



October 2013
Issue # 20

Welcome to the **October 2013** edition of Rabbit Runaway Round-up, our quick monthly newsletter..

O rphans of the Month

Well, spring is here again and has already brought out a burrow full of babies.

Within one week 2 mothers, 4 litters and 2 single babies were all dumped at rescues or vets and were surrendered to RRO. And yet another surprise last weekend, one of the mothers (Joy) came to us with one litter 3 weeks ago, then another litter was found last Sunday. It is important that the mother and father buns are separated immediately after birth as mother can get pregnant within 24hrs, unfortunately they weren't surrendered in time to do this.

This is just the beginning of the breeding season and yet another friendly reminder that responsible pet ownership includes vet checks and de-sexing, regardless of the animal. We are very much at capacity now at the orphanage. These babies will be available for adoption when they are old enough. [Contact RRO](#) if you are interested in adopting these or other buns.



Anyone for Trivia?

There's still time to book tickets for our Great Gatsby Trivia Night on 19 October, hurry so you don't miss out on this fun event and show your support for the bunnies at the same time -

Feel free to share the love and invite your friends and family too!

Tickets can be purchased from our website [here](#).

Annual General Meeting: RRO's AGM will be held on Sunday 24th November 2013 2pm-3pm at the orphanage and all members are welcome to attend. **Parking:** Please park near the Mt Dandenong Hotel or near the corner of Illoura St and take the 5 minute walk to the property.

Celery Day: This month Celery Day is being held on Tuesday 29th October. Celery Day is held on the last Tuesday of every month, and it's as easy as setting up a monthly direct debit of \$2 - less than the price of a cup of coffee. Be sure to save the date!

Royal Melbourne Show and World Animal Day

Our wonderful volunteers made their presence felt at both the Royal Melbourne Show and World Animal Day over the last month, giving us the opportunity to advocate rabbit welfare and provide bunny care information.

This included an education program lead by Rabbit Run, and was a great trial for our upcoming children's programs to be delivered in schools next year. If any of our readers are interested in finding out more about the education program, please contact our education coordinator Lee-Ann at education@rabbitrun.com.au.

Huge thanks also go out to our volunteers Satvir, who organised our stand at World Animal Day and Lee-Ann for organising our Royal Melbourne Show program.

2014 Calendar

We're only a couple of months away from Christmas and no doubt you're all starting to think about gifts for your loved ones. Our 2014 RRO calendar is now available and would make a perfect Christmas gift.

The calendar can be ordered through our [website](#), or onsite at the orphanage.



The Foster Network

Here at the orphanage we're always in need of foster carers. Fostering involves caring for a bun in your home short term, or until a permanent home can be found. Fostering can also be a great way of meeting and getting to know a bun before adopting and some people find that they form a bond with their little fosterling and end up adopting them into their family.

We have a number of buns that are ready and waiting for foster care, including some of our VIB bunnies who would love to share a home with an experienced carer. All equipment and support is provided by the orphanage. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a foster carer, please [contact RRO](#).

Who's who in RRO?

This month we interviewed Zac, one of Rabbit Runaway's experienced foster carers:

How did you first hear about RRO?

When I first decided to get a rabbit, I searched for animal shelters on the internet and came across RRO. They appeared to be the only shelter in Melbourne dedicated to rabbits, so I got in touch.

How long have you been fostering with RRO?

I started fostering about late August 2012, so it's over a year now!



What made you want to foster a bunny?

I never really had any pets growing up, and after moving out of home I started considering one for company, and I liked the idea of a bunny.

I must confess I just had a hutch bunny in mind, but after finding RRO and other sites, I learned about house rabbits; most people have simply never heard of the idea!

Who have you fostered?

I looked after the adorable and quirky couple Hugo and Ellie until a few months ago, and now I'm taking care of Jackson.

What do you think is the best thing about fostering an orphan bun?

Seeing a rabbit settle into your home, getting to know their personality and forming a bond with them is a great experience. As someone who'd never seen house bunnies before, you don't realise how much personality they can have. It's a pleasure to see a bunny flop down and have a snooze, knowing they're relaxed and happy.

What challenges have you faced when fostering?

They're usually pretty easy animals to look after. Though it was a very unpleasant experience when Hugo got sick, since he wasn't acting himself at all and it was hard to see him in pain. It just shows the importance

of keeping an eye out for any behaviour that's out of the ordinary. He was back to his old (bossy!) self after some emergency care at the orphanage.

What has fostering helped you learn about pet rabbits?

I've learned that each rabbit has a unique personality, and figuring out how best to bond with a particular rabbit ensures they're comfortable in your home. Pet rabbits aren't given as much credit as they deserve, but hopefully with more awareness of the benefits of house rabbits, people will come to love them just as much as cats and dogs.

Do you think you'll adopt one day?

I actually came to the orphanage with the intention of adopting, but was advised to test the waters by fostering, since it's a much more flexible arrangement. I ended up deciding that I couldn't make the commitment to adopt, since my living arrangements were uncertain in the next few years. But when I settle into a home down the track I'll definitely consider giving one a permanent home.

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