

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

Message from the President

As we welcome in 2014, we reflect on an exciting year. Over the last 12 months we have placed over 100 orphan buns into their forever homes, as well as meeting the needs of a number of special needs buns. It has been great to see updates and pictures of our adopted orphans on our [Facebook](#) site, and we encourage all adoptees to continue to post pictures of your fluffy bundles of joy!

Other significant wins in 2013 have been our success in achieving the first official Australian Chapter of the House Rabbit Society. We have also increased our public awareness and education program through our attendance at both the Royal Melbourne Show and World Animal Day. The RRO annual picnic and our first trivia night were launched in 2013 as well as Chi's Legacy Award and the Daisy Mae Award in recognition of significant contributions to animal welfare and fundraising efforts respectively.

A big thank you to all of our volunteers, members, foster carers, adoptees and supporters who have taken this journey with us and assisted us in their own unique ways – we couldn't do it without you!

The New Year has started on a positive note with a DEPI grant to renovate and fireproof the Orphanage. To continue to achieve into 2014 we need you to continue this journey with us. Please visit our [website](#) to see the many ways that you can

Photo Courtesy of The Age



contribute to build the success of Victoria's first NO Kill pet rabbit Sanctuary.

Judi Inglis - President

DEPI Grant

We are thrilled to announce that the Orphanage is a successful recipient of the Department of Environment and Primary Industries Animal Welfare Fund - Grants Program thanks to Bryce's fantastic submission.

The \$50,000 grant money will go towards fireproofing and upgrading the garage presently used for housing the orphans and administering our public education program. The grant will assist us to become the model facility for rabbit welfare in Australia.

View the grant recipients at www.depi.vic.gov.au/pets/community-and-education/animal-welfare-fund-Aaa-grants-program

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!

Orphans of the Month: Permanent foster care homes needed

Currently at the Orphanage we have several bush baby rabbits that came to us through vets:



Merri & Polly, Petal & Ziva, and Arley. We are looking for experienced and permanent foster care homes where they can be loved as your own, whilst still coming under the care of the Orphanage. All equipment and support is provided.

Petal and Ziva have spent 2 months in non-permanent foster care and they are happy, inquisitive and curious rabbits. They do amazing binkies, wag their tails and are learning to live with their wild instincts in a domestic environment.

The bush babies will always have an element of their wild and timid instincts as they are different from domestic buns.

If you would like to trial fostering any of our beautiful bush babies please register your interest using the [Bunny Application Form](#) on our [website](#).

Who's who in RRO?

This month we interviewed Lisa Cheetham, a long-time volunteer and foster carer.

1. How and when did you first hear about the Orphanage? I first heard about the orphanage about 2 years ago. I was looking for a companion for my male rabbit and my aunt was looking at adoption websites and found rabbit runaway and suggested it to me.

2. How long have you been volunteering at RRO? I started volunteering shortly after discovering the orphanage, so close to two years.

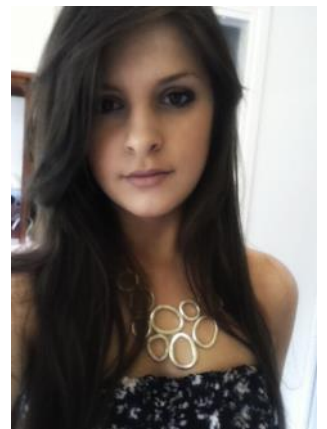
3. What made you want to volunteer? I wanted to volunteer because I saw what huge and challenging job the founders were facing and felt that both they and the rabbits deserved and extra pair of hands I knew they weren't as well known as the other animal shelters so thought I would donate my time to this one.

4. What other roles do you have at the Orphanage? Roles I undertake at the orphanage include cleaning duties, medications, assisting with bunny dates, transportation of rabbits to and from the orphanage, and assisting with fundraising events. I also provide foster support.

5. What do you think is the best thing about volunteering at the Orphanage? The best thing about volunteering is reaping the rewards of seeing a bunny go to a good home. Knowing that it was all worth the effort.

6. Do you own or foster any rabbits? I

own two of my own rabbits, one of which was adopted from the orphanage.



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