



# Rabbit Run-Away Chronicles



e-News Issue # 43: May-June 2021

Rabbit Run-Away Orphanage & HRS Australian Chapter



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

## Storm in the Dandenong Rangers



unprecedented. We waited day after day, knowing that it would take time as emergency services worked around the clock to address the emergency. We had a visit from the red Cross and Defence Force, giving us confidence and advice. It was good to see that they were checking on everyone. Emergency sites were set up on ovals and parks for logs to be stored and mulching and other services to take place. There are support on roadside for residents, where they can get a hot meal or coffee and support. The main roads became work sites as emergency services work to move the debris and restore the power lines. It was very dangerous to drive in the hills with power lines strewn the roadside. Thankyou everyone who has provided support for us during this time.

The storm hit on a cold blustery night leaving the majority of residents in the Dandenong Ranges without power or services. We shivered without power or services and continued to care for the animals by torchlight. By day three, we purchased a generator to power the necessities, the fridge and some lights. Our only heating was the gas top on our stove. Our more fragile buns were taken into our house, which maintained more warmth

than the ice box that was the Orphanage. We worried about the buns with a level of underlying stress constantly present.

But many were more badly affected, with their homes destroyed in the storms. Large logs blocked the roads and many people were trapped in their properties waiting for emergency services. The devastation across the region was unimaginable and



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<https://mosukibunnyshop.ecwid.com/>



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# Celebrating our Volunteers

Since COVID-19 intercepted our lives in early 2020, many of our volunteers forfeited their opportunity to celebrate major events in their lives at the time. In following editions we will celebrate our wonderful volunteers in recognising important milestones in their lives.

## Lee-Ann Derrick (nee Tee)

*Lee Ann started volunteering with us in 2010 and still plays an integral part of our operation.*

*We spoke to Lee Ann, a teacher by profession, about her challenges since COVID.*

“Mark and I have been together for over 10 years. The most distinct memory of the beginning of our relationship was when I brought a rabbit (Rubi) home with me and he, having never had pet rabbits before, loved her with open arms. So open in fact he welcomed 4 more rabbits into our home over the past 10 years. We now currently have 3 rabbits, one of whom is Rubi, the original mischief maker.

We celebrated our wedding in late January 2021 after a year of COVID that forced us to reschedule our original wedding plans (originally set for April 2020 a week after lockdown hit Melbourne). After a roller coaster ride of multiple back up plans with adjusted guest lists (depending on restrictions at the time) we finally had our dream day with our family. Unfortunately, it coincided with the hottest day in January (over 38 degrees!) so the bunnies had to celebrate remotely in

their air

conditioned bunny room.”

Lee Ann & Mark, now Mr and Mrs Derrick are also foster parents to little Ace Ventura. Their former foster charge, the sweet Miss Sunflower Van Gogh and adoptee, the gentle little Solo have both sadly passed away.

We send all our love and socially distanced bunny hugs to Lee Ann and Mark and wish them a wonderful future together. We treasure Lee Anne’s contribution and support of our rescue through the years... we could not have continued without her unwavering commitment to help.



**CONGRATULATION LEE-ANN AND MARK**



# Celebrating Our Volunteers (continued)...

## Claire Ransome

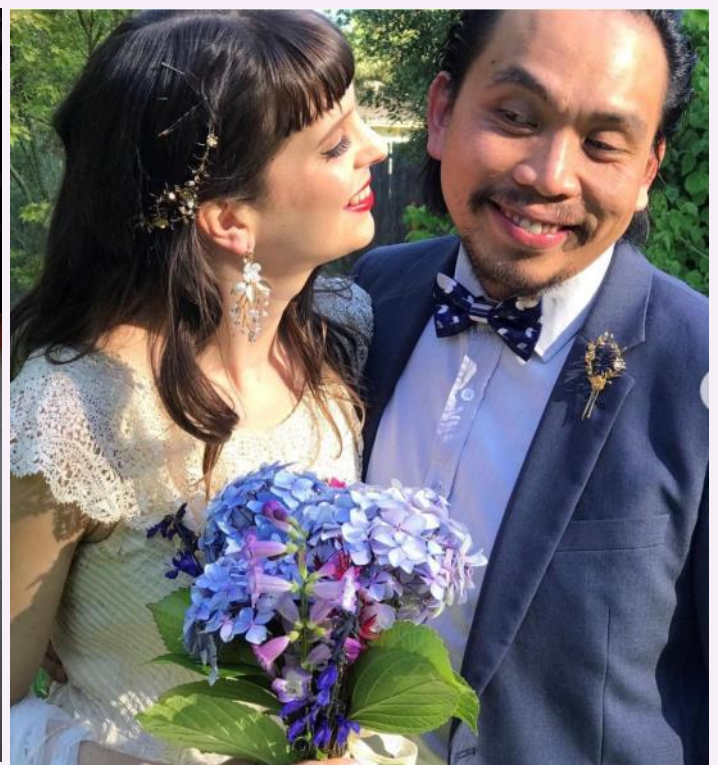
*Claire, like Lee Ann, started volunteering with us in 2010. Claire has helped with fundraising and is also an ongoing foster mum to our buns, Mallory and Henry.*

We had the privilege to observe Claire's life and career, as a music teacher blossom since her early days with us, where we worked in an unrenovated cold garage with no windows or doors, looking after the rescue animals. Claire has seen us through challenges, renovations, and the stress and joy rollercoaster that is setting up a fledgling charity. She has shared the highs and lows as our buns were rehomed or lost their challenges with varying health conditions. She sat with us on many occasions administering a Buddhist prayer as some of our little charges slipped away, while we cradled them in our arms.

We were so thrilled for her when this wonderful, gentle woman meet Des, who was destined to be her husband. During COVID, they had to adapt their plans and they were married in April 2021 in a beautiful ceremony with family and friends gathered to celebrate this life changing moment in their lives. If you look closely, you will see little ceramic figurines of their buns, Mallory and Henry featured as part of their wedding cake décor! We wish them both a wonderful, long and fulfilling life together.



**\*\*\* CONGRATULATIONS CLAIRE & DES \*\*\***





# Fundraising for Rabbit Run-Away Orphanage

As we enter our second year of COVID-19 with ongoing intermittent restrictions, we have found ourselves continuing to struggle with fundraising opportunities and financial support. Vet care costs continue to be the largest expense that the orphanage faces, and as such we have gone online with a new GoFundMe campaign. Our goal is to raise \$40,000 to cover the ongoing vet care for our special needs bunnies (VIBs). See the campaign here:

<https://gofund.me/2750bf5c>

The Orphanage was featured recently in the Herald Sun to raise awareness of the orphanage and our very important buns—like Cuddles, pictured below.



## Cuddle's Mobility Cart

Little Cuddles does not have mobility in one of her back legs. A special customised mobility cart, by K9 Carts, was donated by a wonderful couple interstate, after they found that their little bunny benefited greatly from a similar cart. K9 Carts are more commonly known for their carts for challenged mobility for dogs. Cuddles is healthy and happy and the cart helps her to stand and move around, as she can push the cart with her good leg. Her injury was from being dropped by a small human, which resulted in an injury to her lower spine.

She lives permanently in our home with her bunny friend Matty. Cuddles and Matty are featured in a video in our latest [Gofundme](#).



Bunny Education - See the link below for handy information about caring for your bun:

<https://www.rabbitrunaway.org.au/hrs-information-sheets>

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