



Rabbit Run-Away Chronicles



e-News Issue # 20 - May/Jun 2017

Rabbit Run-Away Orphanage & HRS Australian Chapter



Welcome to the latest edition of Rabbit Run-Away Chronicles, our newsletter for Rabbit Run-Away Orphanage and the House Rabbit Society Australian Chapter....

Fighting for Rabbits in Law

We were thrilled to have the Hon Jason Woods visit the Orphanage recently. Jason is known amongst animal welfare groups for his support of animal welfare laws. Domestic rabbits unfortunately do not come under the Domestic Animals Act. As a result, this has meant a lack of responsibility by local councils or state governments for dumped pets which end up in shelters and in some cases have forced euthanasia due to high numbers of unwanted pets. You can read more about his visit in the local paper [online here](#).

If you want to help us petition to include the protection of pet rabbits in Animal Welfare Laws, check out our [Chi's Legacy here](#).



Bryce Inglis (Vice President) with the Hon Jason Woods

Corporate Sponsorship You are Invited!



Our corporate sponsorship program was launched by the Hon. Jason Woods (Federal MP for LaTrobe) on 28th June.

Businesses can now sponsor a pet enclosure at the orphanage, with proceeds going towards the vet care of our foster rabbits.

There are four enclosure sponsorship levels so that businesses of all sizes can provide support. Sponsors will be recognised through various resources such as Facebook, the Rabbit Run-Away website, and promoted at events like World Animal Day and Pets in the Park.

If you have or know of a business that would benefit from alignment with an animal welfare organisation and is interested in corporate sponsorship please see the program details on [our website here](#).

Our Very FIRST Corporate Sponsor...

A BIG THANKYOU



FortizAccountants is a personalised and strategic accounting firm that provides individuals and businesses with sound taxation advice that is easy to understand.

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- [Business Activity Statements \(BAS\)](#)
- [Overdue/Late Tax Returns](#)

Meet Our Volunteers!

Introducing India, one of our dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers.

How did you find out about the orphanage?

I found out about it through various rabbit groups on Facebook and I realised that I could volunteer there.

What do you do at the orphanage?

I help with the cleaning of enclosures and associated tasks Fridays. I also do Instagram which involves posting and providing updates and descriptions of the bunnies. Recently I have been helping to update the website, with the bunnies that are up for adoption.



What is the best thing about volunteering at the orphanage?

Bunnies of course! I love being there weekly to check up on the buns and being able to see which have gone to their forever homes! It's also nice to know that some of the bunnies have been adopted due to their exposure on Instagram.

Do you have any bunnies yourself?

I have 4 beautiful buns, all from the orphanage! One is a VIB bun., who has recently joined our bunny family.

Volunteers Required

Calling all budding journalists and creative writers to assist with our bi-monthly newsletter. The role is to research and write up relevant short pieces for our bi-monthly newsletter.

Shelter Attendants: mornings from 9.30—1.30pm

Various Admin Roles: flexible times, will require onsite attendance

Intersection Collectors: Once a month on Saturdays

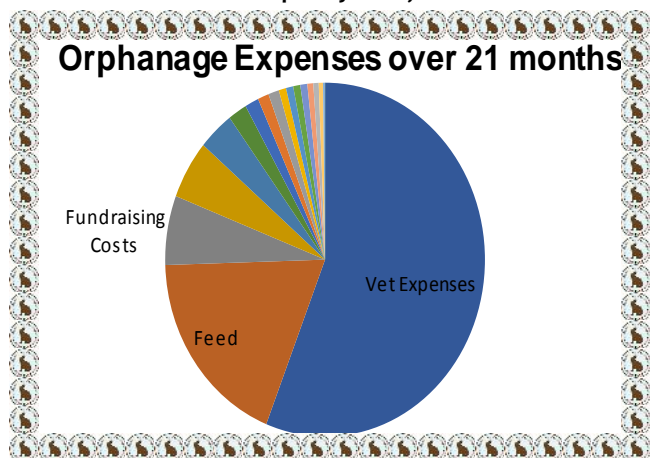
Please email volunteer@rabbitrunaway.org.au or call 9751 1229



Foster Program Review

Our Foster Program allows the Orphanage to assist special needs rabbits or those difficult to rehome, by tending to their vet care and placing them into permanent homes. The Orphanage provides all vet care and ongoing support to the foster carer.

With 168 special needs bunnies in the program our vet costs are close to \$100,000. This is a huge amount for us to raise per year just for the vet care.



The program review was to identify how we can continue to support our foster buns into the future and make it easier for our carers when presenting

at the vets, and also for our vets to identify the bunnies in the program.

Our foster carers will receive information packs which includes a vet card for your foster bunny. If you have any questions regarding the program please call Judi at the Orphanage on 9751 1229.

We would like to thank all of our foster carers who provide our special needs buns and those difficult to rehome with the loving homes that they deserve. Without them we would not be able to continue rescuing and rehoming these beautiful bunnies.

Foster Carers

Foster carers provide forever INDOOR homes for our elderly and health challenged rabbits, as well as those that have been at the Orphanage for a long time. We provide equipment, support and all vet care for these bunnies. Please contact Judi if you would like to be a permanent foster carer to bunnies like Sarah and Pebbles.



ALERT! Foxes in Melbourne

A warning to our local Melbourne readers, there have been many reports of urban foxes spotted right across our metropolitan district. Foxes can set up comfortable dens in suburban areas as there are plenty of places to find good shelter and access to food.

Unfortunately rabbits are one of those food sources, so we urge any rabbit owners that may be keeping their buns outside currently, to bring them inside in the interest of their safety and longevity. It is also well known that bunnies thrive indoors – with an increased sense of safety and more social interaction, you will get to see their little personalities flourish.

More information about the Melbourne foxes can be found in a [recent article from the ABC here](#).



An Update From The Rabbit Doctors

Rabbits have a very delicate skeletal system compared to other mammals. When compared to a cat of similar

size, a cat's skeleton makes up about 13% of their bodyweight, whereas a rabbit's only makes up 8%. This is a substantial difference!

Combined with the powerful muscles of the rabbit, especially when kicking out, this makes them a lot

more susceptible to injuries such as fractures if they are handled incorrectly.

This is why we need mature, knowledgeable homes for our rabbits, and supervision when interacting with children.

If you would like a refresher on rabbit handling and anatomy, have a chat to your bunny friendly vet.

- Dr. Belinda Oppenheimer BVSc (Hons) - The Rabbit Doctors



Vale to our elderly buns

A Grand Old Age...

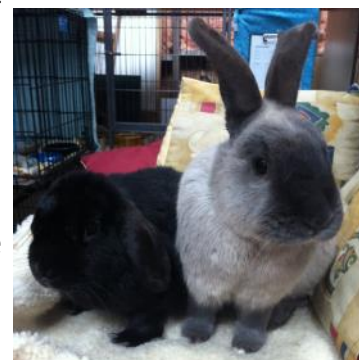
It has been a sad time at the orphanage recently with three of our elderly buns, all aged between 11 and 12 years old, crossing the rainbow bridge. We would like to thank our foster carers who have provided our buns with so much love and care right until the end. These wonderful carers share the heartbreak with us.

RIP Albie: We had to say goodbye to a long time friend of the orphanage, Albie (pictured right). Albie was 12 years old and had lived his last few months in the orphanage with Judi & Bryce's house-buns. He was a gentle soul, and passed away peacefully with Judi by his side.



RIP Pei: Pei (pictured left) spent the last months of his life in a wonderful caring foster home with Linda. He lived nearly 12 years with lots of love and care with his previous owners but was surrendered earlier this year when his owners had to return to the UK permanently for family reasons. We want to thank Linda and her family for caring enough to love this little man and make sure his final months were full of love.

RIP Harold: Harold (black lop on the left of the picture) was around 11 years old when he passed with Judi by his side. He was bonded with beautiful Prue who never left his side and would help support him and groom him right through to the end. He will be greatly missed by his foster mum, Caroline, and the orphanage volunteers who shared his journey.



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](#)

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The Rabbit Doctors

Rabbit Run-Away Calendar

Event / Location	Dates
Melbourne Rabbit Conference	18 Nov 2017

