

Welcome to the **May 2014** edition of Rabbit Runaway Round-up, our quick monthly newsletter...

Who's Who in RRO?

This month we feature a long time supporter of the orphanage, Dr Gerry Skinner (aka The Rabbit Doctor).

1. *How and when did you first hear about the orphanage?*

I first met Judi and Bryce almost 8 years ago when they brought one of their first foster bunnies, a Himalayan Rex, into the emergency centre where I was a vet - he had a cut lip. I'd just moved to Australia and did a bit of bunny rescue back in the UK so it was lovely to meet like-minded people! We clicked straight away, and I fell in love with the cute bunny, who I subsequently adopted - and the legend of Elvis began - sadly he passed away earlier this year.

2. *How long have you been volunteering with the orphanage?*

I've helped out for the last 7 years,



but have ramped up my volunteering in the last couple of years - I set up the free de-sexing clinics (at the lovely Berwick Springs vet clinic) for the orphanage - as you are all aware the cost of keeping, vaccinating and de-sexing the bunnies is a huge drain on the charity's finances, so this was a way to save some money. We did 25 rabbits in one year, saving approximately \$5,000.

3. *What made you want to volunteer with the orphanage?*

I have been involved with rabbits for nearly 40 years, so the orphanage is very close to my heart.

4. *What roles do you have at the orphanage?*

I think I am chief tea drinker! - and also act as adviser to the Committee of Management. Now that I am a full time rabbit vet, "The Rabbit Doctor", I can do much more for the orphanage. I visit the orphanage weekly to look after the VIBs, vaccinate and keep an eye on every bun's health! My practice provides a house call service and I run my clinic from rooms at the 24 hour emergency centre CARE in Collingwood.

5. *What do you think is the best thing about working with the orphanage?*

Volunteering is a great thing to do - it is good to give something back and feel part of a great cause. Everyone

Vet Tip



Hay - it's even more important than you think! Chewing it keeps a rabbit's teeth the right shape and size, reducing the risk of dental problems; it provides fibre to keep the complex digestive system going. It reduces the incidence of rabbits chewing their own fur and getting fur balls which can obstruct the intestines; and rabbits that eat lots of hay tend to drink more water, and so urinate more, reducing the risk of bladder stones.

How much to feed? A rabbit should eat a pile of hay roughly the size of their own body every day. Oaten or grass hay is best for most bunnies.

*Dr Gerry Skinner BSc BVSc PhD MRCVS
MANZCVSc*

The Rabbit Doctor

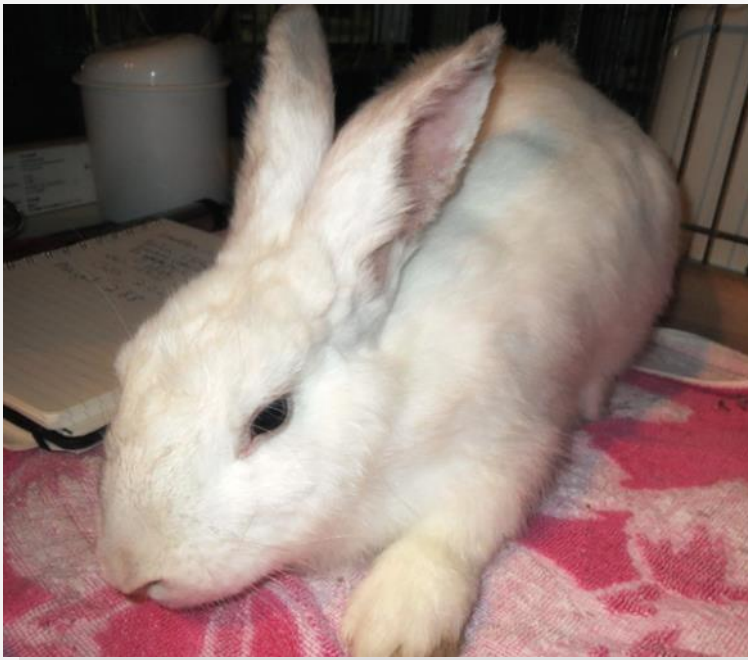
should make time to volunteer, even if it's only once a month!

6. *Do you own or foster any rabbits?*

I've had rabbits for nearly 40 years!

I currently have three bunnies - Lola, my 4yo cashmere lop, Jeremy my NZ white giant who is 1yr and 7month old Ollie who has severe dental disease - they are all rescues.

Celery Day is held on the last Tuesday of every month, where we ask our supporters to gather up some change and donate \$2 to help with the ongoing costs of the bunnies. It's as easy as setting up a monthly direct debit - less than the price of a cup of coffee - be sure to save the date!



Bunny of the Month – Abigail

Abigail was rescued by one of our supporters and it was discovered she had ear mites so severe that she was self-mutilating to try to alleviate her pain. When she arrived at the orphanage she was immediately administered pain relief and Revolution to ease her suffering under vet instruction.

Now the orphanage is proud to say that with love and care this beautiful, friendly and affectionate blue-eyed girl is doing much better. She is happy, healthy and ear mite free!

To visit and adopt any of our orphans please visit <http://www.rabbitrunaway.org.au/adoptfoster/> and fill out a bunny wanted form.

Calendar Auction

The RRO annual calendar auction has now closed. Many thanks to all of those who bid and congratulations go out to the 10 winners!

Instagram

Great news! Rabbit Runaway Orphanage is now on Instagram – follow us at <http://instagram.com/rabbitrunaway/> for all the latest bunny pictures to make your days brighter.

Volunteer of the Month

Huge congratulations go out to our volunteer of the month for April - **Gail George**.

The orphanage wouldn't be the same without you Gail, many thanks for your dedication!

Keep an eye out on the Facebook site and the newsletter for monthly updates.



Christmas in July

TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday 19 July 2014

Yarraville Club
135 Stephen Street, Yarraville

6.30pm arrival for 7pm start

\$30 ticket before 4 July, \$35 thereafter
Includes snack platters on arrival – 3 platters per table (8 people per table)

Drinks available at club prices and restaurant on site for meals

Live and Silent auction. Please bring gold coins for games

Please book online at
www.rabbitrunaway.org.au

Please call 9751 1229 for more information



Bunny Education - See the links below for handy information about caring for your bun:

[Bunny Care Booklet](#) | [Responsible Bunny Ownership](#) | [The Myxomatosis Virus](#)
[The Bunny Diet](#) | [Bunnies as Indoor Pets](#) | [Companion Bunnies](#) | [When a Bunny Needs a Vet](#)

Rabbit Run-Away Orphanage Inc. - ABN 42 975 123 153
 19 Stanley Street, Olinda VIC 3788, AUSTRALIA
 Phone: 1300 959 370 or (03) 9751 1229 or Mobile: 0402 111 055
 Web: www.rabbitrunaway.org.au E-mail: info@rabbitrunaway.org.au
 Contributors: Megan Davis & Letitia Panosh