

# NRAS Newsletter – #4 /2020

*Like fine wine and cheese ...  
they only get better with age!!!*

## Why not ADOPT A SENIOR

**NRAS** has had three mature puss-cats in foster care since September who are still looking for their forever homes.

What are the advantages of adopting a SENIOR? They have developed their own individual personality and, as THEIR PERSON, you can feel the glow of warm, fuzzy love having given a beautiful feline their much-deserved second chance.

Seniors too, are litter-trained and have outgrown the skittish behaviour of their junior counterparts.

Each of our seniors would be best re-homed in **single-pet households** or with older human residents without small children. They are NO FUSS and JUST HAPPY for company.

Age should not hinder the decision to love a mature companion animal as felines can live more than 20 years.

When seven-year-old **JACKIE's** owner passed-away, she was taken in by a kindly neighbour. Unfortunately, with other cats in the household having already staked their claim, and obviously suffering the loss of her human, Jackie withdrew and became very timid.



**C741 JACKIE**

And then there's **NED** ... a sweet gentle boy who may be afraid of strangers at first but when he feels comfortable, likes to be within reach for a gentle pat. And his apprehensiveness may have something to do with a "small" adventure he had recently.

One morning NRAS received a call from a young fella named Nelson advising that there was a cat stuck in a drain in Albatross St opposite Ballina Aldi.

The Rangers were out on a job in Lennox and the caller advised that the poor cat was hissing (which you would if you were caught in a drain)!! When asked for a description, Joy (NRAS Cat Coordinator) had a "lightbulb" moment to discover that said puss was GINGER in colour and drain location was near where one of NRAS' foster charges had recently escaped.

Joy relayed her assumptions to Peter, the Ginger puss cat's foster carer and, tried the SES for assistance.

By the time Joy had arrived at the Albatross St site, Peter had already opened the grille and was literally down in the drain trying to get Mr Puss out.

### **Talk about going the extra mile!!**

A quick dash back to the shelter armed with brooms and a cat trap, Joy and Peter managed to rescue the puss and delivered him straight to Ballina Vet Hospital.

Via his microchip, the patient was confirmed as NRAS escapee, **Ned**; a dead tick was found on his coat and he was kept in for observation and fluids, but soon enough he was "eating like a horse" and ready to be returned to his foster carer.

Now that he has recovered from all that excitement Ned is looking for his forever home. For obvious reasons 😊 Ned should remain an "indoor only" cat and is quite the chatter-box. Like Jackie, Ned would be best suited to a one-pet household.



The angelic, Ginger Ninja, **C714 NED**

Last, but by no means least is **MEEKO**.

Meeko is the whole package ... personality and good looks. This cool guy is a Maine Coon-mix who wants to smooch, have tummy rubs and his chin scratched. In return he will be a faithful, chatty companion who will roll around on the floor at your feet (usually awaiting a pampered brush of his elegant coat). That is, once he gets over his initial shyness.



**C742 MEEKO is the “whole package”**

After he becomes comfortable in his new surroundings (which should be strictly indoors and best in a quiet household with no children), he is a loving and affectionate middle-aged boy who is also partial to a nanna-nap in a dark hidey-hole.

All SENIORS highlighted here would be purrfect companion animals.

However, if you're unable to adopt ... think about becoming an NRAS foster carer (especially for our mature felines).



## AN ANGEL IN OUR MIDSTS

It's not just a Christmas miracle ... the wonderful **Kath Petty**, long-term Riverbend resident, is miraculous all-year 'round.

Kath, 84 years young, recalls being a girl of just eight and helping her mother to knit socks for World War II soldiers.

One of six children, Kath grew up on a dairy farm in the outer-western Sydney suburb of Doonside. Unlike the children of today, being entertained with screens and all imaginable toys at their fingertips, Kath recalls: “sewing, knitting and all forms of craft” were the norm for children of that era.

And those skills remain today.



Even after suffering a stroke at just 46, her fingers are nimble as she refuses to while away the days without purpose.

Obviously, a lady ahead of her time, Kath has not used a plastic shopping bag for almost two decades having sewn her own fabric ones for personal use and to take on trips to villages in Papua New Guinea and Fiji, mostly stuffed with hand-made toys for the local children.

Other Riverbend residents and friends often donate fabric to Kath and her home-based production line. She has two sewing machines adorning her dining room table, and an abundance of beautiful stock scattered around her beautiful home.

Beit fabric shopping or library bags, toys or patchwork quilts, this lady has done (and continues to do) it all.

The latest project ... Christmas wreaths from recycled milk bottle tops, covered in festive fabrics and snow-men decorations from donated wadding.



All these items have, at one time or another, been kindly donated by Kath to the NRAS Op Shop to the point that customers now seek out her beautiful craft.

Mum would be so proud Kath ...  
we certainly are!!!! 

And the beautiful craft thankfully hasn't completely stopped with Kath's generation.

Back in October the gorgeous **PIPER** popped into the NRAS Op Shop following a visit to the Rescue Shelter with Dad (Col) to sign up as foster carers.

Piper had asked her dad if she could make earrings and sell them at the shop with all proceeds going to NRAS. She has even decorated the cards with drawings of her dog and now-deceased rabbit.



Earrings by Piper are available for \$3.00 each from the NRAS Op Shop

## Vollie In View

This **Vollie in View** needs no introduction. As NRAS' resident Canine Coordinator and office team member, **TRISH** has been with NRAS since 2009.

After losing their 17-year-old Kelpie, Trish & husband Steve were keen to foster. Whilst having played foster parents to many animals over the years, **BLOSSIE**, AKA *the "Witch"*, a feisty Poodle/Papillon, is their adopted pooch who apparently had a long "Council rap sheet" when they took her in.



Asked if she would recommend Volunteering with NRAS, Trish's response is "ABSOLUTELY"!! "The work is rewarding; never dull and you have the amazing opportunity to help find animals loving homes. "It's also a great LEARNING experience" says the former high school teacher of 38 years.

Working with a wonderful collection of committed people she rates as one of the BEST things about volunteering with NRAS as is seeing a dog get a second chance to be happy in a loving home.

Trish recalls one of many great stories she has of her more-than decade-long association with the group when **Charlie & Lucy** were taken to two vets to be euthanised because their owner *didn't want them anymore!!*

Fortunately, another NRAS volunteer intervened and they now have a new life with a family that adores them.

When not at NRAS or attending to **the every need** of the "Witch", Trish enjoys travel (pre-COVID obviously), surfing, paddle-boarding and MTB bike riding.

"We forgot to have children," says Trish ... "the surf must have been good that day."



*Instead, Trish & Steve spent their time raising FUR BABIES ... Blossie "The Witch" with the late Mickey; a regular at the NRAS office.*

## **ALFIE & OREO**

Wendy & Colin had recently lost their previous rescue dog, **Sandy**, who came into their lives when she wandered into their caravan park, emaciated but very friendly.

When no one claimed her from the pound Wendy & Colin adopted her through NRAS and gave her a magnificent new home and a long, contented life.

After Sandy's passing, Wendy once again contacted NRAS to find a companion for their blind 7-year-old collie, **Nessie**.

As the stars aligned, two beautiful Border Collies, **Alfie & Oreo**, were surrendered in October due to a change in family circumstances, but from a very loving home.

Alfie & Oreo were adopted together and are living the "Life of Riley". According to Wendy: "they have both settled into life at our horse sanctuary. It's action everyday with plenty of walks and lots of racing around the cottage garden".

Wendy keeps in regular contact with the pair's previous family to give them updates of their new happy life.

Best of all they have become good buddies with Nessie who follows them on walks and they play together every morning.



**Collie World ... Nessie & Oscar with new buddies Alfie & Oreo**

"It's given her, and old Oscar, a new lease on life and they **have helped us all to cope with the loss of Sandy.**