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## Animal Welfare League of South Australia Inc.

1-19 Cormack Rd,  
Wingfield SA 5013

Visit our website at  
[awl.org.au](http://awl.org.au)

Call us on  
08 8348 1300

Send an email to  
[support@awl.org.au](mailto:support@awl.org.au)

Get social at



## Our Board

### Chair

**Katherine Bartolo**

FAPI CPV GAICD

### Deputy Chair

**Penelope Moore**

BA (Hons) MBA DBA GAICD

### Board Members

**Michelle Williams**

MBA

**Cate Gaston**

BA GDipTour GDipMgt FGLF17 GAICD

**David Sanders**

FCA FGLF

**Hamish McLeay**

BCom (Mktg) GDipFin MBA

**Juliet Fletcher**

LLB GradCert Management, GradCert  
Compliance Management, GAICD

**Loewn Steel**

GAICD



AWL Pet Boarding

*“Staff are incredible! We boarded our dog for over 2 weeks and while we missed him very much, we knew he was in great hands!” –Luna R*

# Note from our Chair

## Katherine Bartolo

Two years into my tenure as Chair of the Board of such a wonderful and impactful organisation, I am happy to announce the conclusion of our 2021-2023 Strategic Plan. Our journey towards a South Australia where every pet has a loving home is an ongoing one, but thanks to meeting the goals we set ourselves all the way back in 2021 we are closer than ever before.

I am immensely proud of the strides Animal Welfare League has made over the past three years. Our journey has been marked by significant achievements such as increased number of successful adoptions, increased number of supporters using AWL's services and positive engagement with AWL educational programs to name a few, reflecting our unwavering commitment to the welfare of companion animals in South Australia.

*We continue to make considerable progress, and our impact has resonated throughout the community, touching the lives of countless animals and their families.*

Looking forward, we are continuing to invest into the capacity and capability of the organisation to build an even stronger future for animals in South Australia. Our vision is ambitious yet achievable: we aspire to create a South Australia where more families experience the joys of pet ownership, where vulnerable individuals are supported in keeping their beloved pets, and where every animal finds the comfort of a loving home.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff and volunteers. Your tireless efforts and compassionate service are the backbone of Animal Welfare League, enabling us to fulfill our mission of connecting pets with people and fostering lasting, loving relationships in our community. Your contributions are invaluable, and we could not achieve our goals without your dedication and hard work.



A special thank you is also due to our community, whose generosity and support make our work possible. Your unwavering compassion for animals in need drives our initiatives and directly builds a better future for both the animals who come through our doors and animals in the community.

I would also like to express a heartfelt welcome to Steven Weinert, our new CEO, for stepping into the role at such a pivotal time for AWL. We are excited to work alongside him towards our goals for the next three years. At the same time, we bid a fond farewell to Deborah Heithersay, our outgoing CEO. We also welcome our new Board members Juliet Fletcher and Loewn Steel, who bring fresh perspectives and enthusiasm to our cause. A big thank you also to Dr Jo Powell, who stepped down from the Board to help in our vet clinic.

Together, with your continued support, we are poised to turn our vision into reality. Your ongoing commitment to animals in need will create a future where every animal in South Australia knows the warmth of a loving home.

Thank you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'K Bartolo'.

**Ms Katherine Bartolo** FAPI CPV GAICD  
Chair, AWL Board of Director



# Note from our CEO

Steven Weinert



**I'd like to start by thanking the wonderful Animal Welfare League community for being so welcoming during my first few months in the role of CEO. I'm very lucky to work with an organisation and a cause that has such incredible supporters, both in the form of the staff and volunteers who run AWL but also the animal-loving community who supports the work we do.**

Nearly 80 animals came through our doors each week over the course of last financial year, with each one of them relying on the community to provide them with food, shelter and vet care while they wait for their new families to walk through the door. Seeing them progress from the time they first arrive at AWL all the way through to their adoption day warms my heart and knowing that our community trusts us enough to make that happen fills me with pride.

Speaking of the unwavering support of our community, our supporters raised \$437,224 in just 24 hours on our third annual Giving Day earlier this year. This just shows the scale of what can be accomplished when we all work together to create better outcomes for animals in need.

Looking ahead to the development of our next strategic plan, we're in the process of establishing community outreach programs with organisations outside our gates to help vulnerable pet owners not just keep their pets but be the very best pet owners they can be. These programs will focus on helping pet owners with general health checks, desexing, microchipping and training and will help ensure that as many pets as possible are able to thrive with their people.

Likewise, we are in consultation with the Department of Environment and Water, the SA government, local councils and other stakeholders to create a consistent and evidence-based approach to cat management in South Australia. This has been lacking in recent years, but as we enter yet another kitten season it is more important than ever in ensuring that no animal gets left behind.

Of course, none of the work that we do would be possible without our people: the staff, volunteers and foster carers who run AWL on a day-to-day basis. Their dedication and commitment to the animals is second to none. I am constantly blown away by their compassion and kindness to those who need it most and I am proud to work alongside each and every one of them. We couldn't do what we do without our people.

To all our incredible supporters, staff, volunteers and foster carers and our wider community: thank you for your support. I know that our founder, Joy Richardson, would be proud of the AWL that you have created. 60 years on from when she first opened our doors to animals in need, I'm confident that we can continue her work and do justice to her legacy in the next era of Animal Welfare League.

**Steven Weinert**  
Chief Executive Officer, AWL

## AWL Gift in Wills program

*“AWL gave me my two soul dogs, Logan and Indi, and I can't thank them enough. The best way to thank them was to volunteer with them and leave them a gift in my Will”. – Jenny B*

# Here's how we helped pets and people through 2023/2024

## Making pets a more valued part of the community



**2,915**

happy families created



**3,283**

strays given a roof over their head and food in their bellies



**2,712**

desexing surgeries performed, preventing thousands of lives lived on the streets



**447**

volunteers and foster carers donated their time to increase our impact on animals in need

## Helping people and pets in need



**566**

rehoming requests fulfilled, providing peace of mind to people experiencing hardship



**458**

pets reunited with their people



**1,115**

pets had a home away from home at our Pet Boarding facility



**36,430**

calls supporting the community



**10,861**

pets were cremated and lovingly remembered by their families

## Improving knowledge and understanding of pets

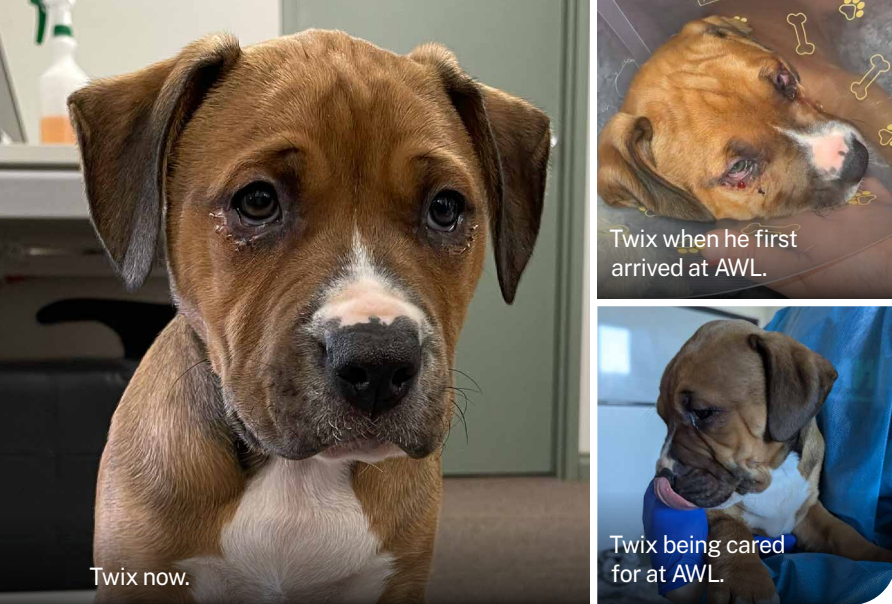


**182,629**

people engaged in education about responsible pet ownership

### AWL Pet Cremations

*"We cannot put into words the gratitude and thanks we have for the AWL Cremations team. We cannot express our thanks or recommend AWL enough for being there for us through such a difficult time." -Shaun C*



## Best practice animal care, opportunities, treatment and rehabilitation

### Twix's heartwarming tale of hope

Twix was just eight weeks old when he came to Animal Welfare League with his sister. He needed surgery on his eyelids after AWL vets discovered they were rolling in and rubbing against his eyes, causing pain and discomfort.

After his surgery, the team placed him in foster care with experienced puppy carer Sophie, who gave him a safe and loving temporary home where he could learn how to be a dog.

"The best part about fostering him was getting to see his personality flourish," Sophie said.

"The more I spent time with him and he started trusting me, the more cheeky and outgoing he became. He was a huge cuddle bug and wanted to spend the majority of his time on top of me for cuddles."

According to Sophie, Twix learned very quickly that he could trust her. "After having such a big surgery, he became very codependent in the following days and needed lots of reassurance."

"He spent all his time with me while I was at home, and he slept with me in my bed as I could tell he needed that extra support," she said.

"I ensured that he had enough space around him that he could still move and play freely even with a cone on. I also gently cleaned around his surgery site when needed as it occasionally got a bit weepy."

Sophie said that Twix was one of the sweetest puppies she had ever worked with. "I'm not just saying that! He had such a kind soul and gentle nature. I could tell the main thing he wanted was love and companionship which I was more than happy to provide him with until he found his forever home."

Twix is now thriving with his furever family in a home where he gets to be his quirky little self, and it's all thanks to the dedication of the AWL team and his foster carer Sophie.

## Improved cats' and dogs' lives in the community

### Savanna's long journey home

Have you ever thought about how you might feel if you lost your pet? For Savanna's mum Brittany, it was nine months of waiting and wondering if her beloved cat would ever come home.

Brittany reported Savanna missing in June 2023. Nine months later she was found by a group of teachers at a school in Davoren Park and brought to Animal Welfare League.

The AWL team scanned Savanna for a microchip. Thankfully, not only was she chipped but her mum had updated her details on that microchip on the off chance she was found! This ensured our team could contact her and give her the great news:

### Savanna had been found and was waiting for Brittany to come and pick her up!

Savanna's story is a great reminder of the importance of microchipping your pets and updating your details on the chip if they change. Without Savanna's microchip, Brittany might still be wondering if Savanna was okay and if she would ever find her way home.



# Making a difference to little lives



**Animal Welfare League's Foster Care program cares for over 1,000 animals each year, making it a crucial part of the AWL rehoming program. One of AWL's most prolific foster carers is Peter, who has fostered over 170 cats and kittens.**

Peter provides them with a safe and nurturing environment until they're ready to find their forever homes.

"I like them best when they first start to walk, just 3-4 weeks old. I call it the drunk walk stage - they are a bit wobbly and trying to coordinate their four legs," he laughed.

Peter, 60, says it gives him something to focus on, something to occupy his time. He says the fact that AWL provides everything makes it easy.

"I usually take Mums and babies, they are much better when they have their Mum. She does most of the work. I feed her, and she feeds them! I just monitor their development and weight to ensure they're healthy. I also have to socialise them to humans, which means playing with them lots - the best part of it!"

To someone thinking of becoming a foster care, Peter says, "just do it!"

Peter says it can be hard to give them back, but it's always worth it in the end.

"When I have to give them back there is some pain but if it didn't hurt you are probably not the right person for the job," Peter said.

"I've never had kids but it must be a bit like that, you raise kids but eventually you have to let them go."

"That's the ultimate thing with foster caring - seeing them being adopted."



Faye with her kittens.

## AWL Foster Care program

*"Fostering brings out my 'knight in shining armour' gene! I just love the chance to give little needy creatures a chance at living a loved life. It's pretty special." -Jannette Y*



Main image:  
A happy Halo.

Inset image (top):  
Halo when he first  
arrived at AWL.

Inset image (bottom):  
Halo with Dick.

# Increased support of AWL's work

**Our third annual Giving Day was an even bigger success than in previous years, with the South Australian community coming together and raising over \$437,000 to feed, house and support animals in need.**

This year's heartwarming Giving Day success story was Halo the dog, a pooch who came to AWL desperate for a hearty meal and a loving hand. After he recovered and helped raise nearly half a million dollars for his fellow shelter animals, Halo was adopted by Dick, who said he caught his eye immediately.

"He was very withdrawn when I first brought him home, but he soon settled in. He's always

excited to see me and is really gentle with my grandchildren," Dick said.

Dick changed Halo's name to Auric, and he now lives on a spacious property near Gawler where he loves chasing rabbits and kangaroos. "He won't go off by himself though," Dick said, "only if I'm with him."

According to Dick, Auric needed help learning that he no longer had to scoff his meals down.

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**"He's hyper intelligent, so now we have a process where he has to do certain things before he gets his dinner – left paw, right paw – he learnt quickly."**

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## AWL Pet Adoptions

*"Super friendly, well-educated team was happy to pair me with the most perfect little kitty!" –Emily H*



# Suzanne's lifelong dedication to animals

**Suzanne first joined Animal Welfare League back in August 1996, meaning she has been working with animals for nearly 30 years.**

According to Suzanne, it was an easy decision to join an organisation that was so close to her heart.

"I had always wanted to work with and help animals and people as I grew up and felt that working at AWL covers both of these," Suzanne said.

I always believed in what AWL stands for, so when I saw a job advertised for a vet nurse, I applied but wasn't successful, but I was offered another position here at AWL and I have never looked back!"

Suzanne said it was difficult to choose a favourite part about working at AWL, but there is one aspect that warms her heart every day and keeps her coming back.

"Seeing the animals get their forever homes is just amazing," she said.

"A lot of them come here and they're scared and confused, and sometimes they need vet care, but when they get adopted it's like they're a totally different animal – that never gets old."

As one of the few people who has been working at AWL for nearly half of its 60-year history, Suzanne is in a unique position to talk about the future.

"I've seen so much positive change happen here over the years, and I'm really excited about the work we're going to do in the future," she said.

"I can't wait to see AWL keep getting bigger and stronger and helping more people and animals in the community."



## Our people

### Our vision for the future

**Paul, Volunteer Engagement Manager at Animal Welfare League, plays a crucial role in recruiting and managing AWL's extraordinary team of volunteers.**

According to Paul, a measure of success for any charity can be found in its supporter base, and AWL is no different.

"AWL is entirely community funded, and this also extends to the goodwill of our volunteers who give tirelessly of their time to our cause," Paul said.

"When people believe in a cause and get involved, they find that they belong to something bigger than self, something amazing that touches the lives of others in a profound way, while making a lasting difference. For AWL, this is found in the lives of all the vulnerable animals that come to us, each trusting us to give them a new life and find their forever home."

Paul considers himself extremely lucky to be able to work closely with such selfless people. "The diversity and wealth of experience that our volunteers give each and every day creates an environment of trust and care where every voice is heard, honoured and respected."

"It is in every conversation, every act of kindness, every joy, every time of need and our united approach to helping the animals in our care that makes AWL an extraordinary place to come to work," Paul said.

"Whether it be through volunteering in our op shops, caring for our animals, helping in our laundry service, providing administration, keeping our facilities looking great or welcoming the public, each volunteer has an essential part to play in the vital work that we do."

Paul has been instrumental in building the AWL volunteer program since he began in June 2023. His vision for the future is one of collaboration and learning from each other to create even better outcomes for animals in need.

"I see the future of AWL's volunteer program always representing the interests and expectations of the community in providing the very best of care for every animal who depends on us. If we can remain nimble enough to always be able to respond quickly to urgent needs, brave enough to step out of our comfort zone and dependable enough to be there through thick and thin, then the rest will take care of itself."

"There is so much scope to imagine better from a collective perspective, whereby everyone can dream and be part of an exciting tomorrow," he said.

"The reality is that without our volunteers, we would struggle to exist and achieve the life changing outcomes for the animals that depend on us. To all our volunteers, we send our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the incredible contributions they tirelessly give."

# Financial Report

## Statement of Profit and Loss

AWL's operational income was comparable to last year with increased revenue in Pet Boarding (\$148k) and Pet Cremations (\$278k). Legacies and Bequests received from our generous supporters reached almost \$4m and this is testament to the reputation AWL has in the community and helps to fund our vital work in protecting the welfare of animals.

Occupancy of our boarding facility increased due to higher levels of demand resulting in on average 97% occupancy for dogs and 89% for cats. The Pet Cremations enterprise serviced 10,861 private cremations and continues to maintain its market share, while our opportunity shops are attracting more patronage with sales of \$440k for the year. New stores are expected in 2024-25 with our newest store at Unley opening early November 2024.

## Statement of Financial Position

AWL's financial position continues to remain strong and financially sustainable with net assets of \$44.09m, low level of current liabilities and no debt.



AWL Op Shops

*“Nice op shop, friendly and helpful staff and a nice cause supported by AWL.”*

*-Freddie I*



## Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

Revenue	2023/24 \$	2022/23\$
Operational income	8,605,062	9,194,633
Legacies and bequests received	3,497,741	11,522,663
Other income	546,039	88,450
Fair value movement in financial assets	521,286	34,931
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>13,170,128</b>	<b>20,840,677</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Employee expenses	-8,818,063	-7,377,088
Other expenses from ordinary activities	-8,244,863	-7,118,873
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>-17,062,926</b>	<b>-14,495,961</b>
<b>Net current year surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>-3,892,798</b>	<b>6,344,716</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>-3,892,798</b>	<b>6,344,716</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

### Assets

Current assets	13,236,699	15,664,379
Non-Current assets	32,920,153	33,995,095
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>46,156,852</b>	<b>49,659,474</b>

### Liabilities

Current liabilities	-1,820,486	-1,485,446
Non-Current liabilities	-246,407	-191,271
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>-2,066,893</b>	<b>-1,676,717</b>

<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>44,089,959</b>	<b>47,982,757</b>
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### Equity

Accumulated surplus	6,575,437	7,906,676
Reserves	37,514,522	40,076,081
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>44,089,959</b>	<b>47,982,757</b>

**AWL is 100% community funded, meaning we need to raise all of the money required to operate each year. Despite the financial hardship faced by many this year, our generous donors continued supporting the cats and dogs in our care. We're deeply grateful for the many Gifts in Wills, donations and in-kind contributions that have helped us keep our doors open.**

**There are many ways to support:-**

- Make a donation
- Leave a gift in your Will
- Buy a lottery ticket
- Fundraise for us
- Donate items to or shop at our Op Shops
- Use our social enterprises – AWL Boarding and AWL Cremations
- Volunteer your time
- Become a foster carer

AWL Volunteering

*“I love the idea of helping animals by volunteering and this is the perfect place to do that.” –Sylvia B*



**Animal Welfare League of South Australia Inc.**

1-19 Cormack Road,  
Wingfield SA 5013

P 08 8348 1300  
E support@awl.org.au

[awl.org.au](http://awl.org.au)