



## EXHIBITION SUCCESS RAISES THOUSANDS



### This issue:

Page 2  
Exhibition Report

PAGE 4 & 5  
Shelter updates

Page 6  
President's Report

Page 8  
Our Bond with Dogs

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In early December, WFA had a very successful art exhibition.

Ace Bourke had the idea to stage the exhibition and negotiated the use of the Newstead Gallery, (formerly Coo-ee Gallery), in Bondi. Ace curated paintings of India by Christine Townend and photographs by Jeannette Lloyd Jones. He also donated Indian Tribal artworks from his collection.

The opening party was attended by friends and supporters of the organisation and many friends of committee members as well and we thank them for their support.

We are extremely thankful to Adrian and Ann Newstead for the free use of their beautiful gallery in Bondi.

The artworks were a hit with many sold on the first day of the exhibition, along with boxes of Ace's book *A Lion Called Christian* and Christine's book *A Life For Animals*.

We were very happy to raise more than \$7,000 for our charity which was helped by a generous donation of wine by Lee's winemaker friend Chris McCormack from Bress Wines based in Harcourt, Victoria. ([www.bress.com.au](http://www.bress.com.au))



*Top left: Full house at the opening of the WFA exhibition, with more than 100 supporters browsing and buying the pieces on display..*

*Top right: The artwork and photographs extended up the stairs across two floors of the Newstead Gallery in Bondi.*

*Left: Jeannette Lloyd Jones, WFA President, launches the exhibition.*

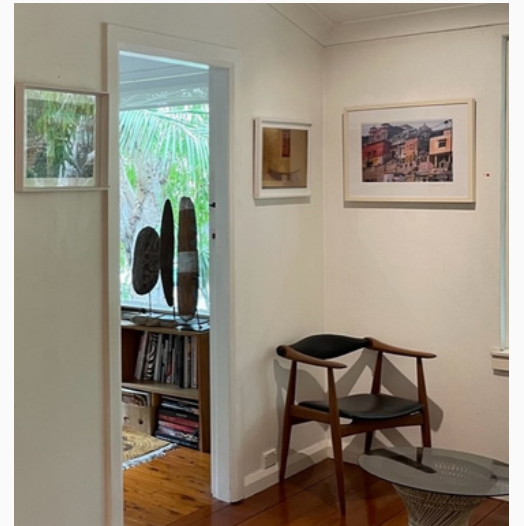
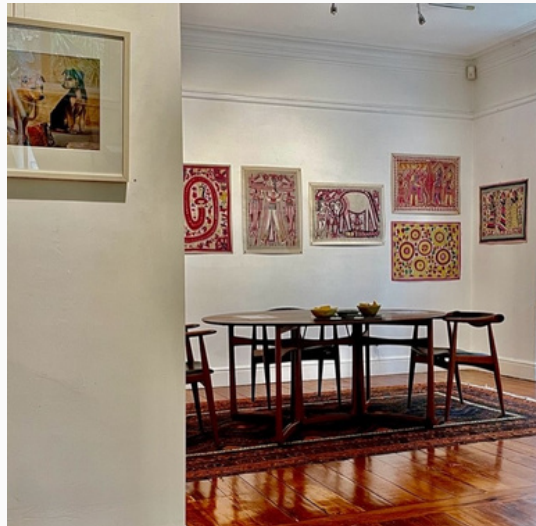


Top left: A photograph taken at Varanasi by Jeannette Lloyd Jones, seen top right.

Right: A painting by WFA co-founder Christine Townend.

Bottom Left: A photograph of a woman washing clothes in the Ganges River

Bottom Right: A variety of pieces hung on the second floor of the gallery, including stunning Indian artworks donated by Ace Bourke.



# DARJEELING ANIMAL SHELTER

Top: Dr. Mihir performing the Animal Birth Control (ABC) under the Dogs Trust Worldwide project; Dr. Mohit performing the general ABC Programme at DAS.

Left: A happy new owner with his adopted dog from DAS.

Right: The first of two ABC camps at Kurseong and Bijanbari, which included sterilisation of 30 dogs and post care workshops; Under the IBCM project, four awareness camps were conducted in different schools.



# KALIMPONG ANIMAL SHELTER



*Left: ABC Surgery in the field, one of 60 operations for the month.*

*Middle: US Students' annual visit to the shelter one of 30 rescues in January.*

*Bottom: A major post-bite vaccination campaign against rabies covering a vast area, including Mahakal Dara to Daje, Bhalukop and Elaichikhop.*





# President's Report

The two animal shelters in Darjeeling and Kalimpong have been running very smoothly and with great expertise by the wonderful staff working there. They are very much appreciated and utilised by the communities in both places.

During this time life as everywhere was seriously disrupted by Covid but things seemed to have settled down now and we are pleased with the way things are going.

Yogita Chettri's reports have kept us very well informed and we are most grateful to her and her wonderful work and to all the staff especially the hardworking vets.

I would like to thank our committee for their work especially the leadership and dedication of Christine and Jeremy Townend who are always there for us and as well I would like to thank the board in India.

Bryan Seymour has added a new energy and younger perspective and we are so grateful for his ideas and for his work looking at more effective social media and videos for promotional purposes.

Our fund raising exhibition raised very useful funds and the awareness of our work - bridging the geographical divide between India and Australia, with our love of India demonstrated by the photographs, paintings and collection of Indian tribal artworks on sale.

As president of WFA I am very pleased with the way all involved with DAS and KAS have made such a wonderful impact on the life of the communities in Darjeeling and Kalimpong and their animals.

Jeannette Lloyd Jones  
President

# WORKING FOR ANIMALS - WHO WE ARE

By Irene Callahan

**Working for Animals Inc is a not-for-profit association, incorporated in NSW in 1995.**

Before that it was an unincorporated association established as a point of contact to collect donations for the Help in Suffering (HIS) animal shelter in Jaipur, India where for many years Christine Townend was managing trustee. Today as well as being a point of contact for HIS in Australia WFA's main focus is to raise funds and provide support for the Darjeeling Animal Shelter (DAS) and the Kalimpong Animal Shelter (KAS), under the auspices of the Darjeeling Goodwill Animal Shelter Trust (the Trust), an Indian charitable trust, founded by Christine Townend. KAS and DAS are situated within 50 kms of each other, in the state of West Bengal, in northern India, in the foothills of the Himalayas.

## **KAS and DAS - The beginning**

Whilst travelling in Darjeeling in 1993, Christine and Jeremy Townend witnessed the harrowing sight of a dog dying in agony from strychnine poisoning. They later discovered that the local municipalities were conducting regular strychnine poisoning of street dogs, in the mistaken belief that this would control the spread of rabies. Deeply distressed, and discovering there were no local animal shelters to help such dogs, they caused a public meeting to be called. At the meeting it was explained that an Animal Birth Control Program (ABC), which involves both the neutering and rabies vaccinating of the dogs, would be the most humane and effective method of creating a stable and rabies free street dog population. The meeting unanimously supported this approach. Thus began the search for a suitable site on which to establish an animal shelter from which to conduct an ABC program.

## **Kalimpong Animal Shelter (KAS)**

At that time no suitable land could be found in or close to Darjeeling town so the search was widened, although still in the Darjeeling district, to include Kalimpong town. In Kalimpong, the same need for the establishment of a shelter was apparent. The dogs were suffering with many infectious diseases, and subject to deliberate human cruelty, due to the fear of rabies. As in Darjeeling, the municipality was conducting regular strychnine poisoning to control the spread of rabies. This time the search for land was successful and the Trust was able to acquire the first acre of what was to become Kalimpong Animal Shelter. Christine and Jeremy approached the local municipality who agreed that no more dogs would be poisoned by them, so long as the proposed shelter was established, and a successful ABC program conducted. By 1995 the shelter was up and running, and an ABC program modelled on the HIS ABC program commenced. All poisoning of street dogs in Kalimpong by the municipality was stopped.

## **Darjeeling Animal Shelter (DAS)**

This still left Darjeeling town without a shelter and a desperate need for a locally conducted ABC program. In 2004 the search for Darjeeling land resumed. After one false start, land was acquired in Lebung, by road about seven kms from Darjeeling bazaar. Plans were prepared and construction began. In 2007 the shelter was established and street dog poisoning also stopped in Darjeeling.

In addition to the ABC programs, KAS and DAS conduct separate rabies vaccination programs and provide general veterinary treatment for sick and injured animals. Their teams also visit village camps, in remote areas, often only reachable by rough, dangerous roads, to conduct veterinary treatment of both companion and street dogs, and farm animals.

WFA would like to acknowledge the generous and on-going financial support it receives from each and every of its donors which enables WFA in turn to support KAS and DAS.

**For further information, please visit [www.workingforanimals.org.au](http://www.workingforanimals.org.au)**

# Why We Love Dogs: A Brief History of Human/Canine Bonding

Australians own 29 million pets and there are more than six million dogs in the country.

Of course, we love all animals at WFA, but dogs have a special place in our hearts given the life-saving work we support at the shelters in India.

Humans and dogs (wolves) first began bonding around 14,000 years ago, (although some experts claim archaeological evidence stretching back 30,000 years).

The reason the bond evolved to the close relationships we have today seems to be inherent traits in dogs, especially 'hypersociability'.

A neuroscientist at Emory University (US), Gregory Berns, used magnetic Resonance Imaging to study dogs' brains whilst interacting with humans. As you'd expect, he found the reward centres lighting up when receiving praise and food. He also found that some dogs prefer their owners to food!

Unsurprisingly the part of the brain that lights up when a dog hears their owner's voice is the same part in our brains when we are around someone we love.

Another striking trait in canines is their capacity for 'interspecies love', a phrase coined by Arizona State University's Dr Clive Wynn. He argues that our unique bond with dogs is due to their ability to love, which he says is an unprecedented attribute in the animal kingdom. One study shows how dogs and their owners hearts beat in synchrony, the way the hearts of human couples do.

Anyone who loves dogs knows the truth of this unique bond and it's what drives all of us at Working for Animals to improve the lives of dogs and their owners everywhere.

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