

# The Scratching Post



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HOBART CAT CENTRE

WINTER 2009

## THROUGH MY EYE: THE STORY OF TOMMY TEBB

My name is Tommy and I am a real cool dude! I am a lucky cat. After years using up most of my nine lives wandering the streets and fighting for daily survival with scars, wounds and one eye to prove it I have succumbed to the luxury of a good new home. It took a long time for me to trust a human being again, but eventually I took a chance and so did my Mum. I noticed this house had lots of other felines in it so the people must not be too bad and there would be food so I started sneaking in at night when they were all asleep. The other residents kindly let me eat their leftovers.

She spotted me one night and I must have been a shocking sight for her. Eventually she gave up trying to trap me because I was just too smart and I think she realized that I wasn't going to hurt her other kids. I even noticed her driving the streets of our lovely suburb and would turn my head to her and give her a cheeky grin before darting into a hidey hole somewhere. Then I started watching this family outside and one day when she was sitting still I let her pat me!! Purrr this felt good. She obviously had now come to accept my appearance and could see that there was more to me. She can't pick me up though, can't be too soft with her!

One day I needed help. I had blood dripping down my head I marched onto her front verandah where she was sitting. Meow! Meow! She was brave and tricked me into being lifted into a carry box. Next we were in one of those moving things and then we picked up a lady. She was ok but she thought I was ugly! "she said I had a face only a mother would love". How rude there is more to me than meets the eye!

We arrived at this thing called a Veterinary Clinic. It smelt funny... but looking back Dr Con was so nice to me! I wasn't impressed though when they were all deciding my fate, so I growled and hissed at them. They then left me there over night in a little cage. The next morning I got a sharp thing jabbed into me, but I am tough. Next I awoke feeling groggy, what have they done? Stitches here and there... they have taken my manhood away! Just wait till I get out of here! Its her again and back in the car, home at last but I don't want to stay inside. Well okay perhaps one night so I could rebuild my strength. I took off on holiday for a while! I really started to miss the food and those other cats, so I went back to visit. Perhaps not a good idea, she seemed pleased to see me but had some sharp looking things in her hand. Oh no! She wanted to take my stitches out! Couldn't I pull them out myself?

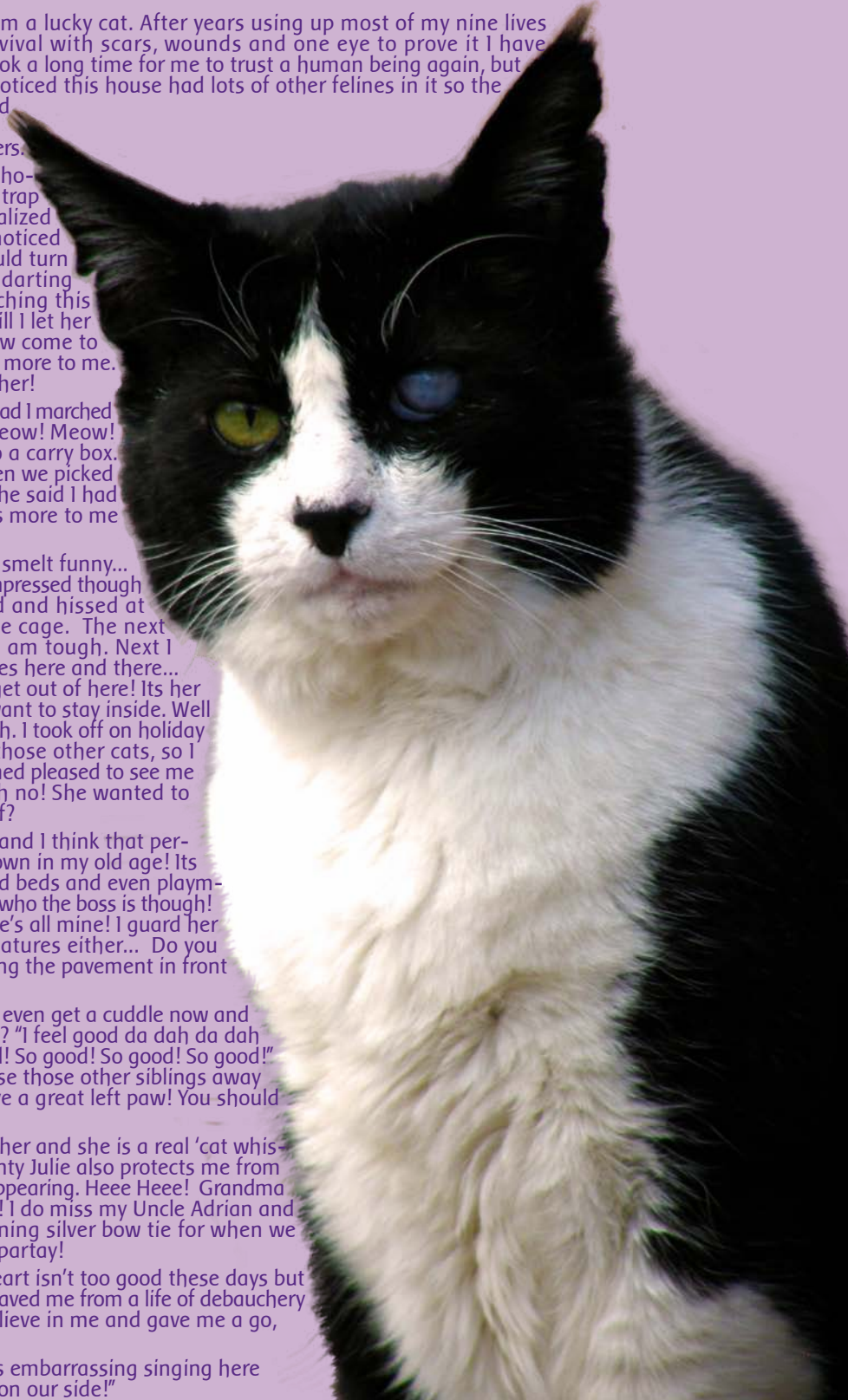
You know it really wasn't too bad around this place and I think that perhaps I am starting to mellow and look at settling down in my old age! Its warm, there are toys to play with comfy couches and beds and even playmates to ruffle up if I get bored. I had better show them who the boss is though! I now think of Ingrid as my Mum. But keep away, she's all mine! I guard her day and night. I am not afraid of those canine creatures either... Do you hear me? Do not enter my yard or even consider using the pavement in front of my house or I will run you down!

Man this is truly the life! A mum who loves me and I even get a cuddle now and listen to her singing, not sure about dancing though? "I feel good da dah da dah da da da! My coat is good, healthy and tummy full! So good! So good! So good!" I have prize position on the couch with her and chase those other siblings away when they try and take her affection from me. I have a great left paw! You should see! I am the bouncer and man of this place.

I do like visitors, Julie was appointed as my Godmother and she is a real 'cat whisperer', and her hubby treats me like a real man. Aunty Julie also protects me from Diamante collars. Funny how it is that they keep disappearing. Heee Heee! Grandma loves me too, but thinks I should wear an eye patch! I do miss my Uncle Adrian and Uncle Peter though they use to lend me their stunning silver bow tie for when we have dinner parties! Razzle Dazzle I do love a good partay!

I regularly go and see Dr Con for checkups as my heart isn't too good these days but there is still fight in the old dog yet! Dr Con he really saved me from a life of debauchery and my Mum of course. You know they really did believe in me and gave me a go, but now they wouldn't be without me I am sure.

I would like to end my story with some of my Mum's embarrassing singing here "all we need is love, all we need is love, love, love is on our side!"



# The Hobart Cat Centre

ABN 78 883 186 467

12 Self's Point Road, NEW TOWN 7008

Phone 03 6278 2111 Fax 03 6278 3111

[www.hobartcatcentre.com.au](http://www.hobartcatcentre.com.au)

## CENTRE OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM - 4PM

WEEKENDS + PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 10AM - 3PM

## OP SHOPS

441 MAIN ROAD, GLENORCHY

171 CHANNEL HIGHWAY, MARGATE

President:	Ingrid Tebb
Vice President & Public Officer:	Rose Osborne
Jnr Vice President:	Claudette Bobrowski
Secretary:	Sheree Bennie
Treasurer:	Colin Dewhurst
Assistant Treasurer:	Sue Dewhurst
Board Members:	Jane Hewlett
	Audrey Krupa
	Richard Parker
	Sam Wadsworth

Cat Centre General Manager:	Gretchen Meares
Cat Centre Manager:	Julie Bristow
Cat Centre Staff:	Susan Abbott
	Julie De Vriese
	Tammy Eastley
	Jenny Goich
	Rik Gunton
	Danika Petraitis

Centre Volunteers:	Sally Bradley
	Cathryn Brennan
	Janine Churchill
	Jason Churchill
	Mirella Fallon
	Sue Green
	Janine Kallenbach
	Molly Kendall
	Karen Petraitis
	Robyn Proks

Op-Shop Managers:	Heather Green
	(Glenorchy)
	Robyn Tacey
	(Margate)

Honorary Life Members:	Julie Bristow
	Leonard Bristow
	Dot Chaffey
	Kath Fisher
	Mona Foster
	Sue Green
	Tom Harding
	Robyn Langridge
	Betty Sheperd
	Caroline Steele
	Ingrid Tebb
	Lyn Weidenhoffer
	Nancy Knop (dec)
	Nora Wills (dec)

The Scratching Post Designed by Joel Diprose 0448 563 598

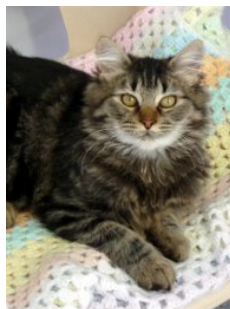
# 'SUPREME' CAT SHOW

The Hobart Cat Centre attended the C.A.T. Inc Supreme Show held at the Showgrounds on 30th May. We took along 5 very beautiful cats, and had some goodies for sale. We also had a special visit from a giant black cat supporting the centre! Some photos from the day are shown below:



# ADOPTION CORNER

At time of printing, here are just some of our beautiful cats available for adoption! To find out what's available now, please come and visit us!



Hope



Rusty



Princess



Mixie



Minnie



Sissette

# VET ADVICE

## CAT AIDS

Cats can have their own called FELINE Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV). Humans have HIV – and there has never been a report of cross transmission / infection - so they're safe from us, and, we're safe from them.

**How is it passed?** Similarly to HIV, through fluid transmission which means cat bites (saliva), licking each other's food bowls, and sexual transmission is likely also.

**How common is it?** It is becoming quite common – even more than the diseases that have been traditionally vaccinated for – Feline Enteritis & Feline (Cat) Flu. Surveys on the mainland capital cities cite infection rates of 12-18%. One informal survey has been done in the south and north of Tassie by different veterinary practices and found similar infection rates. We all are keeping feline enteritis and cat flu under control by vaccination – how about with cat AIDS then also?

**How do you know if your cat may have FIV?** - similar to humans! Blood tests are the confirmatory way but your vet can become suspicious of the disease when your cat may have recurrent infections especially gum infections, bladder infections or just old fashioned cat bite abscesses happening / developing more often. There can be even some iris changes in the eye !

**How can you prevent your cat getting CAT AIDS?** Usually by either proper management or vaccination against FIV (not 100% closer to 80% take – but surely better than 0%) Management means things like, in the end, controlling your cat's exploits – no free wandering outside especially at night; keeping in cat enclosures; etc.

Vaccination is available – seek information from your vet. It may require a blood test first to absolutely make sure your seemingly 'healthy' cat does not already have it (from that odd cat fight bite a year or two ago / or more recent). Then if cleared, the initial course involves 3 injections close to 3 weeks apart, then yearly. In trials the vaccine manufacturers had to undertake, there was a percentage of cats that had immune systems that did not produce an effective protection to vaccination when later challenged with the virus. But still 80% chance of protection is better than none, if you are going to allow your cat to wander outside, unsupervised.

Vaccination costs are not cheap for this vaccine so talk to your veterinary practice about the costs and blood tests as well

Let's hope that your cat does NOT become infected and then pass it on and on, before it's discovered that it has FIV – and think of all the kitty cats its passed it onto and how they eventually will suffer from sickness.



# VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Recently, the Glenorchy City Council held its annual "Volunteer Awards" to recognise people who live or work in the Glenorchy area, who contribute to the community by volunteering.

The Hobart Cat Centre put forward 4 nominations, commending 4 of our lovely Glenorchy Op Shop ladies:

1000+ hours category : Marlene McQueen

2000+ hours category : Betty Farrell

5000+ hours category : Barbara Knight

10000+ hours category : Kath Fisher

They were all awarded a certificate by the Glenorchy Mayor, Alderman Adriana Taylor.



From left: Kath, Barbara, Marlene and Betty show off their certificates

# CALENDAR

This year, we are printing our own Cat Centre Calendar! We would love to print a few photos of some of our rehomed cats. If you have adopted from us in the past, and have some good quality digital photos of your new family member, please e-mail them (in JPEG format) to Gretchen at general.manager@hobartcatcentre.com.au. We need to have these photos in by no later than 28th August. There will be limited space, however, we will attempt to print as many as possible, but please don't be disappointed if we can't fit your puss in...there's always next year!

# BOOKSHOP

Jenny MacFarlane has penned a terrific fundraising book **Purrfect Names for your Feline Friend**, available at the Cat Centre shop for \$10.00. All proceeds go towards the care of our residents. Thank you to Jenny for your wonderful book. We also still have **Tasmanian Entertainment Books** available at the Centre for fundraising at just \$50.00.





**HOBART CAT CENTRE**  
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PO Box 309, Lenah Valley 7008  
 ABN: 78 883 186 467  
 www.hobartcatcentre.com.au

### Membership form

Name/s.....

Address.....

Phone..... E-mail.....

Age group: under 20    20-35    36-49    50+                      Occupation (or previous if retired).....

**Membership Status (please tick one box)**     **New Member**     **Renewal**     **I have life membership**

- Single: \$25
- Dual: \$35\* (2 adults not necessarily at same address)
- Family: \$40\* (2 adults with children under 16)
- Pensioner: \$10
- Student: \$10 (under 16)
- Feline: \$5 (non voting) How many? .....

\* **Family & Dual membership.** The Application must be made by one person nominated on this application as the 'nominated person'. That person is the only person entitled to receive notices, vote or represent other members of the family or dual membership in matters arising under the constitution. This means each family or dual membership receives only **one vote** at meetings. Feline members are not entitled to vote. **Life members** are not required to pay a fee

Nominated Person.....

Feline member name/s.....

Membership	<input type="text"/>	Donation	<input type="text"/>	Total	<input type="text"/>	Please make cheques payable to <i>Hobart Cat Centre</i>
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Receipt No. (office use only)

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## BLACKMANS BAY GIRL GUIDES LEND A HAND

Recently, Girl Guides Stephanie Palmer and Jordan Wierenga Moore from the Blackmans Bay Bahloo (7 to 11 year olds) raised \$120 for the Cat Centre. They did this by running a stall where they sold homemade book marks and jewellery. They are also the very clever authors of a newsletter they distribute locally, called "Cats Care".



Jordan and Stephanie present a cheque to Gretchen and "Milo".

## GOODWOOD PRIMARY SUPPORTS CAT CENTRE



Students (from left) Maddison Butler, Brittany Crossingham and Margaret May, along with their teacher Lea Jordan, raised over \$100.00 for the centre. They were happy to visit the Centre to play with the adoption cats and to see what good use their fundraising money is put to.

## BRENT STREET PRIMARY HELPS OUT THE CATS

General Manager Gretchen Meares recently attended Brent Street Primary School, as a part of their "Responsible Pet Program". Sam Morris, the Education Officer of Animal Management runs this terrific program for the Glenorchy City Council. The students decided after the program, to raise some much needed donations for the Cat Centre and the Dog Home. Sam was very proud to present the Cat Centre with the donations!

