

MAY 2020



An update from
The Cat Protection
Society of Victoria
Including our 2019
Annual Report

Agenda

Financial statements
for the year ending
31 December 2019

Cat Protection Society of Victoria

Nine Lives

Update

Welcome to Nine Lives; a publication produced for our wonderful Cat Protection Society Members.

2020 started off exceptionally well for our Society.

January through to March was incredible; our adoption rates were the highest they had been in over 5 years (even whilst operating in temporary facilities) and our Private Vet Clinic welcomed more and more new patients from the local area. Our Private Vet Clinic also continued to provide invaluable support to other rescue organisations by offering discount desexing. Outside of the Shelter, our team were busy visiting local community groups and schools to promote responsible pet ownership and visiting Retirement Villages as part of our Seniors to Seniors Program.

And then of course, the COVID-19 health pandemic hit and like so many other organisations and businesses, we had to quickly determine what this meant for our Society.

Could we continue to provide a safe haven for cats in need?

Could we seek to rehome these cats in a way that would minimize any potential health threat to our team and the local community?

How could we best look after our staff to ensure cats in need could be cared for both in the short and longer term?

With the support of our dedicated team of CPSV Staff and Volunteers we made the decision to change our process and introduce adoptions by application and appointment; the response to which has been nothing short of amazing.

We have been overwhelmed by the number of adoption applications submitted via the website which has allowed our Society to continue to fulfil our Mission of providing a loving, safe and healthy forever home to cats and kittens most in need. For this, we are incredibly grateful.

We can't wait until we can officially re-open our Adoption Shelter and Vet Clinic to the wider public when it is safe to do so. Despite the current challenges, we are excited at what the not too distant future holds for our Society and our Donors and Members who have continued to provide their support.

Thank you for this support. It really does make a very real difference to our Society.

Please keep well and look after your loved ones; we hope your four-legged family member is providing you with plenty of love and companionship during this challenging time.

The team at The Cat Protection Society of Victoria



An update from Ian Crook: Our CEO

2019: Exceeding Expectations

1. Introduction

As your CEO I welcome to this year's AGM and the Annual Report for Financial Year 2019.

2019 has been another successful year for the Society. Progress with the new shelter continued as planned. However unavoidable delays associated with planning requirements have deferred the opening of the new facility until mid 2020. The Society is confident that an entirely compliant and highly functional facility will result that allows the Society to offer an expanded and higher standard of services.

My report will update you on further building progress that has occurred since the end of 2019 including an update on the implementation of the Society's three year strategic plan.

2. Our Vision

The staff at CPSV have continued to uphold the CPSV Vision of a community in which all cats are valued and respected as companion animals and have a high standard of welfare and wellbeing.

3. Our Mission

To actively promote, protect and improve the welfare and wellbeing of companion cats through shelter and clinical services and public awareness and education.

4. Strategic Objectives

The strategic objectives of the Society were updated in 2019 to ensure that the Society continues to perform its Mission:

- Maintaining appropriate CPSV values and behaviours, staff development and performance appraisals.
- Enhancing the public profile of CPSV
- Growing and enhancing existing services
- Diversification of revenue sources including fund raising.

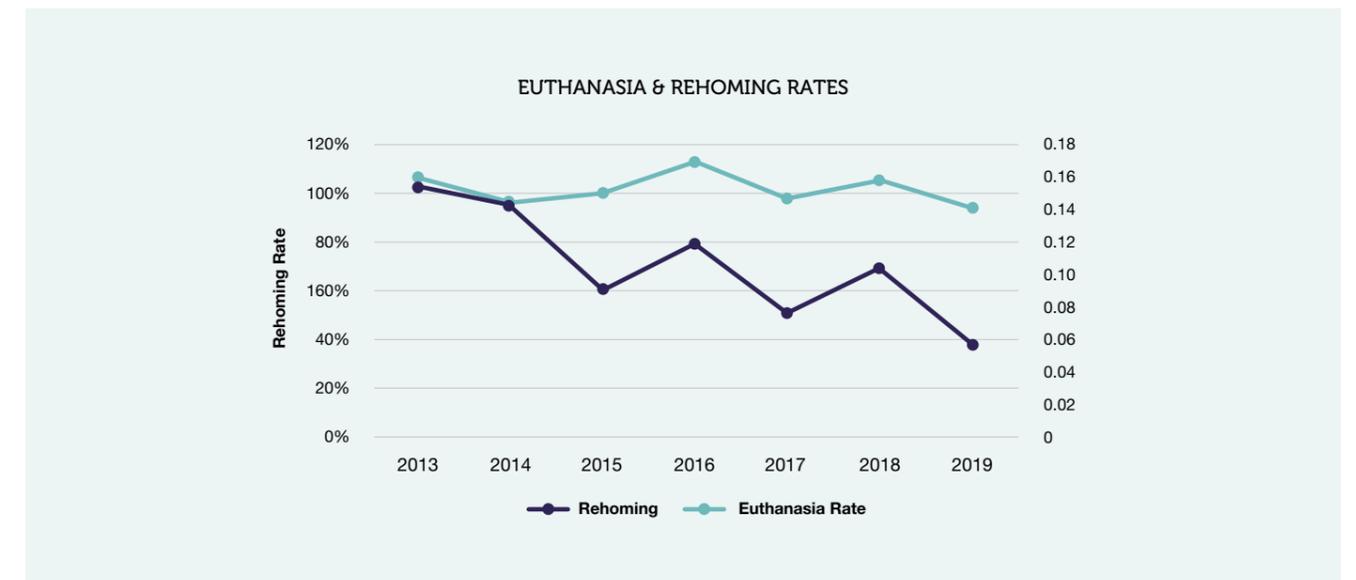
5. Shelter Statistics

In spite of continuing to operate from temporary facilities during 2019 combined with weather extremes, releases were in line with 2018. 1400 cats and kittens were received by the shelter.

Rehoming and reclaim rates were in line with previous years. The number of cats held at the shelter remained low due to advanced veterinary and management practices and an expanded foster care program.

In 2019 the euthanasia rate was 5.6%

Services provided by the private clinic in 2019 continued to grow in spite of limited facilities. The Society now has an established client base that will be well serviced by the new facilities.



6. Staff

Dr Peta Keown replaced Dr Ann Enright as CPSV's Senior Veterinarian in 2019. Peta is assisted by three part time veterinarians and four nurses. Shelter staff remained basically unchanged in 2019.

7. CPS Profile

During the year CPSV continued to participate in a number of local Open Days to raise the awareness of the Society. CPSV were involved in the 2019 Cat Lovers Show. The website continues to be an important source of information in regard to CPSV. CPSV now has 20,000+ Facebook and 9000+ Instagram followers. Engagement rates continue to be well above the industry average.

8. Governance

Throughout 2019 appropriate resource continued to be allocated to ensure proper financial management and risk management. The Risk Register was updated and reviewed by the Board. A Nominations Committee was successful in identifying new Directors for the Society

An unqualified audit has been completed for 2019. Perpetual Ltd continued to provide financial advice in regard to funding the new shelter/clinic and optimising CPSV's investment portfolio.

A charter for a Finance Audit and Risk Committee was drafted in 2019 and approved by the Board in early 2020.

9. Financial Performance

The financial performance of CPSV in 2019 exceeded budget. Operating income increased by 25% due to adoptions, clinical services and shop sales. Expenses were less than budget. Income from dividends, interest, donations and bequests was 12% higher than in 2018.

Net assets were \$21M at year end.

Planned fund raising activity will increase in 2020.

10. New Shelter

CPSV operations continued in temporary facilities during 2019 under difficult conditions at times.

Progress and expenditure in 2019 has been as expected and a compliant and high functioning facility will result. There has been ongoing involvement of staff in aspects of interior design and fit out. The expected completion date is now mid 2020 due to delays associated with necessary design changes requiring planning permission.

11. Conclusion

Our new building is now eagerly anticipated. Good progress has been made against the objectives of the 2019-21 Strategic Plan. The awareness and profile of CPSV has been significantly enhanced by our social media presence. The key indicators of performance for the shelter continued to improve and the financial results were very satisfactory.

I would like to thank the staff and the Board for their continuing invaluable effort and support.



Ian Crook



An update from our Ronen Atzmon: Our CPSV Board President

Welcome to the 2020 AGM for the Cat Protection Society of Victoria. Overall the 2019 calendar year has been successful for the Society in spite of the fact that the Society has continued to operate from temporary premises. The patience and understanding of all our clients and new adopters and the hard work and dedication of the staff remains key to this success.

During 2019 good progress was made in regard to the priorities of the 2019-21 Strategic Plan. These priorities are:

- CPS culture, staff development and performance appraisal.
- Growth of existing services.
- Diversification of revenue sources.
- Development of the CPS profile.

These priorities reflect the need for the Society to become less dependent on bequests to continue to fund its operations.

Additionally the Board has placed effort to ensure good governance including the formation of a Nominations Committee and the development of additional relevant policies and committee charters.

In regard to the strategic objectives of the previous period I can report that:

- The construction of the new shelter and clinic is progressing as planned and will be operational by mid 2020.
- The Society's purpose of satisfactorily rehoming as many cats as possible in 2019 was in line with the results of recent years. The euthanasia rate declined further.
- The Society's investment strategy continues to be successful with returns in line with benchmark rates. The current investment strategy will be reviewed at the completion of the new facility to ensure that adequate reserves are available to the Society and that the return/risk profile of the investment portfolio remains appropriate.
- During the past year the Society continued to invest significantly in social media to increase awareness and stimulate interest in the Society's purpose. The Society participated very successfully in the 2019 Cat Lovers Show. The "Seniors for Seniors" initiative with residential care facilities has proven very successful and will be expanded as resources permit.

The need to continue to inform the public in regard to responsible cat ownership is ongoing. The Society will continue to work closely with additional nearby Councils as part of this objective.

I remain confident that the opening of the new shelter and clinic will provide the Society with the opportunity to do this, in addition to becoming the facility that best provides adoption, advice and clinical services for cats and their owners.

I would like to thank all those who have involved themselves with the Society over the past year. Your hard work, professionalism, teamwork, dedication, volunteer support and generosity have been absolutely critical to the Society's success.

In recent times the advent of Covid-19 has necessitated the restriction of services provided by the Society. Covid-19 has also required staff to work with increased risk and to higher standards of hygiene and care. This is greatly appreciated by the Board.

I wish to acknowledge the support of Board Members who have contributed their skills, experience and wisdom to the operation of the Board over the past year.

In particular the invaluable contribution of Sue Jane and David Pacey to the Society over many years. Both Sue and David have signaled their intention to retire from the Board.

Sue has acted as Board Secretary and as a passionate and committed volunteer for a remarkable 30 years, her skills and corporate memory have been critical inputs to Board decisions over this period.

David has been a Board Member for 11 years and has held the positions of Company Secretary and Treasurer, during this period, thus ensuring high governance standards. David's strategic thinking and pragmatism have contributed significantly to the Society's success.

I would also like to formally welcome new Board Members and look forward to their contribution to the Society achieving its strategic objectives.

An amazing start to 2020

Our Society had a wonderful start to 2020, with our Adoption Shelter helping to provide a forever home for more cats and kittens that we have in the last 5 years (during the same period) and our Private Vet Clinic operating at absolute capacity as they welcomed more and more families and their felines from the local area and continued to support other rescue organisations by offering discount desexing.

2020 to date:

- 296 Kittens adopted into their furever home
- 169 Adult and Senior Cats provided with their 2nd chance at love, health and happiness
- 450 Cats and Kittens spent time at our Shelter before being reclaimed or adopted
- 151 Cats and Kittens spent time in the care of our wonderful Foster Care Network
- Our Vet Clinic performed a total of 595 desexing procedures to help tackle the issue of cat overpopulation
- We welcomed 92 new families and their felines to our Private Vet Clinic
- Supported the work of other Rescue Organisations by performing 68 desexing procedures on cats in their care
- All whilst construction continued on our long-awaited and highly anticipated Cat Protection Society Adoption Shelter and Vet Clinic

Our Shelter at a glance:

- Planned to open mid 2020
- Refuge for up to 300 Cats
- Private Vet Clinic
- Onsite Cat Café and Retail Store
- Community Meeting Room

An update from our Shelter Manager: Lisa Aguis

As I look back on the last 3 months all I can say is "wow", where has the time gone.

We are always busy in the shelter and there is always something to do, but taking into consideration our new Shelter (which we are still working hard to getting up and running) and now Covid-19 it really has taken a community to get us to where we are at this point in time.

The families who have put their hand up to assist in any way they can and help ensure we can continue working towards our Mission of providing every cat that comes into our care with their second chance at a loving home has been truly amazing.

Our Foster Care Network who helped provide a home to well over 50 cats and kittens in the short period that our Adoption Shelter was closed; an incredible thank you.

All of my team at the Society have also worked exceptionally hard to ensure all of our cats are well, safe and loved and I could not be prouder of their efforts during this challenging time.

Going forward, hopefully the next few weeks and months will see all of us returning to some form of normality.

I hope everyone stays well and again I thank all of the people who have donated, volunteered their time at the Shelter, and all our Foster Carers both old and new that opened up their homes to our wonderful felines.

An update from our Senior Veterinarian: Dr Peta Keown

My first 6 months with The Cat Protection Society

I have had the pleasure of being the Shelter Vet and the Private Clinic Vet. This means I get to see the whole cycle. I see kittens on their arrival. Often hungry, covered in flea dirt and sometimes with eyes glued shut due to conjunctivitis. I see the kittens go into isolation to stop their conjunctivitis spreading to other adoptees. I feel sorry for them as they receive their daily eye clean and oral antibiotics. They may be tiny, but they know they don't like medicine. Isolation can be heart-breaking for me and the shelter staff, for a few weeks. But eventually time passes, and they get better, and they grow... and they are desexed and are adopted.

But here's the exciting part: I'm also, currently, the Private Clinic Vet. I get to see the kittens when they come back for their final vaccinations. So, I get to meet their lovely new owners. The stories the new owners tell me are so heart-warming and definitely the highlight of my job.

They tell me how the kitten sleeps on their neck, or climbs up on the back of the couch, or loves the teenage son, who never liked cats. Then I open the cat carrier and I see a beautiful, confident, shiny, clean, healthy teenage cat. It's the contrast between the flea dirt, mucky eyed, crying kitten and the robust, loved cat that gets me every time. So heart-warming.

My favourite memory

A cat we called Nacho just didn't want to come out of processing. He cowered behind his litter tray with his big, round frightened eyes. His ears were back. We put our hand in the cage, hesitating, in case he decided to swipe or bite. He just looked more terrified. We just couldn't get him out of the processing pen. We've all experienced bites, so I think we might have been almost as frightened as him. We just needed him to step forward, to blink, to sniff. For days we gave him opportunities to venture forward, but he just remained stuck. Eventually we did have to throw a towel over his head to prevent scratches and bites. We carried him to the table for examination. It didn't take long at all. He quickly realised he wasn't being hurt, in fact, he kind of liked it when we tickled him around the ears.

Nacho's little brain seemed to reset and he went from complete fear to seeking human companionship. Patience from the staff paid off. When he eventually went to the adoption pens, he was one of the most gregarious, confident boys, and he found himself a home almost instantly. Whatever it was that lead him to us had shut him down. But breaking through that and giving him a little love showed him what was possible. Gorgeous boy.





HAS YOUR CAT HELPED SPARK JOY AND HAPPINESS DURING THIS CHALLENGING TIME?

WE WOULD LOVE IF YOU WOULD SHARE YOUR SHORT VIDEO AND HELP OUR SOCIETY SPREAD THE FELINE LOVE.

At The Cat Protection Society, we recognise the incredible role that cats can play in helping to reduce stress and improve moods; that just 15 -30 minutes spent in the company of a cat can calm your nerves and make you feel just that little bit better.

That's right, what you have always suspected is confirmed, your cat does indeed have superpowers; the power to lower your stress levels, the power to keep you healthier and the power to boost your mood, all of which are more important now than ever.

We wanted to celebrate the superpowers of your cat, to share the unique connection that families have with their cats and ultimately, provide an online opportunity that makes you smile and provide a break from the doom and gloom currently around us.

If you have a short video of how your cat has helped bring you joy and happiness, we would love if you would share it at www.catprotection.com.au/fureverhome/

And be sure to visit our website when in need of a cat-pick-me-up.

**You are wonderful.
Thank you**

The team at The Cat Protection Society



Whiskered Warriors Fund

The Cat Protection Society provides refuge and a temporary home to over 1400 abandoned or surrendered cats and kittens every year. For most, this refuge includes providing a warm bed, and a safe and loving environment until they are adopted into their forever home. But for some, the level of care required to maximise their chance of being adopted is far greater.

We have cats come into our care with serious health issues who require significant veterinary intervention and support which is often still required even after they have been adopted. We also have cats who through no-fault of their own come to us incredibly scared, anxious or stressed and require behavioural support to learn to trust again.

The cases of Hannah and Ellie, Armin, Peaches and Selina are just a few examples of our special needs kittens or cats who received additional veterinary or behavioural care to maximise their chance of being adopted into their furever home.

We rely solely on the kindness of donations to fund any veterinary or behavioural care that is required to provide our special needs cats with their second chance at love, health and happiness.

If you would like to donate to our Whiskered Warrior Fund to help ensure we can continue to provide support to unwell and in-need cats, you can do so by visiting our website at:

www.catprotection.com.au/whiskered-warrior-fund/

Your tax-deductible donation will make a very real difference. Thank you in advance for your kindness and support.

Whiskered Warriors Success Stories

Sisters saved and find their furever home



Hannah and Ellie were just four weeks old when the Shelter found them and their mother on a cold winter's day last year.

They were all exceptionally unwell; anaemic, riddled with fleas, eyes closed shut and underweight, with Ellie weighing less than 500 grams. Aware of just how precarious their little lives were, our team immediately attended to Hannah and Ellie to provide the kittens with the very best chance to grow into thriving adults.

It's in cases like these the generous contributions from our donors make all the difference between life and death. Little Ellie had a severely ruptured right eye which had to be removed by the CPSV Veterinary Team. Her extremely low weight made the surgery exceptionally high risk; requiring close monitoring by the team, both during the operation itself, and afterwards, by providing thermal support to help stabilise her body temperature

and vitals. It was touch and go, but thankfully due to the expertise of our team, and the little kittens fighting spirit, she pulled through.

With their mother no longer feeding them, when well enough to be transported, Ellie and Hannah were placed into the care of our most experienced Foster Carer. During this time, they received ongoing medical and behavioural treatment until they were well enough to be available for adoption.

Sadly, Ellie was left with permanent, limited vision in her second eye, but thankfully it didn't prevent them from finding their forever home. We shared their story on our Facebook page and received an overwhelming response. They were adopted as a bonded pair by Asta Jordan and her family after she saw a picture of the sisters on Facebook.

"After we adopted our first cat Bingo from the shelter, I started following the CPSV on Facebook. One night I was scrolling my phone and a post on Hannah and Ellie caught my eye. I felt so emotional and I showed my 8-year-old daughter who immediately burst into tears."

"I was going to get a kitten for her upcoming birthday to keep Bingo company, so it was perfect timing. The next day I visited the Shelter with my youngest daughter and as soon as we held them that was it, we had to adopt them," she said.

"They both settled in really well to our home and get on famously with Bingo. Hannah and Bingo are connected at the hip."

"You would never know that Ellie has poor vision. She is amazing, I've never known a cat like her. She is very social and affectionate and is always following my daughters and I around the house. She started exploring the house before Hannah. Hannah is more reserved than Ellie but loves sleeping next to me and her happy place is with Ellie and Bingo," Asta said.

SELINA now ROSIE

Selina came into care in 2019. She was placed with a lovely first-time foster family who could see she had so much potential but weren't seeing much progress. Our Foster Coordinator determined that Selina needed specific behavioural rehabilitation and so she was transferred into foster with our behaviourist.

The first step was helping her to feel safe and to reduce her stress levels. We achieved this by creating a safe space for her in the wardrobe where she could get some much-needed rest. Our Veterinary

Team prescribed stress-reducing pheromones and supplements which were incredibly helpful for Selina. Her world was kept quiet and small and interactions were completely at her pace.

Within a few days, Selina began to play and enjoy scratches with our behaviourist! By Day 10 she was feeling confident enough to come out of the wardrobe, explore the room, sit beside our behaviourist on the couch and play with the other adults in the home. Through play therapy, nose games and showing Selina that humans were consistent and predictable we started to see her transform.

After 3 weeks, Selina's gorgeous personality was shining and we knew she was ready to start the search for her new family. It was important that potential adopters could meet her in her foster home because our Adoptions Team knew she would regress if returned to the shelter environment. We wanted people to fall in love with the real Selina! That's exactly what happened when Ronnie came to meet her. As an experienced cat owner with a quiet lifestyle, Ronnie was a perfect match for Selina. After a total of 85 days in the Shelter and Foster Care, she started her new life with the new name of Rosie.

Armin, the Siamese, finds a new home at 12

Some cats and kittens come to us from a loving home, where the situation has changed, and the owner can no longer care for them. This might be due to a house move, a bereavement, or something as simple as an allergy. Armin – a 12yr old pure-bred Siamese, was surrendered to us as his owner's new partner, was allergic to cats.

As with all cats handed into our care, the team conducted a full health-audit. It quickly became apparent that Armin had significant dental issues, including severely damaged teeth and mouth ulcers that were preventing him from eating.

We quickly referred him to a Senior Veterinarian at Lort Smith with a keen interest in feline dentistry. Over four weeks, Armin had two procedures under anaesthetic at the CPSV Vet Clinic and an additional dental procedure and biopsy at Lort Smith Animal Hospital that required specialised equipment not available at our clinic.

On his return to the Shelter, Armin needed ongoing monitoring, conducted by the Vet and Shelter team. They continually kept an eye on his mouth to ensure the wounds were healing, and he was able to eat. He also received multiple courses of antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and blood tests.



Despite his health issues, Armin found his fur-ever home with Silvana. He'll require ongoing check-ups, but these will continue to be covered by the CPSV Vet Clinic.

"I had recently lost a pet which had upset me greatly. One night I found myself on the CPSV's website and one of the first few pictures that came up was of Armin. He was identical to a previous cat of mine which had passed away three years earlier at age 19! I knew straight away that I wanted to adopt him," Silvana said.

"Armin is such a loving cat, he can't do enough to be near you, sleeping by your side, jumping onto your lap at any opportunity. He settled into his new home immediately."

"I was a little hesitant when I first found out he was 12 years old and I was initially after a bonded pair but as soon as I saw him I just knew it was meant to be," she said.

"Armin had lots of work done to his teeth before I adopted him but I was really impressed by all the paperwork and information the CPSV provided me with so I can ensure he continues to get the best care possible," she said.

PEACHES now DOOKIE

Peaches came into care in 2019. She wasn't coping in the shelter environment and our team were worried about her so she was placed in foster care with our behaviourist for assessment and if needed, rehabilitation.

Peaches was so stressed she wouldn't eat for the first few days but eventually she was won over by roast chicken. She was set up in a small room and chose behind the couch to be her safe space. Peaches was so scared she would shrink away and totally avoid our behaviourist at first.

By Day 9, Peaches was super playful, enjoyed a brush and whilst hands were still scary, if she felt safe she did enjoy a scratch. She still mostly hung out behind the couch, found normal household noises scary and even struggled with small changes such as a new toy. Our Veterinary Team prescribed stress-reducing pheromones and supplements which made a big difference and we started to see progress.

To build her confidence, our behaviourist clicker trained Peaches and taught her new skills and tricks. By day 16 she was starting to snooze on the couch (instead of behind it) and even venturing out of her safe room. Using play therapy, nose games and predictable interactions she started to build confidence with new people and normal household noises.

After 6 weeks, Peaches was a new cat! She was ready to start the search for her new family. It was important that potential adopters could meet her in her foster home because our Adoptions Team knew she would regress if returned to the shelter environment. Marija and Badin came to meet Peaches and she instantly 'chose' them. She was given the new name Dookie to go with her amazing new life!



Our wonderful Volunteer Network

Our Volunteers play a vital role in supporting our Society, the number of cats we are able to re-home and the day-to-day care that we provide to cats at our Shelter.

Here we introduce you to 2 of our Foster Care Volunteers and 2 of our Shelter Volunteers to provide some insight into their Volunteer experience with our Society.

Tim's story – a rescue tail

It was a worrying post on Facebook that led 27-year-old Tim Fisher to become a foster-carer with the Cat Protection Society Victoria (CPSV). Someone was giving away eight-week-old kittens. "We could tell they were younger than this. So we rescued four. They weren't in a good way and covered in fleas. It was peak kitten season, and we found it hard to find a shelter to look after them. CPSV said yes straight away. Once they were better we couldn't foster all four, but we fostered two of the kittens."

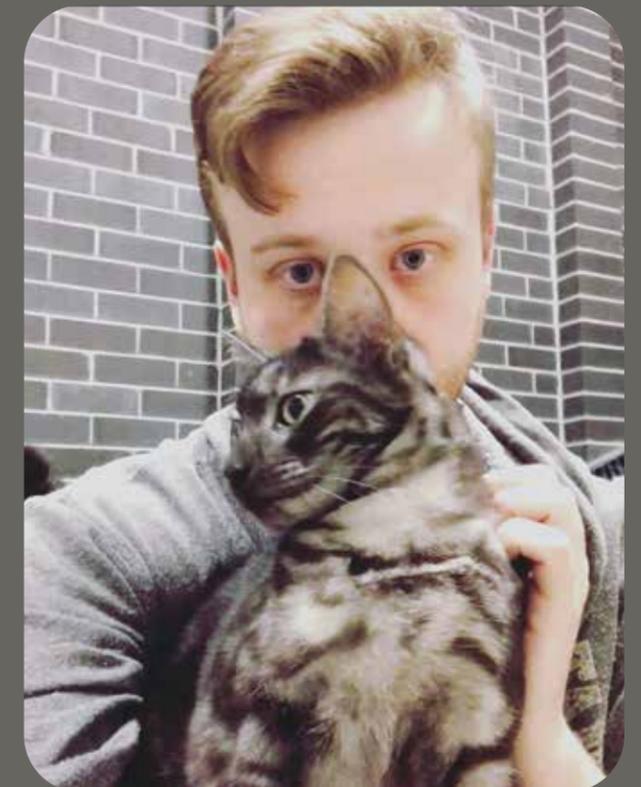
That was just over a year ago. At the time, Tim and his housemate were taking a break from fostering after some bad experiences with puppies and cats from other organisations. But, he says CPSV has been great. "We have never had a situation when we have felt like we were alone, we've always been so supported by the CPSV."

Since then, they've cared for around 20 kittens. Their latest, Devlyn, was particularly hard to give back. "He was with us for two months. He was very timid when he came to us and then when we gave him back, he was really affectionate. You get attached to all of them, yet you know they are off to a great place. It is bittersweet."

They combine fostering with looking after three of their own cats, which he says is a bonus as they play with the kittens, and the kittens can learn some behaviours.

They also both work full-time, "but we make sure they are fed and we're spending two hours a day playing with them; they are kittens, they are active they want to play. It is not an extreme commitment, you can still have a life."

Tim says he gets so much in return for giving these fur-babies love and care. "I think it is the reward that



when you hand them back, you know they haven't had a good start, but you know you have made an impact. I get a real sense of pride, and I'm so happy to hear they have gone on to find their forever homes."

He believes anyone that loves cats should consider fostering. "It is really great if you can't commit to a full-time pet or if you are thinking about getting a pet and want to try it out first. People just want to do something to help, you can do as much or as little as you can. The most surprising benefit...you get to have kitten snuggles".

Robyn's story – giving kittens a pawesome start in life

When Robyn Smith's cat Billie passed away, she found herself missing his company. Hesitant to adopt again because of an extended overseas trip planned the following year, she still enjoyed looking at the adorable kittens on the Cat Protection Society Victoria (CPSV) website and stumbled across the Foster Care Program. It seemed like the ideal solution.

The Foster Care Program provides a temporary home to cats who are not yet ready for adoption. Some may be too small or young, including neonate kittens requiring bottle-feeding. Others may be recovering from surgery, an illness, or find the shelter environment too stressful.

Robyn says "When I first applied to foster I hadn't really thought about how long I'd do it for or what my motivations were, I just wanted to have animals around without having to take on the long term commitment of adoption, and knew that I really liked cats and they really liked me. But the longer I've done it, the more passionate I've become about animal welfare and giving the babies I have the best start in life."

She says a common hesitation to fostering is the time commitment. However, she's managed to juggle being a foster-carer with her job as an on-call midwife for the last three and a half years. "It really depends on the foster cat you have; if you have an adult or babies, and how young the babies are. Most cats are quite self-sufficient. Kittens do need socialisation, so you need to be around a bit for them. I manage a job and social life on top of fostering, so it's a commitment, but not the end of your life!"

Fostering has also brought the unexpected bonus of becoming a permanent parent to two of the cats in her care. Una, a four-week baby she just couldn't give back because of her beautiful nature. And Ralph, a ten-month-old stray with significant anxiety issues. "He was very frightened but totally in love with Una, so the decision was made to keep him as he was unlikely to cope in a shelter setting."

Robyn would love to see more people become foster carers and says the rewards are so worth it. "You can't anticipate the joy it brings watching your babies grow, develop and become happy well-socialised kittens or cats."



Seda's story – finding the purr-fect community

Seda Vardal Cakmak moved to Australia two years ago from Turkey. She joined CPSV five months ago through a work-ready program at Melbourne Polytechnic. She volunteers in the Shelter, taking care of the kittens and cats awaiting adoption, keeping them well-fed, clean and comfortable.

She chose CPSV because, "I really love animals, especially cats. Helping animals is wonderful because they need us. They can't speak when they are hungry or thirsty or in pain. They accept you, whatever you are. They just want love."

Her duties include cleaning the cages, providing fresh food and clean water and changing the litter trays. She also washes the bedding and ensures the adoption rooms are tidy before the Shelter opens at 10am. Her favourite part is brushing and petting the cats and kittens.

An added bonus has been the opportunity to formally adopt a cat from the centre.

"I adopted a beautiful cat called Paspas two months ago from the CPSV. Paspas is a Turkish name and means small carpet. She chose her name as when we first bought her home she would always sit on our hall rug. I tried calling her a lot of different names like Ginger and Garfield but she never responded. One day I said why do you sit on Paspas my little girl? She looked at me and said meow and we have been calling her Paspas ever since," Seda said.

Despite having English as her second language, she says "I was really surprised how quickly I got used to being a part of CPSV." She puts it down to the people that work there "they are so friendly and lovely."

"This work has helped me to improve my English because I have to speak and understand my co-workers, the visitors and sometimes the cats!"

"I realised when I started to work as a volunteer that it is so important because you gain a lot of experience and you can learn a lot of skills without pressure. I volunteer because I want to, not for money but just for myself," Seda said.

Suzanne's story – making a difference and finding friends in retirement

Suzanne McNally often drove past the Cat Protection Society Victoria (CPSV) when visiting a friend and thought she would like to volunteer there one day. Eighteen months ago she retired, and it was the perfect time to finally make it happen.

She has always loved cats. "When I was a little girl we had a mother cat, we had kittens every three to four months. We used to sneak them into our bed, we would cuddle and smooch them. When we got older we would put them in our pram, we had so many different kittens." So, as soon as her work and family commitments allowed, she signed up.

Currently, she volunteers at the Shelter for three hours a week and says "I love it! It is just like looking after a house; you feed the cats, some are eager to get fed, some are happy to have a sleep. I clean out the water, straighten up all the pens, take out all the food trays. I give them a few extra toys to play with or swap around. Clean their litter and wash the floors. Sanitise and wash all the dishes, launder the bedding, restock the food – the morning goes very quickly."

Like many of the volunteers, Suzanne is a loyal cat owner. "I have two beautiful Burmese cats at home, and my family have adopted four additional cats from CPSV in the last two years."

Volunteering has brought some surprising benefits. "I love the camaraderie of all the girls, we talk about our lives and families." She has also found great empathy for the older cats and ones that had suffered. "My heart fell in love with the lame cats, one had cancer and lost its ears, and I just rejoiced when it found a home. And the older cats too, some are 10 or 12 years old. I was surprised how much I love them all, you just love hearing all the different stories."

Suzanne reflects on her experience volunteering with CPSV. "They are so caring towards each cat. We try different foods if they are not eating, we may get a fussy cat. They are so attentive, making sure each animal has the best care. They are all really looked after. Volunteering is the loveliest thing; helping the animals and making friends, I just love it. I think if you are going to do it, you need to commit yourself for a year or two as it takes three months to be trained. You can volunteer one morning a week like I do. I just love it."

If you would like to Volunteer or provide Foster Care for our Society, visit www.catprotection.com.au/support-us/ for more information and to apply.

Our favourite "Where are they now" Adoption updates

TIGGY

We have been very fortunate to still have one of your rescue cats from 18yrs ago!! Meet gorgeous Tiggy (previously #1920). She is still going strong (touch wood). She's recently lost her hearing but that doesn't bother her at all! She has always been a scaredy cat, hiding in small spaces all her life but now that she can't hear, nothing scares her so she's found a second life! She religiously sleeps on my pillow/ head every night and is the sweetest little girl. She spends her twilight years in our bedroom on a nice chair with plenty of sunlight watching all the goings on out the front. She feels the cold these days so she has a column heater all to herself (don't judge us!!). She gets very cross if you turn it off! We're not sure how many cherished years we will have with this beauty but we're making a point of enjoying every moment. Tiggy shares her house with 2 other cats, a dog, 2 human siblings plus my husband and I. It's a full house but she continues to make as smile every day!



one solitary tooth remaining. Little One hadn't been on our list of cats to meet but a lovely woman at your shelter, whose name I have forgotten, recommended him to us. And what a recommendation! As soon as we opened the door he bopped us both and we immediately knew he had to come home with us.

Since then, he's settled in beautifully. He doesn't go by Little One anymore, he now goes by the name Shark (or Sharky Baby), which came about from a discussion we were having about him being 'gummy' with his one tooth.

He's incredibly affectionate, he sits or stands on us at all times of the day and likes to bop our chins. He's also fond of tapping us on the arm if we're not giving him enough attention. He loves playing mouse (a little soft mouse attached to a very long, stretchy piece of string) and does the best speckies you've ever seen, so good that we're sure he'd win mark of the year if there was a cat AFL. He's also recently developed a deep, somewhat obsessive bond with the house fern.

He's definitely brightened up our lives and we love him to bits. Thanks to your shelter and staff for the stellar recommendation and for being so professional and friendly during the adoption process. We will only ever adopt from you in future.

LITTLE ONE – NOW SHARK

Last year we adopted Little One. He was the last of a big group of cats surrendered to the shelter and he had



MAX

Hi there! We adopted a sable Burmese named Maximus from you in February 2014. He was 8 years old and an ex-stud cat that was dumped with you guys when he was no longer worth anything to his previous owners. I just wanted to write to say that Max is still going strong today. He's been with us for over 6 years now and my goal is for him to live long enough that he will have experienced more love in his life than not. His favourite thing to do is sleep on me or curled up between my wife and I in bed. He loves lap. Like, I'm not exaggerating when I say that he LOVES lap. If he hears me sit down on the couch he will run from wherever he is in the house to jump up on my lap and curl up. He LOVES having his face rubbed and his belly. He gets a good drool going on when he's happy as well. He is mainly an indoor cat with supervised access to our courtyard. He loves rolling around on the warm cement, but then who doesn't? LOL He's getting on a bit these days. He's got some early kidney disease and arthritis in his back hips, but we're treating him for both and keeping an eye on him and making sure that he gets the best care as he gets older. He still gets the zoomies from time-to-time and will run upstairs in front of us every day. Anyway, I just wanted to say thank you for letting us adopt Max 6 years ago. He has been such a fantastic addition to our home. I would encourage anyone looking to adopt a cat to consider the older ones because they're chilled and laid back and just want love. Thanks!

PATRICK

Just an update on Patrick (Wallace). Settling in beautifully, personality coming out, a little timid at times, poor little soul is terrified of the broom, so I have to do any sweeping when he is asleep. Has discovered that a part from HIS bed (on my bed) he likes to come under the blanket for a cuddle, stretches out, I would like to say that he is thoroughly spoilt, as he should be. xx Di and Paddy.



LANI

Her name was Maxine it's now Lani. She settled in really well and quickly to her new home! She's a little dynamite and can get to the top of the curtains in a couple of seconds, or run to the door even quicker. She's great in the car and loves being on her harness for a wander.



GARFIELD

CPS Hey guys it's me, Garfield. I love to climb on the windowsill and look outside. My new mum and dad bought me a bed but I prefer to stretch out across the couch and relax when no one's home. If my mum and dad are home I make sure I follow them everywhere and I'm so lucky I even get to sleep in their bed. Thanks for helping me find my new forever home and my new mum and dad. I love them so much.



EZRAH

I wanted to thank you heaps for helping with the adoption process of this gorgeous girl. You may remember her as Baby Boo but after tossing around names for a few days she is now known as Ezra. She settled in quicker than I ever thought imaginable and adores her kitten friend Xena. She loves to snuggle after running around flat out with Xena. She will even cuddle up to our staffy. Such a stunning looking kitten with a lot of confidence that we can only thank you all at the Cat Protection Society.



Online Store

Our onsite and online CPSV Retail Store stocks everything your feline needs; from food and bedding, to flea and worm treatments, toys and collars. We also stock a great range of merchandise for our human cat enthusiast and when you purchase from our store, all proceeds directly contribute to looking after the cats in our care.

As an added bonus, as a Member, you will also receive a 10% discount off the RRP price of products from our Retail Store*

All products are available for "click and collect" from our Shelter Retail Store during the COVID-19 Health Pandemic; shipping is also available on some items for a flat rate of \$8.95 within Australia.

*10% discount is not applicable towards adoption fees, Feliway products and the purchase of any donated goods

To view our full range, visit www.catprotection.com.au/shop/



Donation Form

Your donation will help change the life of a cat in need.

\$245

To receive a full health evaluation, desexing, vaccination and microchip so the cats that come into our care are ready for adoption into their forever home

\$560

To provide essential foster-care to a mum and her litter of kittens for an average of 4 weeks before they are ready for adoption

\$700

To provide food, medicine, a warm bed and enrichment and care to a cat seeking refuge at our Shelter whilst awaiting adoption

At The Cat Protection Society of Victoria, we help re-home thousands of cats every year, but as a not-for-profit organisation that receives no government funding, to do so, we rely solely on donations, bequests and memberships from the community.

Your kind donation will help to ensure that we can continue to re-home cats and kittens in need and offer programs, education and information to help promote responsible cat ownership in the community.

To donate, please complete and return the form below. All donations are tax-deductible and a receipt will be issued upon completion if requested.

DONATION

\$245 \$560 \$700 \$Other_____

DETAILS AND PAYMENT

Full Name: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Payment Method (Please Tick):

CASH CREDIT CARD (MasterCard or Visa) EFTPOS

Credit Card Number: _____ Credit Card Expiry _____

Would you like a tax invoice sent to your email address? YES NO

Please return your Donation Form to our Society via email members@catprotection.com.au or mail:
The Cat Protection Society of Victoria
200 Elder Street, Greensborough, VIC 3083

Thank you for your support. *We couldn't do it without you!*



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