

Cherished Pets Foundation

Annual Report 2019 - 2020

Organisation: Cherished Pets Foundation

ABN: 62 687 607 711

A message from our Chair

In 2020 we celebrated the 5th anniversary of the establishment of Cherished Pets Foundation. This was a major milestone and big celebrations were planned to commemorate the occasion. To this end we established a 5th Birthday Working Group which worked over many months to plan a celebration for May 2020. The group met many times to come up with a 'big bash' celebratory event - a 5th Birthday Breakfast. I would like to thank the members of that group for all their hard work - Roxie Bennett, Zoe Arnold and Maddy Iordanou (two Deakin marketing students), Alicia Kennedy and Natalie Davey. Sadly, in the end all this work was not able to come to fruition, which was a great regret for the Board as a whole.

As we are all too aware, the COVID-19 pandemic struck in earnest in March 2020 with the first lockdown being put in place. The rest of the year followed on in a see-sawing way in terms of its impact on our work. The 5th Birthday celebration was cancelled and the Volunteer program was placed on hold. This had a significant impact on the work of the Foundation as our beneficiaries and volunteers could no longer meet resulting in reduced social connectedness and increased isolation.

The Board has needed to adapt to meeting remotely over Zoom which has changed the dynamics of meetings. Board members have been stretched in both their personal and professional lives and this has impacted in what they have been able to contribute to the Board in terms of time and energy.

We have however taken the time as a Board to look internally at the way we function. We have undertaken a Board skills audit to inform our Board composition and have also articulated Board roles and responsibilities.

This has proven fruitful in terms of clarifying expectations moving forward.

We have considered how the Foundation might articulate outcomes through social impact measures and have put work into starting up this process. We have also looked externally at potential relationships and partnerships that might strengthen the work we do and increase revenue. Most importantly we have considered how we can strengthen our organisational capacity as a Foundation and began planning to appoint an Executive Officer. We have also formed a productive partnership with RMIT and have kept research high on our agenda. In addition to this, we had discussions with Deakin Social Work about the prospect of two social work students coming on board to help us articulate our Veterinary Social Work model and work on some key projects that the Foundation could take a lead role in developing and implementing.

Our Fundraising Committee has also met regularly and has continued to develop and implement a range of fundraising initiatives which have greatly assisted our fundraising efforts. My thanks to the members of the committee for your tireless work - in particular Alyson Dyer and Zoe Arnold who have both worked hard with Alicia, Natalie and myself to ensure our message is out there, our brand is loved and our reputation precedes us. We greatly appreciate your contribution to the work of the Foundation.

I refer you to our Annual Report for a detailed overview of the Foundation's achievements and challenges and would like to end by thanking everybody who is involved with Cherished Pets Foundation. Alicia and Nat, your contribution cannot be over-estimated and we are very grateful for all

that you do. My thanks to the Board also - you put so much into our work and keep the wheels of the Foundation humming along. We are also grateful to our community vets, community vet nurses and others involved

with the community pet care program who ably help us with our work with our beneficiaries. We also thank our many supporters who give of their time and energy to help us with our work - our volunteers, donors, sponsors and the wider community.

Great work team!

Judy Wookey, Chair

The Cherished Pets Foundation Board

Judy Wookey, Chair

Helen Butteriss, Treasurer

Jen O'Dwyer, Secretary

Alicia Kennedy, Founder

Natalie Davey, Member

Mel Twomey, Member

Introduction and Executive Summary

It was a milestone year for Cherished Pets Foundation as we reached our 5th birthday. Unfortunately, celebrations were dampened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Cherished Pets Community Pet Hub also reached a milestone with a year of operation. It has provided a welcoming atmosphere for our pet loving community in need of veterinary and pet care services.

The first half of the year was business as usual, providing in-home pet care support for our elderly and disabled pet owners. Until COVID-19 arrived and our community pet care volunteer visits were suspended for the safety of our beneficiaries and volunteers, and our vet services were adapted to be contact free.

Pet respite care for people in crisis and pet rehoming has continued to be a growing need when pet owners are faced with circumstances where they are unable to care for their pet.

We have been very busy with a number of projects as well as exploring new fundraising opportunities to help recoup the donations we were hoping to raise at our cancelled birthday event.

The reputation of Cherished Pets has extended beyond our region with an invitation to present at the International One Welfare Conference and nationally recognised as a finalist in the Hesta Aged Care Awards.

In our local community we were featured in the Humans in Geelong Book and were instrumental in the placement of the first funeral comfort dog in Australia for one of our sponsors King Funerals.

For the first time, we offered student placement opportunities for Deakin University marketing and social work students. The students brought enthusiasm and new ideas, and helped to raise the bar of our event planning and veterinary social work projects. We also commenced a collaborative project with RMIT researchers.

The year hasn't unfolded as we planned but we have shown flexibility in adapting to the circumstances. It has given us the incentive to explore new initiatives that will help build our future capacity to support vulnerable pet owners and their pets.









Community Pet Care Program

In 2019-2020, the CPF community pet care program continued supporting elderly and disabled pet owners by helping care for their pets and adapting to COVID-safe protocols. Our volunteer team assisted pet owners with in-home, daily pet care tasks and respite care, and the CPF pet wellness team looked after pet health and wellness with assessment, planning and management of pet wellbeing, emergency pet care, respite pet care, pet adoption and subsidised veterinary care. In March, when the COVID pandemic restrictions were introduced, community pet care volunteer visits were












suspended for the safety and protection of both our vulnerable beneficiaries and our volunteers. Our caring volunteers were encouraged to stay in touch with Foundation beneficiaries through other means such as phone calls, emails, letters or cards. Our team at Cherished Pets headquarters also phoned beneficiaries to check in with them and make sure they were ok. Our vets and community vet nurses continued to provide essential veterinary services throughout the year and adeptly adapted procedures to be contact free.

Achievements

Since June 2019, Cherished Pets Foundation has:

-  Provided over **228** COMMUNITY VET NURSING VISITS
-  Conducted over **123** VET CONSULTATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS
-  Coordinated over **1000** HOURS DONATED BY VOLUNTEERS
-  Ensured a warm bed & RESPITE CARE FOR **168** NIGHTS FOR PETS
-  Provided more than **\$30,500** WORTH OF VET SERVICES
-  Found NEW HOMES FOR **16** PETS
-  Planned **33** EMERGENCY CARE PLANS
-  Supported **8** people through PET BEREAVEMENT

Support for pet owners

-  **35** pet owners were Foundation beneficiaries this year. Of these, six of the original beneficiaries, who took part in the pilot project in 2015, are still receiving support
-  **35** pet owners received tailored case management
-  **19** pet owners received volunteer community pet care assistance
-  **23** received visits by our community vet nursing and pet wellness support team
-  **12** pet owners received financial support from the emergency veterinary fund
-  **7** pets needed nights in respite care
-  Majority of the pet owners (89%) assisted owned at least one dog, 5% owned a cat
-  Most of pet owners heard about Cherished Pets from a friend or neighbour or a professional, such as a case manager, vet or other pet care provider.
-  Many of the pet owners supported were women living alone (66%), four were men living alone, four were couples and one woman was living with her family
-  **29** of the pet owners are seniors on an aged care pension
-  **8** of the pet owners have a physical or mental health disability

Volunteers

Thank you to all our volunteers for their great efforts and adaptability over the past year. The entire volunteer team, which includes our Board, has continued to support the Foundation despite juggling frequently changing circumstances at home and work.



We would particularly like to thank Indi Leigh, who was invaluable as our volunteer coordinator over the last two years. Indi played a significant role in supporting our volunteer team, she created and reviewed volunteer management policies and procedures,

designed an online training induction program for new volunteers and provided project management support. Indi has left her role at Cherished Pets to build her counselling business and pursue other initiatives. We wish her all the best.

As in previous years, we have had great interest from our community offering to volunteer with the Foundation. As the level of interest has exceeded the number of volunteer roles available and because community pet care volunteering visits were put on hold in March due to COVID, recruitment of new community pet care volunteers was suspended at the end of 2019. People who agreed, were placed on a waiting list and will be contacted when we







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reopen our volunteer recruitment. The recruitment of respite pet carers continued because the demand for pet respite was ongoing and increased during the periods of social restrictions.

Many volunteer enquiries did not progress to the submission of a volunteer application for

reasons that included: the role was not suited, the enquiry was submitted to meet conditions for unemployment benefits, and community pet carer visits were suspended.

Our team of registered volunteers has remained consistent with 68 volunteers this year compared with 63 last year.

-  68 volunteers are registered; 28 are actively volunteering; 29 are available; 11 temporarily unavailable
-  5 volunteers resigned
-  93 volunteer enquiries were received between July 2019 and June 2020. Of these, 66 did not proceed with their application beyond the initial enquiry and 14 are on the wait list.
-  Volunteers completed 917 hours (excluding voluntary veterinary support and care)
-  Over half of our volunteers (62%) have been volunteering for more than 2 years, 28% for between 1 and 2 years, 10% for less than a year.
-  The primary volunteer role is community pet care (67%) and 26% offer respite pet care. The primary task performed by all community pet carers was dog walking.

This year we completed and introduced a new online induction training program for our volunteers. All new volunteers complete the training program, which covers their roles and responsibilities, policies and procedures and safe animal handling. The online training helps

to ensure that our volunteers have read and understood the Volunteer Training Manual and because it is available online volunteers are able to complete the training at a time that is convenient for them.

Impact of COVID-19

In previous years Cherished Pets Foundation has conducted an annual pet owner and volunteer survey at the start of the calendar year. The surveys were not conducted this year because we are in the process of reviewing and redesigning our impact measurement strategy. The outcomes of the review are likely to change how and what data we collect.

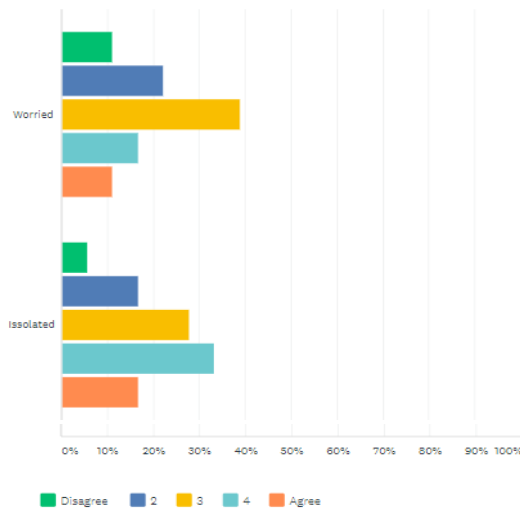
However, as the social restrictions introduced in March 2020 to control COVID-19 infection were likely to increase the isolation of more marginalised community members, such as the beneficiaries of Cherished Pets Foundation's community pet care program, Cherished Pets

wanted to hear what our community was feeling right now. For the safety of our volunteers and our at-risk, vulnerable pet owners, we suspended our pet care volunteer home visits in March. We know this proved to be hard for the pet owners and our volunteers. In June we conducted a short survey of our Foundation beneficiaries and volunteers to find out how the suspension of our important in-home service had affected them.

The beneficiaries and volunteers confirmed what we thought – it has affected them, and they were feeling more isolated and more worried (see survey results depicted below).

During the crisis how did you feel? (on a scale of 1-5)

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



"Terribly missed the volunteer. A vet nurse came this week. I don't mind my own company. I had a volunteer on the phone to me for about an hour."
CPF beneficiary

"Isolation is tough when you live on your own and don't have an extended network of family and friends."
CPF volunteer

Service Improvement Project

Assisted with a grant of \$12,000 from the Jack Brockhoff Foundation we have been undertaking a review and improvement of our processes so we can meet the growing demand for our services. Two particular areas of focus for improvement are developing a suite of pet

care service packages and strengthening our risk management.

This project is underway and is due for completion in June 2021.

Comfort Dog Project

Cherished Pets delivered a very special project with our community corporate sponsor Kings Funerals.

It is widely understood that the presence of a dog can alleviate emotional suffering and provide comfort and connection for people through difficult times.

We were engaged to find the perfect dog to be the first Comfort Dog working in a funeral home in Australia. Through our contact network

we found Womble - a young black Labrador trained by Seeing Eye Dogs Australia but was not suited to work as a seeing eye dog. However, his temperament was perfectly suited to comforting people grieving the loss of a loved one.

Womble's natural and intuitively caring personality can offer comfort to bereaving families and guests at funeral arrangement meetings and services.



Veterinary Social Work student placements

This year Cherished Pets commenced offering placements for two students completing their Bachelor of Social Work at Deakin. The students

will explore the emerging field of veterinary social work and help plan our people and pets in crisis program.

RMIT Older Adults and Pets Project

A new partnership was formed with RMIT academic researchers Distinguished Professor Larissa Hjorth and Professor Ingrid Richardson. They are interested in the role of pets in the lives of older people and are co-authors of ["Ageing in place with companion animals"](#)

They are working with us on the project "Older adults and pets" and have engaged our Cherished Pets Foundation beneficiaries to

capture stories and experiences about the importance of pets in their lives. Beneficiaries will take photos of their pet and talk about their experiences with Larissa and Ingrid to create short stories about the importance of pets in the lives of older adults. The stories will be then be shared with other researchers and the public to build awareness of how pets support the wellbeing of older adults

Community Pet Hub

The Cherished Pets Community Hub in Ocean Grove has been humming along now for over a year. It has been a great resource for our pet loving community who enjoy dropping in. In addition to being a veterinary clinic, it has hosted volunteer training sessions, meetings,

afternoon teas and puppy school classes. To adapt to COVID-safe service provision, the waiting room was rearranged as a consulting room and pet owners could wait outside but still see and comfort their pet through the front window.

Fundraising, Awards and Events

Cherished Pets Foundation cares for our community and we are committed to sharing our knowledge and expertise to enhance the lives of vulnerable pet owners and encourage responsible pet care. Over the year we had

stalls at the Bellarine Ageing Expo in Drysdale, Humans in Geelong Expo, Wallington's Xmas market and Christmas in the Grove, Ocean Grove.

Here are some of our special highlights for the year.

Hesta Aged Care Awards

Cherished Pets was honoured to be one of four finalists in the Team Innovation category at the prestigious Hesta Aged Care Awards in 2019. The national awards recognise excellence in service provision, advocacy, leadership and innovation in the aged care sector.

Natalie Davey represented Cherished Pets Foundation at the awards presentation dinner at the Adelaide Convention Centre in November.



One Welfare Conference II

Cherished Pets was accepted to present at the International One Welfare Conference II in October 2019, hosted by the Centre for Veterinary Education, University of Sydney. One

Welfare serves to highlight the interconnections between animal welfare, human wellbeing and the environment.

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The conference gathered national and international experts across animal welfare, human healthcare, conservationists and environmental scientists to learn from one another: bringing together public and private stakeholders, including those from government, academic, non-profit organisations and industry, to discuss research, best practices, models and policies for managing complex problems.

Natalie Davey presented on "My dog came to see me today: Well-being impacts when owners in residential aged care receive visits from their own pets" and Dr Alicia Kennedy spoke at the 2019 Veterinary Wellbeing Summit, which

followed the final day of the conference. She shared her insights through "Four-Words, Forwards", giving her four words of advice that will lead to positive, tangible changes in our daily lives and make a difference to mental health and wellbeing.



Lions Raffle

A big thank you to Cherished Pets' supporter Pauline Cline who chose Cherished Pets Foundation as her beneficiary for the 2019 Portarlinton Lions Club Community Raffle. Pauline and her trusty team of volunteers worked tirelessly through September and October and sold so many tickets that CPF received a grand total \$4400! The prizes were wonderful and we thank everyone who got behind this raffle.



Happy 5th Birthday

At the end of 2019 we began preparations to celebrate Cherished Pets Foundation's 5th birthday in May 2020. It was to be a celebration of all things Cherished Pets, acknowledging our terrific volunteers as well as being our major fundraising event.

Roxie Bennett from Plan.IT Roxie with the help of Deakin University marketing interns, Zoe Arnold and Maddy Iordanou, got busy working with us to create a fantastic birthday event.

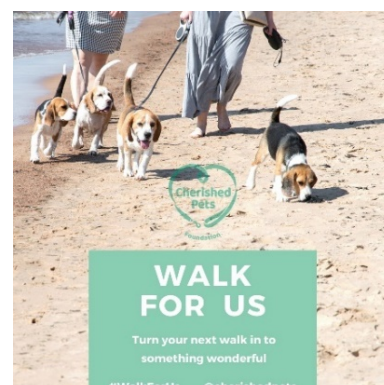
Luke Outerbridge from Proxy Design kindly offered his expertise to develop the event collateral and Wealth Built Right provided us with a meeting space and printing.

The preparations were all going smoothly until the event, like all events this year, was derailed due to COVID-19. Despite our event not taking place, the team did a wonderful job with the preparations and we have put the ideas on hold until we can all safely get together and share the celebration.

Walk For Us

With our major fundraising birthday event cancelled, we decided to tap into the booming dog walking craze resulting from exercise being one of the four legitimate reasons to leave your home during lockdown.

Our "Walk for Us" campaign challenged pet owners to do some good with their dog walks by tracking how far they walked and encourage their family and friends to support them with a donation. Our wonderful walkers raised \$6977 for our community pet care program to assist elderly and disabled pet owners.



Geelong Pet Expo

Cherished Pets was to be an exhibitor at the Geelong Pet Expo in March. The Expo is a fun day out for family and pets bringing our animal community together. We were ready to go with a snuffle mat making workshop and snuffle mat kits to sell. The kits haven't gone to waste, with our Foundation beneficiaries and volunteers getting creative and making over 20 mats to sell for fundraising. Thank you to all our snuffle mat makers.



Humans of Geelong Book launch

We were invited by our friends at Humans in Geelong to attend the launch of their book. Cherished Pets Foundation is featured in the book along with many Geelong-based, inspirational and creative organisations and individuals.



Responsible dog ownership workshop

In conjunction with local dog training business Pawtastic Paws, we held a workshop at the Leopold Community and Learning Centre on understanding dog body language and

behaviour. The session helped pet owners build a stronger bond with their dog and encourage responsible pet ownership.

Christmas party

We celebrated the festive season with our annual lunch for Foundation volunteers and beneficiaries of our community pet care project at the Ocean Grove Bowling Club.



It was a fun afternoon with a special visit by Santa's helpers to give out the Christmas gifts.



Fondly remembering

Over the year we have sadly said goodbye to some of our most cherished people and pets. We send love to their friends and family and we will dearly hold their memories in our heart.

Rest in peace

Marina DeVries  Mary Suhan  Robyn Rankin

Daisy  Sam  Libby  Dessi  Precious  Tammy  Smudge  Steffie



And all the other pets in our community who have crossed the rainbow bridge this year.

Supporters and Sponsors

Cherished Pets Foundation has been able to deliver its services in 2018-2019 with the financial and in-kind support of generous organisations and individuals.

We express sincere gratitude for this support that has ensured the provision and development of our services for vulnerable pet owners and engaging our community through pet-focussed events and activities.

Cherished Pets Community Veterinary Care

We want to acknowledge the special and significant role that Cherished Pets Community Veterinary Care (CPCVC) has played in supporting Cherished Pets Foundation (CPF) to reach its 5-year milestone.

CPCVC is a world-first, certified veterinary BCorp that is defined and guided by its social and environmental impact. CPCVC's purpose to enable the benefits of healthy companion pets to be accessible to everyone is delivered through its the partnership with CPF.

CPCVC is integral to CPF for the provision of veterinary services and subsidies for eligible Foundation beneficiaries; the volunteer program; project management, design and development; research initiatives; resources; fundraising strategy and implementation; and shared space at the Community Pet Hub.

As a registered charity, CPF's work relies on the generosity of donors. A large proportion of CPF

donors are clients of CPCVC, who understand and are aligned with the Foundation's purpose. Often clients make significant donations in memoriam of the passing of a cherished pet. CPCVC clients also support CPF beneficiaries via CPCVC's social enterprise model. Over \$30k is contributed annually by CPCVC in community vet nursing home visits, pet wellness programs, veterinary services, medications and supplies, and case coordination. The growth of the CPCVC private service continued to sustain support for CPF beneficiaries when other fundraising streams were diminished.

We want to recognise and thank the CPCVC team for ensuring that CPF beneficiaries and their pets continued to receive excellent care, even during the pandemic lockdown periods. The CPCVC community has strengthened CPF's position in the face of a challenging year.

A special thank you also goes to the following organisations and individuals

Grants

Pets Regardless Foundation (formerly Smallest of Wishes Foundation)



Jack Brockhoff Foundation

Australian Government Department of Social Services

All Saints Anglican Church Opportunity Shop

The Dove Opportunity Shop

Supporters

Advanced Pet Care

Air Adventure Australia

Bellarine Business Advisors

Cherished Pets Community Veterinary Care

Dalmatian Driving School

Driftwood Café

Edenhills Pet Cemetery

Great Ocean Road Photography

Happy Paws Professional Dog Training

Kings Funerals

Moo Media

Mast Lawyers

Newtown Veterinary Clinic

Pawtastic Paws

Press Here

We would also like to thank all our private donors who have contributed generously over the year.

Financial Report

Detailed Income Statement

Cherished Pets Foundation

For the year ended 30 June 2020

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Income | | |
| Income | | |
| DSS - Volunteer Grant | 4,918 | 634 |
| Events & Markets | - | 364 |
| Jack Brockhoff Foundation | 2,000 | - |
| Interest received | 50 | 170 |
| Merchandise | - | 200 |
| Non-Acquittal Donations | 34,849 | 26,921 |
| Non-Acquittal Grants | 1,000 | 10,000 |
| Pet Stock Assist Grant - untied | - | 15,000 |
| Pet Stock Assist Grant - supplies | 5,083 | 9,392 |
| Pets Regardless Foundation | 51,875 | 16,505 |
| Shifty Crowd Funding | - | 4,030 |
| Total Income | 99,776 | 83,216 |
| Expenses | | |
| General | | |
| Bank Fees and Interest | 239 | 734 |
| Cherished Pets Packages | 39,042 | 58,206 |
| DSS - Volunteer Grant | 4,918 | 639 |
| General expenses | - | 161 |
| Insurance | 2,827 | 5,365 |
| Jack Brockhoff Foundation | 2,000 | - |
| Pet Stock Assist Grant - supplies | - | 13,636 |
| Police Checks | - | 465 |
| Printing and stationery | 1,025 | - |
| Pets Regardless Foundation | 51,875 | 16,505 |
| Shifty Crowd Funding | - | 4,431 |
| Telephone | 552 | 498 |
| Travel expenses | 304 | - |
| Total Expenses | 102,783 | 100,641 |
| Net Profit / Loss | (3,007) | (17,426) |

Balance Sheet

Cherished Pets Foundation As at 30 June 2020

| | 30 JUN 2020 | 30 JUN 2019 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Assets | | |
| Current Assets | | |
| Cash & Cash Equivalents | | |
| Bank Accounts | | |
| Cherished Pets Foundation. | 42,234 | 37,053 |
| CP Paypal | 121 | 3,362 |
| Total Bank Accounts | 42,355 | 40,415 |
| Total Cash & Cash Equivalents | 42,355 | 40,415 |
| Total Current Assets | 42,355 | 40,415 |
| Total Assets | 42,355 | 40,415 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Current Liabilities | | |
| Other Current Liabilities | | |
| Accounts Payable | 879 | - |
| Grants carried forward | 34,698 | 29,043 |
| GST | (2,211) | (625) |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | 33,365 | 28,418 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 33,365 | 28,418 |
| Total Liabilities | 33,365 | 28,418 |
| Net Assets | 8,989 | 11,996 |
| Equity | | |
| Retained Profit / Accumulated Losses | | |
| Current Year Earnings | (3,007) | (17,426) |
| Retained Earnings | 11,996 | 29,422 |
| Total Retained Profit / Accumulated Losses | 8,989 | 11,996 |
| Total Equity | 8,989 | 11,996 |

Notes to the Financial Statements

Cherished Pets Foundation

For the year ended 30 June 2020

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The director has determined that the company is not a reporting entity and accordingly, this financial report is a special purpose report prepared for the sole purpose of distributing a financial report to members and must not be used for any other purpose. The director has determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and under the historical cost convention, except for certain assets, which, as noted, have been written down to fair value as a result of impairment. Unless otherwise stated, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the prior year.

The accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of the statements are as follows:

Compilation Report

Cherished Pets Foundation

For the year ended 30 June 2020

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Cherished Pets Foundation, which comprise the balance sheet as at 30 June 2020, the income statement, the statement of cash flows, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in Note 1.

The Responsibility of the Director

The director of Cherished Pets Foundation is solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements, the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information and for the determination that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that financial statements were prepared.

Our Responsibility

On the basis of information provided by the director we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting as described in Note 1 to the financial statements and APES 315 *Compilation of Financial Information*.

We have applied our expertise in accounting and financial reporting to compile these financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the financial statements. We have complied with the relevant ethical requirements of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants*.

Assurance Disclaimer

Since a compilation engagement is not an assurance engagement, we are not required to verify the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us by management to compile these financial statements. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion on these financial statements.

The special purpose financial statements were compiled exclusively for the benefit of the director who is responsible for the reliability, accuracy and completeness of the information used to compile them. We do not accept responsibility for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.

Helen Butteriss

Bellarine Business Advisors

Business Hub
Queenscliff Harbour
6 Wharf Street East
Queenscliff 3225

Dated: 14 October 2020

Stories of People and Pets

Genie

Last year we told the story of losing Miss Daisy, the cherished Bischon Frise who shared her life with Dawn, one of our original Cherished Pets Foundation beneficiaries.

This year we welcomed Dawn's new companion Genie, another lovely Bischon Frise, who is distantly related to the one-in-a-million Daisy.

Genie arrived to live with Dawn early in the year. She took a little bit of time to settle into her new home and become familiar with her environment. Cherished Pets was there to support Dawn and Genie through the transition time.

Genie is now well and truly settled at home with Dawn, claiming her favourite place on Dawn's lap. Our community vet nurse has continued to visit regularly to look after Genie's wellness and our volunteer walkers have been exercising Genie following COVID-safe protocols.

It looks like these two make a wonderful team.



Libby

Our vet Dr Jenny Turton wrote this lovely tribute to Libby the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel who held a very special part of her heart.

I first met Libby and her owners Liz and Basil two years ago. They had heard about Cherished Pets Foundation and were hoping to find a volunteer to walk Libby as they no longer could because of mobility issues. Visiting their home for Libby's initial health and needs assessment was my very first home visit on joining Cherished Pets Community Veterinary Care. I spent a couple of hours getting to know Libby, Liz and Basil and determining how we could support them.

Volunteers were introduced to walk Libby. Libby had her own unique personality and didn't always like going for walks, but the volunteer walkers played a special role in the lives of Libby, Liz and Basil.

As part of our support, we conducted regular health checks of Libby, helping Liz and Basil successfully manage a weight loss program for her, investigating a heart murmur, and treating a chronic recurrent ear infection.

Many times I took Libby to the Cherished Pets Hub for her regular weigh in and health check.

I always enjoyed the connection with Libby, Liz and Basil. Ageing owners and pets have evolving health issues and as their needs changed, it was our privilege to work to support them all and strengthen the human-animal bond.

Just prior to the first COVID-19 lockdown, Libby's walker noticed she was very flat and alerted us. After an initial assessment by Dr Lissi, Libby was taken to a local vet clinic for hospitalisation and some tests. Liz and Basil's son Andrew returned from overseas during this time and came to stay with them. He was a tower of strength to his parents at this time, particularly being the mediator between his parents, CP and the other veterinary clinics caring for Libby. So followed a roller coaster of Libby improving on medication, then becoming unwell again, to go on medication again and improve. I regularly did home visits to keep a watch on Libby's health and wellbeing and help her owners work through their options. Libby had a very large mass in her throat that was diagnosed as cancer. I was able to relay conversations I had with the specialist to Andrew and his parents. Sadly, the cancer was aggressive, and plans were made to support Libby and her family through this final phase.

Libby returned home with our continued support. I was visiting daily to ensure that she was comfortable, pain free and her fever had not returned. We discussed her quality of life and how the time was approaching for the difficult decision to let Libby go. While this is always a hard decision for a pet owner, it is a blessing that we can help them pass with dignity and before they are in too much pain. I reassured Liz, Basil and Andrew that we would guide them and help them know when that time had come.

When it was time, myself and our beautiful veterinary nurse Kym helped Libby cross the rainbow bridge in her own home. We lit a candle to help her pass. Liz held Libby on her lap while she passed peacefully. She was ready to go. Unfortunately, as this was during the height of COVID, Kym and I had to wear face masks to protect Libby's vulnerable owners, and we couldn't hug them afterwards as we normally would have. COVID has made pet death and grief even more challenging.

I returned Libby's ashes home and checked in to see how her humans were coping without

her. They were sad and missed her dreadfully but understood that there was nothing more that could have been done for her and that her time had come.

It has been a privilege supporting Libby and her humans over the past two years.

Dr Jenny Turton
Cherished Pets Community Veterinary Care
Veterinarian

