



# Rabbit Run-Away Chronicles



e-News Issue # 36: January to April 2020  
Rabbit Run-Away Orphanage & HRS Australian Chapter



Welcome again to Rabbit Run-Away Chronicles, our newsletter for Rabbit Run-Away Orphanage and the House Rabbit Society Australian Chapter.... And welcome to the new decade!

*This edition is a wrap up from January to April, and we hope to get back to the usual bi-monthly cycle from June.*



## REFLECTIONS ON COVID-19

COVID-19 has caused the world to STOP, REFLECT and take a deep breath. This terrible virus has caused us to pay attention to our lives and what is important. For once we see the people around us, we listen, we help each other and strangers. Many of us reflect on our lifestyle and work environments. Is there a better way? From a chaotic world on the edge of an environment crisis crashing towards destruction, we STOP.

COVID-19 is a great leveller. No person on the planet can escape this terrifying risk to us all. Each day we step out, in a game of 'Russian roulette', will it strike us or our families today?

Heroes step forward in the form of our health professionals, pressing down the rising fear in their hearts to work at the front line to look after the victims of this pandemic.

For once we work together across the planet. We glimpse a more gentle community, a more caring world, working to protect the most vulnerable. For once our politicians speak honestly without spin, we hear, we understand. Actions sweeping

across the planet, fleeting moments of a global community. We mourn those that have succumbed to this pandemic. Families of those lost, in shock that this has struck at the heart of their existence and changed their world forever. Fear on their doorstep that it could happen to them. Our world will be changed forever and my hope is that humanity will remain in the forefront of our consciousness and leave a more caring and compassionate world.



Easter is not the time to get a real rabbit for children. There are lots of chocolate rabbits, plush toys and rabbit type toys

that are far more suitable for young children during this period. Please see our information sheets on Rabbits and Children and The Right Pet for your Child [HERE](#). **PLEASE STAY HOME FOR A SAFE COVID-19 FREE EASTER**

# OPERATING A PRIVATE RESCUE DURING COVID-19



Most private rescues operate from their homes and are self funded through donations. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many challenges for them, including fundraising, vet care and rehoming during a pandemic. New ways of doing things have been implemented to minimise risk to everyone as ‘the norm’ is not possible in this environment.

Privately run rescues do much of the ‘heavy lifting’, taking animals from council pounds for rehoming. As many of you know, Judi and Bryce run the orphanage from their home, and like other private rescues, as the COVID-19 situation progressed, the need for them to withdraw further from the general public became more pressing.

The Orphanage is still operating in a limited capacity, rehoming its rabbits by appointment, supplying support to our foster carers, and supplying hay and pellets when needed. All other activities like surrenders and bonding have ceased during this time and strict protocols are in place for those visiting the Orphanage for adoptions or

to pick up supplies of hay and pellets

## What did we do?

As soon as we were aware of the pandemic in Australia we set out protocols at the Orphanage to protect ourselves, our volunteers and our visitors.

## These protocols included

- ◆ a sign in register prior to entry
- ◆ hand sanitising prior to entry
- ◆ Our home became off limits for viewing the indoor setups for the rabbits
- ◆ We ceased taking in work placement students and corporate volunteers
- ◆ We introduced social distancing protocols
- ◆ We restricted the number of volunteers onsite at any one time
- ◆ We ceased all new volunteers due to social distancing whilst training
- ◆ Signs were placed on entry to the bathroom

## As the pandemic progressed we introduced further restrictions...

- ◆ No young persons under 16 years onsite
- ◆ Visits for adoptions/fostering by appointment only
- ◆ Pre screening all potential adoptees/fosterers so that they did not need to visit again
- ◆ Our volunteers work in established teams of 2, with preference to volunteers living in the same home, should self isolation be needed.

If you would like to discuss adoption or fostering, please call Judi on **03 9751 1229**.



## Hurry—there’s still time to win an Easter Hamper!

In our continued efforts to raise much needed funds for our orphaned bunnies, we have several Easter hampers up for grabs, and the good news is you still have until Friday 10th April to bid or enter the raffle for one!

We have a range of hampers —lots of chocolate, bunny treats and toys, hair and skin care, tea, snacks and many more items.

Raffle tickets are 2 for \$5 or \$5 for 10, otherwise you can also bid on some hampers—check the Facebook page for the photos and posts with instructions:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/rabbitrunaway/posts/>



## ADOPTION & FOSTERING

We have buns still looking for their new INDOOR homes. Please visit our website or ring the Orphanage for details.



## Alkimi Wines

<http://www.alkimiwines.com/>

Information about our sponsorship program can be found on our website:

<https://www.rabbitrunaway.org.au/sponsorship>

## Nine News Features the Orphanage



## THANKYOU to Our Corporate Sponsors

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<https://www.fortizbookkeeping.com.au/>



Bronze Sponsor  
Fortiz Accountants

<https://www.fortizaccountants.com.cn/>



Buy a Bunny a Little Time Sponsor



The orphanage has recently been featured on the news on 23rd February 2019, and had an opportunity to showcase the buns and discuss the struggles of running an animal welfare charity. The video can be viewed here:

<https://www.facebook.com/rabbitrunaway/videos/2512304195656566/>





# VOLUNTEER CORNER

## Volunteers of the Month— January to April 2020

Congratulations to Monica, Teodora & Adrian, Celene and Peggy Rose, who are the first volunteers of the month for 2020. Thank you for everything you do for the orphanage!



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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## Thank you and Stay Safe

A big shout out also to all of our volunteers, sponsors, foster carers, and supporters. Without you we could not continue to operate.

Please continue to keep yourselves safe, practice social distancing, and stay at home — this unprecedented time will pass, and we look forward to seeing your smiling faces at the end of this period.

