

# NRAS Newsletter – December 2023

## WE GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS

Throughout the second half of this year, we have received the help of some wonderful NRAS friends and supporters.

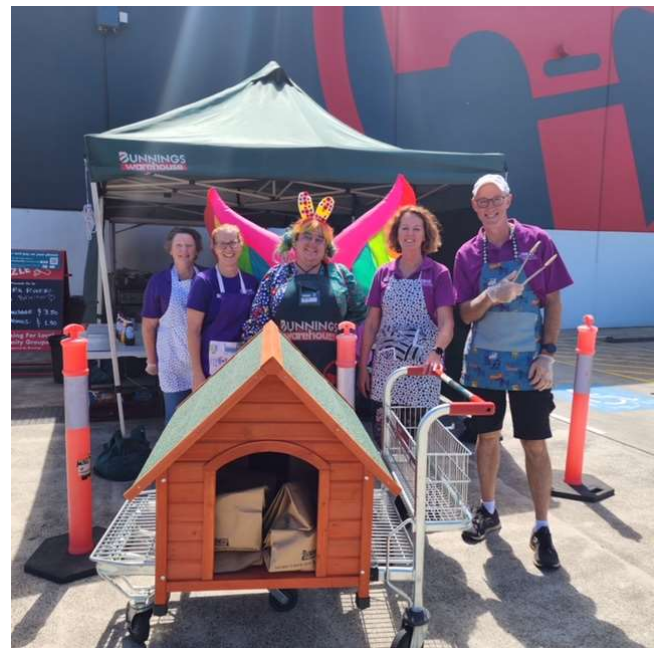
A charity art exhibition, benefiting both NRAS and Paradise FM, exhibiting the work of talent local artist Rod Ellis, was held at the Mackay Harrison Gallery in Ballina. It proved to be so popular that it was extended for several days.

The Shaws Bay Hotel, known to locals as The Shawsy, held a Dogs Day Out at their beautiful waterfront property in East Ballina. Raffles and a Karma Keg pop-up bar (compliments of our friends at Stone and Wood) raised some much-needed funds for NRAS. Lots of locals came along with their four-legged friends (who were all very well behaved), to enjoy a drink, something to eat and a day out in the sunshine by the water.



At the end of October, the NRAS team hosted a sausage sizzle at Bunnings in West Ballina. Coles generously provided the bulk

of the supplies, and made a donation to NRAS, while Evan at the Ballina Fisherman's Co-Op made sure we had plenty of ice to keep the sausages cool and the drinks cold. At the end of the day Amber McBride, the CEO of Fun at Bunnings, presented us with a beautifully constructed dog kennel loaded with dog and cat goodie bags. The kennel and goodie bags were donated by the Bunnings Teenage Tradies from Ballina Coast High School. NRAS vollies cooked up a storm and any four-legged friends that turned up were given a free sausage. So many sausages were sold (or given away free to doggos) that back up supplies had to be hurriedly acquired.



## CALLING FOSTER CARERS

Christmas is a time when many people, including some of our regular foster carers, leave home to spend time with friends and family both near and far. Christmas can be a very tough time for some of our furry friends as they may be abandoned to look after themselves. As a result, it can be a very busy time for animal shelters. If you or anyone you know are able to foster a dog or

a cat during the festive season, please call the Shelter on (02) 6681 1860 where one of our friendly vollies will arrange to send you a Foster Carer Application.

## FESTIVE SEASON FUN AT THE OP SHOP

The NRAS Op Shop in River Street is getting well and truly into the swing of the festive season. The window has been dressed and is a delight for adults and children alike. If you haven't already seen it why not pop into the shop and while you're there check out all the wonderful hand-made Christmas gifts on offer – everything from cakes and puddings to wonderful potted plants in recycled containers.



The Op Shop vollies and manager Donna have done a simply amazing job of providing a wide range of Christmas gifts with prices to suit every budget. In addition, why not look for a new Christmas outfit for you or a member of your family – the clothing racks are simply overflowing with bargains. To assist with your Christmas shopping the NRAS Op Shop will be open on

Sundays between now and Christmas from 10.00am until 2.00pm.

## SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN (AND HE'LL BE AT THE OP SHOP)



Santa has found time in his busy festive season schedule to visit the NRAS Op Shop on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December for our 2023 Santa Paw Prints event. We've asked him to leave his reindeer at the North Pole as they would simply take up too much room in our little shop, (and perhaps frighten our smaller four-legged friends). He will however be happy to have his photo taken with your four-legged friend or friends. Photos cost \$10 for one, \$15 for two and \$20 for three different photos. For your convenience, photos will be emailed to you. Bookings are essential so why not call the Op Shop on 0400 624 863 to reserve your photo shoot time. Four legged friends are always welcome at the Op Shop.

## PUPPIES, PUPPIES AND MORE PUPPIES

The second half of 2023 seems to have been all about puppies – cuddly, squirmy, squishy, loveable puppies.

It all started on the 8<sup>th</sup> August when NRAS welcomed 9 gorgeous Catahoula Leopard X pups into the world. The pups were born and raised in the home of NRAS Shelter Manager Amy and her family; and some wonderful NRAS volunteers jumped in to help with midwife duties including keeping mumma Tully and her pups fed, cleaned and loved. Raising and feeding 9 puppies to an age when they can be desexed,



vaccinated, microchipped and then adopted is an expensive proposition.



So NRAS decided to launch a "puppy sponsorship program". Social media spread the word and before long every one of the 9 puppies had an individual sponsor. For \$100 the puppy sponsor got naming rights, weekly "pupdates" and the opportunity to meet and have lots of cuddles with "their" pup once it had reached 8 weeks of age. All 9 pups were adopted to wonderful homes and mumma dog Tully is now revelling in her pup free status.



September found NRAS seeking forever-homes for three adorable Labrador puppies. As you can imagine, there was a lot of interest in these labs - two cream and one black. Everyone knows puppies are cute but some say Labrador pups are the cutest. Perfect homes were found for all of them and they went off with their new families accompanied by their very own supply of Frontier Pet Food. Frontier are a local

company based in Evans Head, and we were very happy to send our pups off with a supply of their nutritious, delicious, free range organic food.

## ADOPTION DAY PUPPY PANDEMONIUM

NRAS Adoption Day on 4th November can only be described as "puppy pandemonium". We were lucky enough to have six 8-week-old Border Collie puppies available for adoption. After advertising their availability on social media, it seemed that pretty much everyone in Ballina and surrounds came along to either cuddle, admire or complete an adoption application for one of these gorgeous pups. We had to implement crowd control as people were all trying to see the pups at the same time. There were so many adoption applications that we ended up taking expressions of interest, and our wonderful Shelter Manager, Amy, went through all the applications to identify the best possible forever homes for the pups.



At the end of the adoption day the pups were completely exhausted from all the cuddles and attention. They've now all gone to their forever homes.

## SHARING THE CUDDLES AND THE MEMORIES

NRAS recently partnered with Crowley & BUPA to bring some smiles to the faces of their senior residents. Once a month our Shelter Manager Amy and some vollies head out to Crowley and BUPA with some NRAS dogs or puppies. This brings a little joy into the lives of the residents, many of whom were pet owners in the past and love to share stories about their much-loved companions who have crossed the rainbow bridge. It would be wonderful to take some kittens out to visit the residents, many of whom are cat lovers, but frail skin and kitten claws sadly don't mix.



## THE IMPORTANCE OF MICROCHIPPING YOUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS

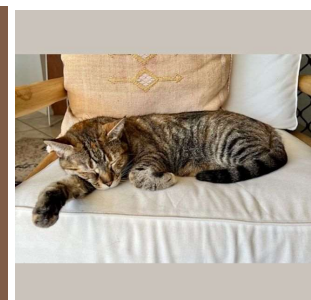
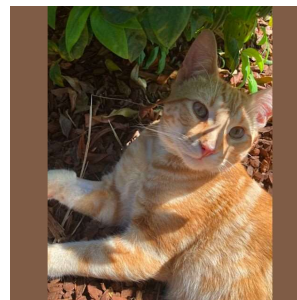
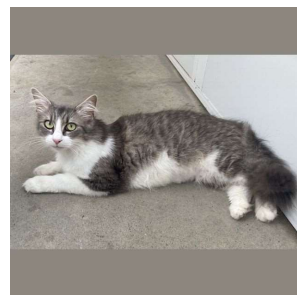
At NRAS we understand the importance of microchipping. One of our very own volunteers got one of her cats, Philly, back after a six-month absence, as the puss was microchipped and the owners' details were up to date. All animals adopted from NRAS

are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped.

It is important to remember to update your contact details if you move or your telephone number changes. In NSW this update can be done online at [www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au](http://www.petregistry.nsw.gov.au) or by visiting your local council offices.

## IT HASN'T BEEN ALL ABOUT PUPPIES

While it may seem that the past few months have been nothing but puppies, puppies and more puppies, NRAS was also able to find loving forever homes for some amazing pusskins. It's not possible to name them all but some became firm favourites with their foster carers and the NRAS Shelter volunteers. Beautiful Luna who was everyone's friend, handsome Mitch in ginger finery who never stopped talking and had all the office volunteers twisted around his little paw, Jack the Lad with his big bushy tail, so laid back and cool, and sweet, shy Millie who waited patiently for months before finding just the right home. There were many more, both cats and kittens, in every colour from tuxedo through to tabby and tortoiseshell, some with long coats and others with short. All now are going to enjoy the festive season in their new forever homes.





## VOLLIE IN VIEW



This edition's **Vollie in View** is **Denise** who currently volunteers at the NRAS Op Shop. Denise joined the wonderful and dedicated Op Shop team way back in early 2016. She volunteers two days a week at the Op Shop and can be found either on the front counter looking after customers or out the back of the shop helping with the sorting of donations. Helping people is in her blood – before she retired and moved to Ballina from Sydney she was involved in a service that provided accommodation for young people affected by homelessness and mental health issues.

Way back before Denise joined NRAS as a vollie, she met Barb who was, at that time, the volunteer manager the Op Shop. Barb told her about the wonderful work NRAS was doing for the homeless dogs and cats of the district. Denise was so taken by what Barb told her she decided to “sign up” as a volunteer herself.

As Denise says, volunteering is to be highly recommended, as the rewards of helping others are many and varied. While volunteering at NRAS she has met and worked with some of the nicest people, some of whom have become lifelong friends. In addition, she gets to meet some amazing friendly and caring customers who not only support the Op Shop with donations and purchases but also bring their rescue fur babies in for meets and cuddles.

Denise moved to Ballina from Sydney to be closer to her grandchildren but, as is so often the case, she now has more grandchildren who are located in Sydney. While she's now torn between Ballina and Sydney, with grandies in both places, Ballina is her home but she travels frequently to Sydney to catch up with her family down there.

At the moment Denise does not have any pets of her own but is looking forward to adopting a rescue dog from NRAS when the time is right.

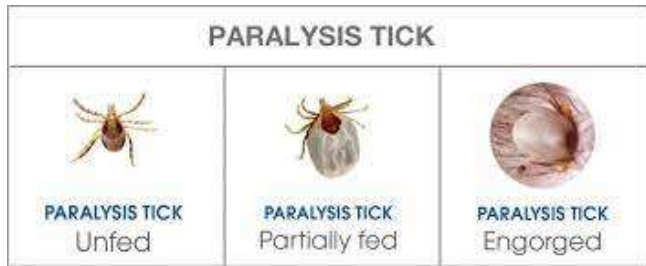
## DECEMBER ADOPTION DAY

The NRAS December Adoption Day will be held at the Shelter in Piper Drive on Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, weather permitting. In addition to some wonderful dogs and cats looking for forever homes we will also have available some fantastic merchandise hand made by our very talented vollies. There are cleverly crafted and very colourful poop purses designed to hold and dispense your pet poop bags, cotton bandanas for small, medium and large dogs, and some amazing hand crochet pet rugs. You may also notice that we have installed some wonderful new, almost indestructible and totally weather proof brushed aluminium furniture around the shelter, allowing potential adoptees to spend time more comfortably with our dogs and puppies.

Bring the family and come join in the fun.

# BE ALERT BUT NOT ALARMED – IT'S TICK AND SNAKE SEASON

It's that time of the year when paralysis ticks and snakes are very active in the area. A mild winter created ideal breeding conditions for both snakes and ticks.



Be aware of the symptoms of tick paralysis and snake bite and seek veterinary attention urgently if you believe your pet has been bitten by either. In the case of snake bite, do not try to kill the snake but take a photo if possible as this will assist the vet in identifying which antivenin to administer.



# NRAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The NRAS Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at 10.00am on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. The venue is the Meeting Room at the Cherry Street Sports Club. In order to vote at the AGM or to nominate for the Committee, members must be financial and have paid their subscription fee for the 2024 financial year. Annual subscription fees were due and payable by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

At the AGM reports from the President, the Treasurer, the OP Shop Manager and the Shelter Manager will be tabled, along with a financial report on the NRAS Subsidised Desexing Program.

If you are attending the AGM, please **RSVP by Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November** by email to secretary @nras.org.au or by calling the Secretary on 0423 982 217.

There will be no refreshments supplied at the AGM.

# A CHRISTMAS WISH FROM NRAS TO YOU

To all our members and volunteers, without whom we would be unable to help so many animals in need, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



From our family to yours, we wish you a safe and happy festive season and look forward to seeing you all again in the new year.

NRAS has come a long way since it was established more than 22 years ago. During that time we have provided foster care and new homes for thousands of lost, abandoned and abused dogs, cats, puppies and kittens. We couldn't have done it without our volunteers and foster carers whose big hearts and hard work provided a fresh start for all these fur babies.

