more videos to be used to help display dogs' behaviour.

Media and Marketing

Our media profile was strong in 2016, and we plan to continue this through 2017. We have provided both posters and stories to the Canberra Times, Bungendore Mirror, and Canberra Weekly Magazine, when there is spare advertising space. These publications have very been supportive.

ARF quarterly magazine, *ChinWag*, continues to be popular reading and its editor, Aine Dowling, is committed to continued improvements and the magazine has already undergone substantial improvement with a new glossy look and feel. Aine and the team (Ruth Wheeler, Lauren Canellis, and Byron Carr) have worked tirelessly to edit, produce and manage *ChinWag*.

Meetings and thanks

Plans for other events for 2016 - 2017 include a renewed look at how the CSC can best support ARF, a review of Café Press, increased presence on social media, working with some local dog club groups, and approaching major companies for corporate sponsorship. Thanks to the CSC members Sarah Rullis (Chair), Bec Stockley, Aine Dowling, Carol Anderson, Joh Dunn, Ruth Wheeler, Lauren Canellis, Alexandra Fretwell, Katherine Fretwell, Jo Alexander, and Petra Bright. Thanks also to our 'honorary' member, graphic designer Byron Carr.

Sarah Rullis
Chair,
Communication SubCommittee