ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



Contents



About Us

AMRRIC (Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities) is a national not for profit organisation that uses a One Health approach to co-ordinate veterinary and education programs in Indigenous communities.

Our One Health approach recognises the inextricable links between human, animal and environmental health and wellbeing. By working with remote Indigenous communities to improve the health of their companion animals we are helping to create healthier, safer and happier communities.

AMRRIC variously delivers, facilitates, coordinates and supports culturally sensitive programs in Indigenous communities across Australia, collaborating with the communities to develop programs that meet their needs.

The immediate objective of our approach is to provide education and veterinary services in an effort to improve the health, wellbeing and behaviour of companion animals in Indigenous communities. The longer term objectives of our model are sustainability and capacity building, so that ultimately communities can confidently and effectively manage their own companion animal populations.

AMRRIC seeks to base its policies and strategies on factual information, and recognises that ethical, culturally sensitive research can result in tangible benefits for both Indigenous communities and their companion animals. Additionally, AMRRIC recognises the capacity building benefits of the involvement of Indigenous people as full partners in research projects and strongly supports such collaborations.

Advocacy is an integral part of AMRRIC's work in seeking to promote and facilitate the health and wellbeing of companion animals and the associated interests of Indigenous communities. AMRRIC constantly and consistently advocates for the legitimate needs and interests of community animals and their human companions at all levels of society, but particularly with national, state and local governments with regard to resource allocation.

Strategic Objectives



To increase the number of effective, sustainable One Health programs in rural and remote Indigenous communities across the country in partnership with communities, partners and stakeholders.

02 EDUCATION

To collaborate with Indigenous communities to develop and deliver culturally relevant and sustainable education programs that will ultimately enable these communities to manage the health and wellbeing of their companion animals.

03 CAPACITY BUILDING

To work with Indigenous communities to build capacity and empower communities so that over time, effective animal health and management is sustained with a lessening reliance on external providers. AMRRIC will work to further build the capacity of relevant stakeholders (including government departments, regional councils, Aboriginal corporations, veterinarians and AMRRIC itself) to achieve a One Health approach to animal health and management.

04 ADVOCACY & POLICY

To work with stakeholders, advocating on behalf of Indigenous communities to develop animal management policies that are community driven and culturally appropriate and that bring about sustainable improvements in animal, human and environmental health and wellbeing.

05 RESEARCH & EVALUATION

To support relevant research and continually evaluate all aspects of our work to ensure evidence-based approaches and maximum efficiency, leading to sustained improvements in animal, human and environmental health.

06 ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

AMRRIC's unique approach is maintained and strengthened by continued good governance, financial sustainability and sound management systems that support innovation, quality, efficiency and effectiveness.

Our Purpose

To collaborate with rural and remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to improve the health and wellbeing of their companion animals and the health, wellbeing and safety of communities.

Our Vision Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that are healthy and safe for people and their companion animals

Our Values

RESPECT

- For the communities with whom we work, our supporters and our colleagues
- Por Indigenous cultures and traditional knowledge
- For the diversity and individuality of all people

ACCOUNTABILITY

- We work to clearly articulated objectives in a transparent manner
- We seek to achieve the best use of resources

INTEGRITY

- We are honest, open and transparent
- We avoid real, or apparent, conflicts of interest

OUTCOMES FOCUS

• All our decisions are framed around the question "How will this help the communities with whom we work?"

COLLABORATION

• We work with communities

INTERCONNECTEDNESS

• We integrate our programs and work with others

"...that was probably the best surgical program I've been on. Lots of good work done. A great team effort..."

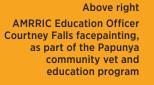
Dr Robert Irving, about Maningrida program, April 2018

Below

AMRRIC Program Manager Dr Jan Allen trains the Thamarrurr Rangers in the preparation of ivermectin sandwiches -anti-parasite treatments for the dogs at Wadeye







Right:

Prospective patients out the front of the Punmu shop in Western Australia. Image by AMRRIC volunteer Dr Justine Philip



President's Report

I am pleased to render this President's Report as part of the AMRRIC 2017/18 Annual Report.

Once again our small number of highly committed staff have worked well with a dedicated and giving group of AMRRIC volunteers and partnering vets to deliver animal health and wellbeing programs throughout the NT and beyond. Broadly speaking this saw the AMRRIC team deliver education programs for children and families in communities as well as provide support to veterinary programs that target animal health through parasite treatments and surgical population management. Around this, the staff and Board continued to respond to requests for AMRRICs advocacy capability as well as calls to partner in meaningful research and contribute to policy development at the regional and state levels. Whilst our major program funding, through the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), has directed the bulk of our work to the Northern Territory, our footprint across all of our activities and partnerships remains firmly national.

This year we welcomed Dr Brooke Rankmore as AMRRIC's new CEO. Brooke brings considerable experience in community, government and NGO/ NFP operational management and leadership roles within the NT, including in Indigenous community settings as well as in the mining and pastoral industries. Brooke's Territory connections - across community, government and industry - have enabled her to quickly establish herself in the role and further focus AMRRIC's efforts to effectively work alongside Aboriginal corporations, regional councils and veterinary service providers to ensure AMRRIC's One Health veterinary and animal management programs continue to grow from strength to strength.

One of our proudest achievements this year has been the establishment of AMRRIC's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group, made up of a diversity of members from across Australia who bring with them wide-ranging knowledge and lived-experience. In authentically representing the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the Advisory Group contributes a crucial cultural and practical perspective in the development and implementation of AMRRIC's work. Already, the Advisory Group members have assisted the AMRRIC Board with setting strategic direction and navigating culturally complex issues, and we look forward to continuing to work with and learn from them as AMRRIC deepens its commitment to reconciliation.

The year saw some Board Director movement, including the commencement of Professor Adrian Miller and the departing of two directors who made significant contributions over the medium and long term. The first was Simon Costello from Queensland, who joined the Board in 2016 and who we particularly acknowledge for leading the establishment of AMRRIC's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Board. The second was Dr Stephen Cutter, a Darwin vet whose contribution to AMRRIC's programs and governance spans decades. Stephen was one of the founders of AMRRIC when it was formed in 2002 in Alice Springs and then a founding Board member when AMRRIC was incorporated in 2004. We are grateful to Stephen for his long-standing service and commitment to AMRRIC and we look forward to partnering with him on the delivery of community veterinary programs well into the future.

I thank all the Board of Management for supporting my second term as President and for the enormous contribution each has made to the strategic direction and governance of the organisation. This year we produced our first 10 year plan. 'AMRRIC Strategic Vision to 2028' provides longterm strategic guidance for the organisation and will be supported by shorter term strategic and operational plans, goals, outcome monitoring, growth, resourcing and funding which the Board will review annually.

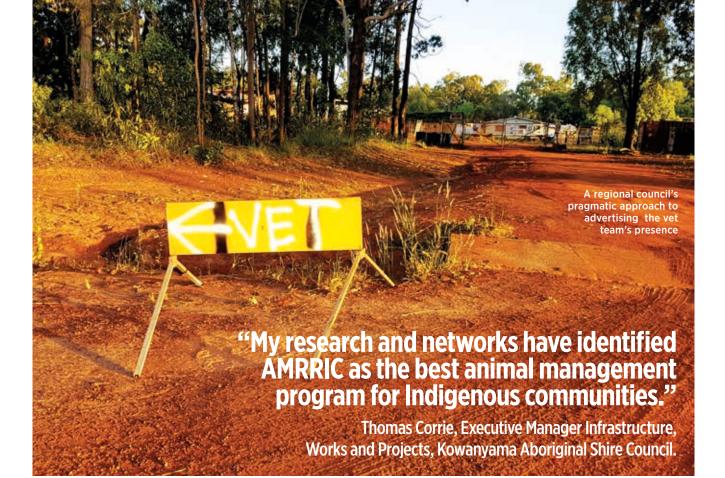
We also set in train a process to transfer AMRRIC from an incorporated association under the *Associations Act* to a company limited by guarantee under the *Corporations Act 2001* and worked with the CEO to strengthen various aspects of the organisation's corporate governance.

Our financial management has been sound and, as the Audited Financial Statement shows, the auditor has found our accounts to be in good shape.

As always, we are greatly appreciative of the many individual volunteers and collaborators in government, regional councils, educational and research entities and private veterinary and animal care firms that support our work. We deeply appreciate the many forms of assistance we receive through these partnerships and the direct funding we receive from generous donors and sponsors.

And once again, our gratitude goes to the Northern Territory Senator and federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Hon Nigel Scullion and officers of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet for continuing to resource AMRRICs core work program and support our strategic direction.

We look forward to another productive 12 months ahead and to sharing news on our programs as the year unfolds.



CEO's Report

Having stepped into the CEO role in February, this is my first Annual Report for AMRRIC. I am thrilled to be leading this reputable organisation and to have the opportunity to share our achievements over the last year with you, our collaborators, members and supporters.

This year has seen change for the organisation with AMRRIC's former CEO, Kim McCreanor finishing with the organisation in October 2017. Our Engagement Manager, Emma Host graciously stepped into the interim CEO role during the recruitment period before finishing with the organisation in February 2018 to undertake full-time study. Both contributed greatly to the organisation and I thank them for, and value their respective contributions to AMRRIC and our achievements.

As a small organisation we are indebted to the many volunteers who generously enhance AMRRIC's outcomes. We have over 300 vets, vet nurses and data collectors eager to volunteer their time and skills to assist in the delivery of remote community veterinary and education programs. We are also supported by many individuals and businesses who volunteer their services or products to benefit our work, and in turn, remote communities. Our achievements would not be possible without each and every one of you.

To date, AMRRIC's work has had a strong focus on the management of dogs in communities,

as this has historically been the area of greatest need. However, over the past few years our staff, veterinary partners and local stakeholders have observed an increase in cat ownership which, due to their enormous reproductive capacity. has resulted in an explosion of cat populations in many remote communities. Owned cats pose significant risk to local biodiversity, and are also a potential source of zoonotic diseases such as Toxoplamosis and Cat Scratch Disease. As we look to the year ahead, to address the burgeoning cat populations AMRRIC has commenced investing in the development of targeted cat education resources. We will also work with our partners to focus on mitigating the detrimental impacts of cat populations in remote Indigenous communities through desexing programs. All-the-while, our efforts to improve the health and management of dogs will of course continue.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the dedication of our staff, Dr Bonny Cumming, Courtney Falls, and Dr. Jan Allen, the AMRRIC Board and members of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group for their continued commitment to our vision. It is a pleasure to be working with such passionate and capable individuals.

We hope you enjoy reading this year's Annual Report.

Dr Brooke Rankmore CEO

Board

DR PETER STEPHENSON PRESIDENT

Dr Stephenson's background is as an environmental health practitioner and tertiary educator with research and professional interests in environmental health policy and practice, including Indigenous communities' capacity building, professional education and curriculum development. Peter is currently Executive Director of Higher Education and Research at the NT Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education.

02 DR KATE BLASZAK VICE PRESIDENT

Kate is a Global Advisor at World Animal Protection. She is based in Melbourne and travels frequently to Asia where she previously managed the regional companion and working animal programmes, with a focus on dog welfare, rabies and population management. Kate brings a broad range of animal welfare and One Health project, policy, training and management experience. She is committed to serving local communities and their animals.

DT DR ANN-MARGRET WITHERS TREASURER

Dr Ann-Margret Withers is the Community Programs Veterinarian for RSPCA NSW. She has been involved in developing and delivering community focused companion animal health programs for RSPCA NSW for over 10 years. This includes programs for the elderly, those affected by domestic and family violence, homelessness, as well as programs in rural areas and remote Aboriginal communities within NSW. She has also been involved in similar programs overseas. She is very interested in One Health, One Welfare.

"We are happy with the work that AMRRIC is doing out in the communities and we are committed in supporting your project."

Jeffrey Guilas, Acting CEO, Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation.

SABINA SHUGG AM SECRETARY

Sabina is a mining engineer working in the field of management consulting. In her early twenties she returned to Kalgoorlie and worked in the mining industry for a few years before studying Mining Engineering at the WA School of Mines. She has since had a varied career working in operational and management roles in various parts of WA and the NT and these days primarily works in Perth. Sabina has an MBA from UWA. In 2003 Sabina started WIMWA (Women in Mining and Resources WA) which is a networking group for women in the resources sector.

05 dr ted donelan

Dr Ted Donelan is a veterinarian based in Victoria, where he ran private practices in Melbourne for more than 30 years. He is a Fellow of the Australian Veterinary Association, a Senior Academic Associate of the University of Melbourne and Life Member of RSPCA Victoria. Ted has always been interested in animal welfare and the relationships between humans and their animal companions. He has a long record of contribution to animal welfare issues and urban animal management at local, state and national levels, as well as decades of involvement in Indigenous affairs.

For the past fifteen years Ted has provided a comprehensive dog health program to the remote community of Maningrida, which with its outstations encompasses an area of some 10,000 square kilometers in Arnhem Land. Ted has been involved with AMRRIC since its inception. He has served on the Board for eleven years including six as President.

06 DR ROSALIE SCHULTZ

Rosalie grew up in Perth, and has lived and worked as a medical doctor throughout the NT since 1997. She has also ventured to work in rural Solomon Islands and East Timor. She has specialised training in public health and general practice. Rosalie believes that health arises from how people live. She would like to see promotion of children's wellbeing, quality education, employment, housing and transport. She sees animal and human well-being as interconnected, and believes in the fundamental importance of ecosystems and the environment.

Board (cont.)

CHRISTINE ROSS

Christine Ross is an Arrernte/Kaytetye desert woman who was born in Alice Springs and grew up in Darwin. She moved to Perth in 2002. Her career began as a teacher and she was employed by the NT Department of Education for 14 Years, which included four years as the Manager of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Educators Support Unit.

Christine was the General Manager of the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) in Alice Springs in 1999- 2001 and was employed by the WA Department of Education in 2005 – 2011 as the Senior Consultant Aboriginal Employment. During this period Christine was also seconded for 2 years 2009 – 2011 to Burswood Entertainment Complex (now Crown Perth) as the Aboriginal Program Coordinator.

Christine has worked in the Resource Sector of WA for a number of years both as Indigenous Employment Superintendent in 2011 with Leighton Contractors Mining Division and the former Manager of Indigenous Relations for Laing O'Rourke. Still based in Perth. Christine works part time as the Indigenous and Diversity Manager at the AROONA Alliance as well as the Managing Director of her own Consultancy specialising in Indigenous Employment Programs, Training, Mentoring and Facilitating Indigenous Conferences and Forums.

Christine is a member of several Boards including the Indigenous Woman in Business Australia, Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities (AMRRIC), Sevenoaks College Follow the Dream Program and Chairperson of Langford Aboriginal Association in Perth.

08 PROFESSOR ADRIAN MILLER

Adrian is of the Jirrbal people of North Queensland and is the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership at Charles Darwin University. Professor Miller brings strong leadership experience combined with a proven capacity for achieving positive outcomes for Indigenous communities in health and education. The highly collaborative manner in which he has undertaken research has contributed to intellectual and methodological developments in health and education fields.



Who is the AMRRIC Board?

AMRRIC's elected Board is made up of a wide range of volunteers, from both veterinary and environmental health, tertiary institution staff and private and corporate sector members.



AMRRIC also acknowledges the valuable contributions of Dr Stephen Cutter and Simon Costello who held positions on the AMRRIC Board until October 2017.

Volunteers

total Supporters registered to receive notice of upcoming volunteer opportunities

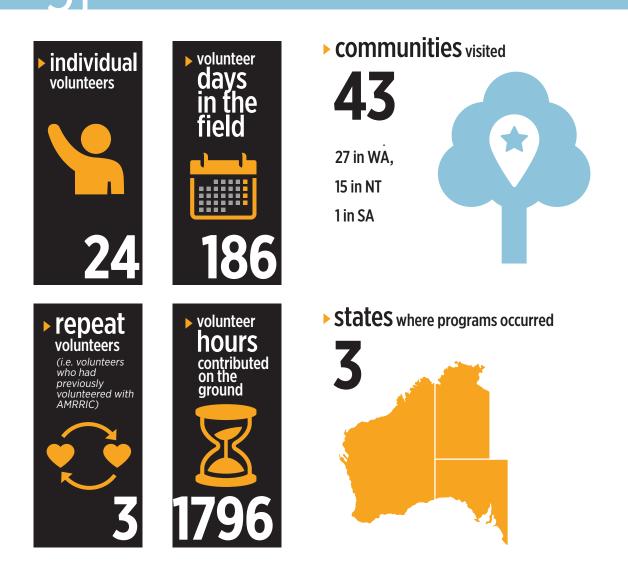
358

programs that took volunteers

15

volunteer opportunities "I enjoyed being in the company of people with a true attitude of working towards the improved health of dogs in the Indigenous communities, which in turn will help with the improved health of the humans in those communities."

Dr Anne-Marie Horwitz, Volunteer Vet, Kakadu Outstations program, September 2017



Volunteers (cont.)

Pilbara puppies Image by AMRRIC Volunteer Dr Justine Philip

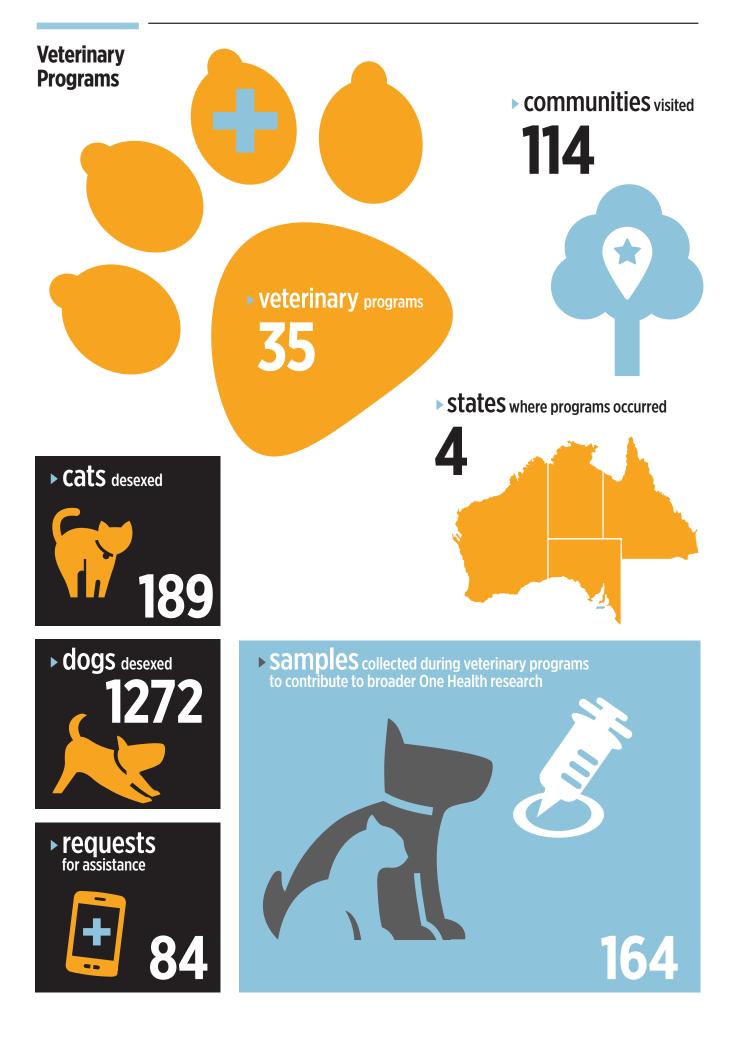




 estimated financial value of volunteer hours contributed
\$80,480

% of volunteers that sacrificed regular income in order to volunteer 70%

For more information about AMRRIC's Volunteering with AMRRIC please visit: http://www.amrric.org/get-involved/volunteering-faq



Veterinary Programs (cont.)

KEY/STAND OUT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Increasing inclusion of animal management as a core municipal service within NT Regional Councils with a celebratory variety of approaches.
- Increasing collaboration with South Australian remote communities and agencies. AMRRIC was successful in a Fund My Community grant to provide a surgical program in yet another of the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands' largest communities, Pukutja (or Ernabella). AMRRIC has been working with SA government, animal welfare agencies and remote community partners to

assist toward facilitation of SA's new Dog and Cat Management Regulations within remote communities.

- AMRRIC has the ongoing privilege of working long term with many
 Aboriginal Corporations in several states to assist with veterinary
 programs in their communities and homelands.
- Continuing and increasing interest from agencies in AMRRIC's *Staying Safe* DVD.
- "Leatherback" dogs have become a rarity and no longer the norm as

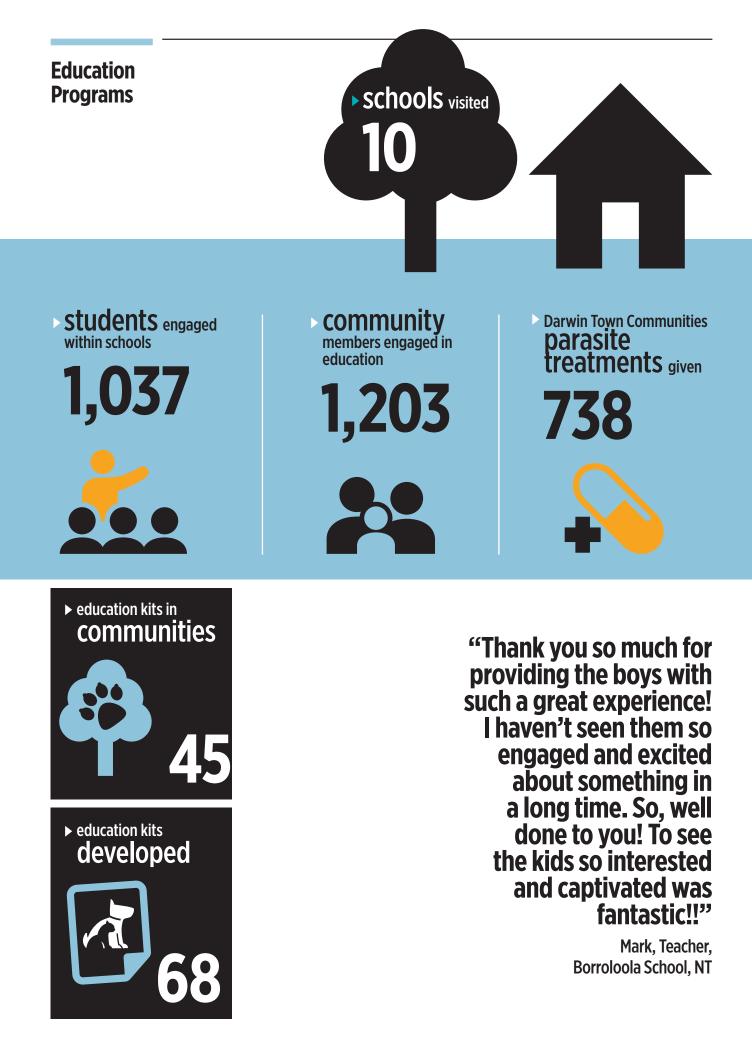
regular medications and improved products assist with combatting the canine manges- Demodex and Scabies.

- Increasing numbers of older animals and those above ideal weight are signs we are celebrating in communities, as they are indicators of dog populations that are increasingly well managed.
- AMRRIC is working with local partners and our supporters to introduce quality, affordable and contemporary animal health products to community stores.



"Keep up the amazing work, it's so wonderful that you are supporting the communities and the animals in this way."

Robyn Stockton, Anglicare NT.



Education Programs (cont.)

AMRRIC Education Officer Courtney Falls delivering AMRRIC's Be A Friend To Your Dog school resource at Lajamanu School, NT, September 2017.



KEY/STAND OUT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Collaborating with Queensland Health Tropical Public Health Service, to deliver education training in the use of the AMRRIC Education Resource Kit. Training was delivered to 40 Indigenous Animal Management and Environmental Health workers from across Queensland. There are currently 35 Education Resource Kits within remote Indigenous Communities within Queensland.
- 2017 Ramingining Dog Festival saw a week of community collaboration and engagement. During the course of the week more than 250 community members engaged with dog events including a dog movie night, dog wash, community display in the local shop, responsible pet ownership session at the school and the major event the Dog Festival. The Festival

provided a range of activities and engagement for the whole community including, face painting, craft table, games, best looking dog competition, dog goodies stall, bbq, waterslide and music. Responsible pet ownership education sessions were delivered at the school during the week with support from special guest Morgan and Roman, developers of the **Pups n Bubs, Healthy Children and Dogs DVD.** Students engaged with interactive music and story writing sessions with Morgan on caring for dogs.

Collaboration with the **Tiwi Land Council Rangers** to promote
responsible cat ownership. A video
was develop focusing on responsible
cat ownership with traditional owners.
This video was used to promote
responsible cat ownership within

the shop, health clinic and at a local community event promoting cat desexing.

- 21 more Education Resource Kits were sent out to remote Indigenous communities across Australia
- Delivery of education/training to support the Cherbourg Dog Program in Queensland. Training was delivered to the staff at the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council and to staff members of the University of Queensland School of Veterinary Science in the delivery of AMRRIC Education Programs. This training will allow for the ongoing delivery of education within the Cherbourg community and school, via the staff at the University of Queensland and local staff from Cherbourg.

For more information about AMRRIC's Education Programs please visit: http://www.amrric.org/our-work/education-program

Advocacy

We are proud to have contributed to the following events by presenting AMRRIC's work.

MONTH	LOCATION	CONFERENCE/VENUE	PRESENTATION TITLE	PRESENTER
April 18	Online	University of Queensland Veterinary Science Students	Culture is Deadly! Cross-cultural considerations when delivering veterinary services in remote Indigenous communities	Bonny Cumming
Mar 18	Darwin	Local Government Association Northern Territory (LGANT) Regional Council CEO Meeting	Them Cheeky Dogs - Challenges and Opportunities in Remote Community Animal Management	Brooke Rankmore
Feb 18	Darwin	The Northern Institute People. Policy.Place Seminar Series	Them Cheeky Dogs - Challenges & opportunities in remote community animal management	Bonny Cumming
20 Oct 17	Alice Springs	MacDonnell Regional Council meeting of Community Service Coordinators	Working with Northern Territory Regional Councils in Animal Management	Jan Allen
23 Sep 17	Darwin	International Strongyloides Workshop	Remote Indigenous Community Engagement	Jan Allen
Sep 17	Cairns	National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference	The 2016 Cherbourg Dog Management Program; a successful collaboration	Steven Hill (Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council), Bonny Cumming (AMRRIC) & Amanda Hutchings (Darling Downs Public Health Unit)
Aug 17	Sydney	University of Sydney Vet Students	Indigenous Community Animal Management	Jan Allen
Aug 17	Perth	Women in Mining Western Australia Summit	AMRRIC stall at conference to raise awareness of AMRRIC's work	Courtney Falls
Jul 17	Gold Coast	Australia & New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists Conference	Animal management in Indigenous communities as a driver of One Welfare	Bonny Cumming





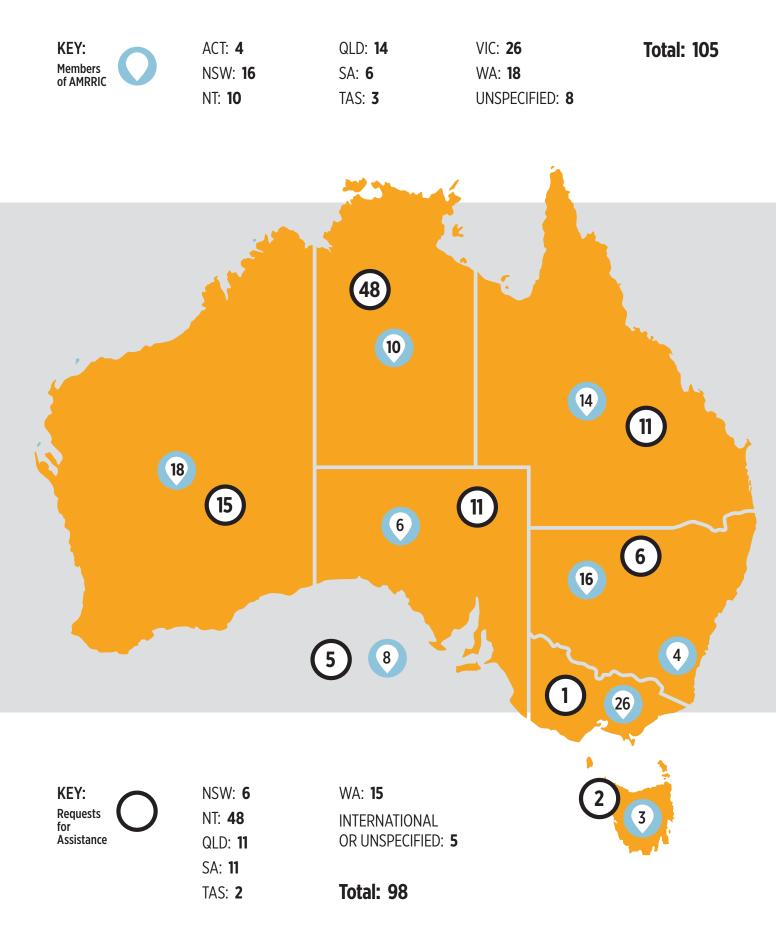
Far left:

AMRRIC staff, veterinary partners and volunteers forming an extraordinary and recordbreaking team at Maningrida, April 2018.

Left:

AMRRIC Project Officer Dr Bonny Cumming (middle) with the Thamarrurr Women Rangers and vet volunteer, Dr Sophie Bowman-Derrick, celebrating a successful companion animal census at Wadeye, NT, June 2018

Our Members and Requests for Assistance



Our Supporters

PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION DONORS

AMRRIC has generously received philanthropic donations from Isaacson Davis Foundation, Lin Huddleston Charitable Foundation and an anonymous Family Philanthropic Fund. In addition, one-off and regular donations from numerous supporters provided over \$36,000.

Women in Mining Western Australia also raised \$14,000.



FUNDERS – MAJOR GRANTS

- Four Paws Australia Papunya Vet Program
- INPEX Ichthys LNG Project Enhancing the Veterinary Support Program for Town Camps in the Greater Darwin Region.
- Northern Territory Animal Welfare Grant Animal Management Education
- Northern Territory Community Benefit Fund Healthy Dogs Healthy Communities
- Fund our Community SA Papa Pukatja Program
- North Australia Quarantine Service Census Training with Ranger Groups

over \$100k

up to \$30k

> Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet – One Health Project



The Leading Partnership – Philip Pogson, Sydney

SPONSORS AND PRODUCT DONORS

Boehringer Ingelheim – product donations to Cherbourg community vet program worth over \$20,000 retail **Boehringer Ingelheim** – discounted wholesale price of Nexgard for AMRRIC's use

Dulux Paints, Darwin – Donation of paints for Reconciliation Week, Tyre Dog Bed making activity in Bagot Town Camp

Goodyear Autocare, Darwin – Donation of used tyres for Reconciliation Week. Tyre Dog Bed making activity in Bagot Town Camps



AMRRIC volunteers Dr Rebecca Robey (Image above left), Shoallea Cooke (image above right, left-hand side), Dr James Holder (image above right, right-hand side) and Dr Linda Bradbury (pictured left with Borroloola communtiy members) were among 24 individuals who volunteered their time and skill during the 2017-2018 financial year. "I have huge respect and admiration for the vets and vet nurses who have been doing this work for many years under very difficult conditions.

Their attitude to the work is incredible and it is of clear to see the benefits within the human and animal communities."

> AMRRIC Volunteer Data Collector, Dr Justine Philip, Pilbara communities program, October 2017

