
“Introducing NARGA”

Jan Bartlett

NARGA

Together We Will Make A Difference



NATIONAL ANIMAL RESCUE GROUP OF AUSTRALIA

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INTRODUCTION

NARGA was formed in 2012 by a few like-minded dedicated volunteers, from various backgrounds with a keen interest being involved with Rescue of all types of Animals. We were a small group of friends chatting on social media dreaming of a place where information and education was available for Rescuers, somewhere where they were "understood" and could feel to be amongst friends. No-one else seemed likely to commit to the creation of such an Organisation so we put our heads together and over a year NARGA was born.

My name is Jan Bartlett and I am the President of NARGA , which is the acronym for National Animal Rescue Groups of Australia Inc.

I am from QLD and have a very supportive long term partner who thinks I spend too much time on the Computer and phone but I am someone who is dedicated to the health and welfare of all animals and I have been involved in Animal Rescue for most of my life which I know all of you are too. Family has always included pets discarded by others, every one treasured by us all. Although I am well travelled, I have seen many wonderful people with a similar life purpose, as well as the horrors to which many animals are subjected to. I decided to dedicate my life to ensuring as many animals as possible were given the opportunity to live full, healthy and happy lives.



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VOLUNTEERS

NARGA is currently a 100% volunteer run non-profit organisation dedicated to Animal Rescuers; providing support and nurturing their growth and effectiveness in a complacent society.

This encompasses Education and Training, Disaster Response, Direct help with voluntary services, Lost pet registers, Pound Release short term assistance, Foster care, etc all directed towards saving animals from needless destruction, pain or suffering no matter the breed, the species or the location. Right now we have volunteers help with advice, submissions, lobbying all 3 levels of government, attend symposiums, roundtables, Co-ordinate events, Support Foster carers, shutdown pounds, etc.

All our Volunteers have full time jobs but we would not be here if it weren't for all of us, our dedication and our contributions.

INVESTING INTO THE FUTURE

NARGA is currently involved in a number projects but whilst you are doing the groundwork, pouring your hearts and souls into each and every life that comes your way, our goal is to support every step of the way.

We currently have a few thousand volunteers around Australia but we continue to strive forward hoping to make changes across Australia.

This year we invested in software package designed in the USA which has meant a new Web site, Events, Direct Donations, GPS tracker, direct SMS messenger and better visibility of the needs of Wildlife and other areas for when the need arises with respect to, who is available to provide support during a Disaster for Example.

The software will be able to GPS track location of every volunteer registered enabling direct delivery of volunteers via SMS early during a disaster. Our database is a first. It is a ground-breaking asset and can only grow in relevance as we go forward. . Anyone can log in to update their own information, log a microchip number, a change of address or a new secondary contact person. Pretty sure that a lot of you have already registered and I hope that the rest of you will be doing so just as soon as you can turn your mobile phone on!

This has been a huge investment but well worth it

No Group can do it alone and “Together we will make a Difference” has been our motto from the very beginning.

DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

We currently have a number volunteers located everywhere who offer properties, food, trailers, etc when there is an emergency. This is so important that people are willing to provide assistance in the best way they can.



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Shipping Containers are continually being purchased or we accepting voluntary donations for Shipping Containers which we are placing close to areas which are prone to Fire or Flood or any other Disaster but are far enough away to avoid being in the cross fire but still easily accessible.

This is allowing us to store Medical supplies, Cages, Food, Ropes, blankets, bedding, etc., so when there is an emergency we are here to support you with what ever you need.

We also provide assistance with all types of Disasters by providing Hay runs, donate money to Produce stores to feed the local community or direct assistance in the disaster, camping out to be there to co-ordinate.

Did you know that during the fires in South Australia our team went in and evacuated over 1,500 animals who were in direct danger? Although, this number encapsulated all livestock and pets, this did not include the counting of a Kangaroo, Koala or even a lizard. As you are aware we can't simply round up a wild mob of roos, shove them in a truck and drive off. Believe me, I wish we could!

When setting up a Disaster Response run we have to play the waiting game. We link in and liaise with Local Rescuers, Vets, Government Departments, Food Produce Stores, CFA, etc and other animal organisations. We provide direct monetary and other donations, assistance in setting up triage centres, prepare and provide hundreds of volunteers for black walks, setting up feeding stations, physical labour, transport, veterinary aid, publicity and the all-important counselling to help you cope afterwards.

We have a great relationship with a group of volunteers who spend many weekends making pet beds, possum, koala or kangaroo pouches and gloves, etc and organise delivery directly to the location. Thanks for free Delivery from an Organisation in Victoria.



During the WA Bushfires early this year, NARGA flew a few direct volunteers, including myself, to set up a Triage Caravan, feeding stations and receive all the donations from the volunteers who made hundreds of beds in Victoria which we shipped directly to our setup. We worked with the local community and Rescue Groups and we were lucky to be provided with transport to the fire zone and prepare for the support. We will strive to be better each time during the Disaster but we would not exist if it weren't for the tremendous support of all Volunteers. So I pledge to you if you need our support please ask.

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OUR OTHER COMMITMENTS

We have Disaster teams in most states, monitoring Weather and advising the community. We also have Foster carers on hand or we seek out Carers to provide support where necessary.

We have a National Lost Pet Register which has allowed for everyone to register their pet or pet Found and our database allows anyone to search for their pet via this website Nationally or state based.

This allows animals found to be recorded and registered and also as time goes by and more people register we hope to be able to reunite the pets found by running reports showing similar animals registered in those areas for us to contact directly. We hope to reunite as many pets as possible to avoid going to the pound which costs Owners money to recover their animals.

We also have a Pound Release Fund. This has been very topical over time as we have many who seek assistance to help with Pound Release who are unemployed, or are in a difficult situation.

Initially we relied on honesty and refund of funds but quickly this changed our direction and to support Pounds and reduce backyard breeding, we provide assistance with having pets released from the pound on condition they are desexed prior to release and guarantee of being repaid back 100% over a couple of months to enable us then to reuse the repayment to help the next person

Unfortunately, the Pound Release has highlighted the plight of many people who can't afford their pets to be released from the pound but it has also highlighted many neglectful dogs who are underfed and we work directly with the pound on the best decision moving forward and how they will likely repay NARGA or we seek to rehome their pet.

For example, some people have their pets in the pound for weeks, make no effort to see the dog, or pay anything towards to pound release which raises the question how are pets fed. So it is always a complex decision when deciding who we help.

During March 16, for example, we helped 9 people have their

pets returned. We also provide a few other programmes like :

Cat snip Programme - which is only just now getting underway, where we pay for mummy cats to be

desexed when kittens are surrendered to rescue, which ensures that the cat stays with the family and no more kittens ever!

Foster service agreement - with some mental health units where we look after inpatients pets until they are well enough to

Vet Guarantee - We offer a vet guarantee for payments up to \$1,000 should a member rescue group close down with no notice

Legislation/Policies/Agreements/Alerts – continue to provide information to better fulfil any role

Community Liaison Service – let us help you with issues

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Events

We are currently creating a number of new Events which includes, an annual “**Walk for Wildlife**”. Members of the public will be able to log onto a website, pay a \$10 registration fee, download a sponsorship form, nominate the rescue they are going to support and every single cent they raise will go directly to that particular wildlife rescue group. Every single cent!

Wildlife rescue groups would be free to hold an organised walk on that day if they so wish. Maybe near a National Park, perhaps have a few stalls at the destination, sell some hot food and cold drinks or even a party with prizes for most inventive dress-up, fastest, slowest etc. The possibilities are only limited by your imagination but we would to help support you on these.

This will only work if you get behind it, encourage your members to participate, register on our website, maybe gain local sponsors and get the schools on board. The walk could be a major source of funds for you which may let you spend more time rehabilitating the precious animals in your care. As we say, every little bit counts.

CLOSING

I would to thank you for this opportunity and hope that we can provide support in the future in any way and remember you are not alone.

Although NARGA has many programmes of interest, Wildlife is one of the most important because when Disaster Strikes, Wildlife are injured and this effects all of us.

Thank you

Jan Bartlett PRESIDENT