



AMRRIC ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20





**“The collaborations
AMRRIC have and
the relationships you
have established with
remote communities is
absolutely inspiring.”**

Feedback from AMRRIC stakeholder
event in June 2020

Contents



02	ABOUT AMRRIC	16	OUR SUPPORTERS
02	OUR STRATEGIC GOALS	16	OUR DONORS
03	OUR PURPOSE, OUR VISION, OUR CORE VALUES	16	MAJOR GRANT & SPONSORSHIP SUPPORTERS
04	CHAIR'S REPORT	17	OUR MEMBERS
05	BOARD	18	VOLUNTEERS
08	AMRRIC'S ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY GROUP CO-CHAIR'S REPORT	20	VETERINARY PROGRAMS
09	CEO'S REPORT	22	COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
10	AMRRIC STAFF HIGHLIGHTS	24	SUPPORT FOR STAKEHOLDERS
14	COVID-19 RELATED IMPACTS AND RESPONSES		

About AMRRIC

AMRRIC (Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities Ltd) is a not-for-profit organisation that coordinates culturally safe veterinary and education programs in rural and remote Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

AMRRIC exists to assist and empower communities to meet their needs for companion animal health, care, and safety.

AMRRIC's Board and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group work together to guide and govern AMRRIC.

Principles of cultural safety and One Health One Wellbeing¹ underpin AMRRIC's approach. Cultural safety is where users of services have the power to feedback their observations and experiences to contribute to service outcomes. Cultural safety is defined by receivers or users of services and extends beyond cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity.

One Health One Wellbeing recognises the links between human, animal and environmental health and wellbeing. Positive relationships between owners and their animals are fundamental to daily animal care and welfare and contribute to community health and well-being.

Our Strategic Goals

AMRRIC are proud to release our new Strategic Goals, as part of the 2020 – 2025 Strategic Plan, which was officially released on the 7th July 2020.

Safe, happy and healthy animals in communities – companion animals are healthy, animal populations are in control, communities and owners are safe and well educated in animal care and empowered for self-determining good animal management.



¹'One Health One Wellbeing' is a term refined by AMRRIC to accommodate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples preferences. It references the international concepts 'One Health' (see www.onehealthcommission.org/en/why_one_health/what_is_one_health/) and 'One Welfare' (see www.onewelfareworld.org). For many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the word 'welfare' has negative connotations, so AMRRIC has instead elected to use the term 'wellbeing'. One Health One Wellbeing services to highlight the interconnections between animal, human and environmental health and wellbeing. It fosters interdisciplinary collaboration to improve physical, mental and socioemotional health of people, pets and country.

Right:
Dr. Sam Phelan working with Mimal Land Management rangers at Bulman.

Far right:
Kittens in Maningrida

Below:
Lajamanu vet visit- Sarah Irwin, Dr. Leesa Grant, and Dr. Helen Purdam.

Bottom:
Bagot elder Helen Fejo-Frith with her dog following a vet visit.



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 Core Values

RESPECT

- For the communities with whom we work, our supporters and our colleagues
- For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and traditional knowledge
- For the diversity and individuality of all people
- For the environment in which we work

ACCOUNTABILITY

- We work to clearly articulated objectives and goals 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?”

INTERCONNECTEDNESS

- We work collaboratively with communities
- We integrate our programs and work with others



“I haven’t noticed any dogs with bad coats or ticks anymore. The whole place is fixed!”

Community resident,
Peppimenarti

Chair's Report



I am delighted to provide this Chairperson's Report as part of the AMRRIC 2019/20 Annual Report.

While COVID-19 renders challenges for everyone,

isolation was especially felt by the remote and rural communities that AMRRIC serves. AMRRIC and its collaborators worked intensely to understand the specific needs and support communities remotely for companion animal food and preventative care, and to plan for future needs once communities re-opened. I would like to thank the CEO, General Manager, and all staff in their resilience during the transition, remote working and returning to practical and new ways of working learnt during this pandemic.

For Directors of the Board, the pandemic also required emergency policy approval, remote strategic planning and prioritising of governance and support to management. Planning meetings normally held face to face twice a year are vital for building general relations, cementing good governance and meeting staff and key stakeholders, but were obviously not possible. Replaced by Zoom meetings, innovation and personal commitment, the Board has maintained momentum and managed various changes. At the October 2019 AGM, Peter Stephenson handed the Chairperson's role to myself, and Dr Ann-Margret Withers became Vice Chair. The Board farewelled Christine Ross, and welcomed Scott Gorringer, as Indigenous Directors. Christine's linkage with AMRRIC continues as below.

Scott and Christine currently co-chair the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group (Advisory Group), that continues into a third year. Their energy and leadership are greatly valued to strengthen this key body which advises the Board and management.

In October 2019, AMRRIC proudly publicly supported the Uluru Statement from the Heart and we encouraged others to join us. The Uluru Statement from the Heart calls for a First Nations Voice in the Australian Constitution and a 'Makarrata Commission' to supervise a process of 'agreement-making' and 'truth-telling' between government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

After considered extension and consultative process, the **2020-2025 Strategic Plan** was finalised by the Board. This has been a key

highlight and importantly signals a more sustainable pathway to the AMRRIC vision by prioritising increased engagement of Indigenous directors, staff, environmental or animal health workers and community engagement towards self-determination. The other major emphasis to the new plan is even greater strategic collaboration, measurement and impact for the communities and animals we are established to serve. Finally, to enable and support our work, diversified funding and fundraising approaches are key and ambitious. Exciting targets are set for management throughout.

Key Board priorities for the next 12 months include improved AMRRIC performance review processes, review of our Membership model, more training, and an external Board review. I'd like to thank the ongoing support of our pro-bono Management and Governance advisor from Sydney. This is all part of our continuous improvement approach to ensure highest standards of governance, legal compliance, and support to operational management.

Finally, I thank all Directors for their ongoing voluntary commitment to AMRRIC's governance and strategic direction and for their support in my new role. In particular, Peter Stephenson, who has served for 10 years on the board including as president, vice-president and on various committees. His steady, experienced leadership has been greatly valued and enabled the organisation to mature in governance and direction. As a Board, we look forward to a dynamic and exciting next 12 months with many exciting achievements and stories awaiting!

Dr Kate Blaszak, CHAIRPERSON

01 DR KATE BLASZAK CHAIR

Kate is a global Head of Research and Animal Welfare (Animals in Farming) at World Animal Protection. She has a base in Melbourne and travels frequently in 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, advocacy and management experience. She is committed to serving local communities and their animals.

Board

02 DR ANN-MARGRET WITHERS VICE-CHAIR, CHAIR OF FINANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE

Ann-Margret Withers is the Senior Manager – Outreach Programs for RSPCA NSW, where she has worked since 2002. As well as being a general practice vet and supporting Inspectorate work for the RSPCA, she has been significantly involved in the development and delivery of their social support and outreach programs to disadvantaged, rural and Aboriginal communities in NSW since the mid-2000s. These programs provide access to important basic veterinary services and education and are aimed at supporting the human-animal bond and recognizing its importance in the health, welfare and safety of people and their pets. She has been on the AMRRIC board since 2007. Education.



03 DR PETER STEPHENSON

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 Director of Strategic Partnerships in the NT Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development.

Who is the AMRRIC Board?

AMRRIC's elected Board is made up of a skilled and diverse group of people, representing a wide range of skill sets, to inform the organisation's governance and management.



Board (cont.)



04 SABINA SHUGG AM

Sabina Shugg AM is the Director of the Curtin Kalgoorlie Campus and is excited to be driving real change in regional and mining education. She is also a Non-Executive Director of Resolute Mining Ltd and the Chair of the Goldfields Esperance Development Commission. Originally from the Goldfields region she has extensive experience in senior roles with mining and consulting organisations in Australia covering both underground and open pit environments. Sabina's work has a strong people focus together with a solid project management background. Sabina has a MBA from UWA and a degree in Mining Engineering from WA School of Mines. She founded and runs the very active Women in Mining and Resources WA group which has grown to 3000 members state-wide since its inception in 2003.

05 DR ROSALIE SCHULTZ

Rosalie grew up in Perth and has worked as a medical doctor and researcher in Aboriginal communities in remote regions of NT and WA since 1997. She has also ventured to work in rural Solomon Islands, East Timor and during the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone. 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 well-being, 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.



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06 DR ALISON TAYLOR

Dr Alison Taylor has been a practicing veterinarian for 22 years and has been a partner in a small animal practice in Canberra since 2004. Alison has been involved in delivering animal (mainly dog) health programs in the Northern Territory since 2008. Since 2010, she and the organisation that she co-founded have been providing the service consistently to the same 25 communities in the Barkly and Central Desert regions. During this time, there has been much collaboration with AMRRIC.

Board (cont.)

07 DR STEVE ROGERS

Dr Steve Rogers is the Director of Research and Innovation at Charles Darwin. An experienced company director, Steve also currently holds a Directorship with Territory NRM. Prior to his role with CDU, as CEO of CfAT Ltd, an Aboriginal controlled not for profit company based in Alice Springs, Steve led the company's transition from a government grant, block funded NGO to a sustainable commercial company, with a remit to deliver technology innovation required to stimulate economic development across remote Indigenous Australia.



08 SCOTT GORRINGE

Scott Gorringe has worked in Indigenous Education since 1998, first with Education Queensland and then as Director of Murrimatters Consulting. Scott co-developed Engoori with David Spillman in 2007 to change the way in which school communities perceive, talk and think about teaching and learning in the context of Indigenous Education and has delivered this process to numerous organisations and schools across Australia, in particular within the Stronger Smarter Leadership Program.

Scott is a Mithaka man with obligations to take the lead on Native Title processes and secure the permanent protection of traditional waters and country through negotiations with government, pastoralists, mining, and other key stakeholders. Along with having addressed academic and public forums on issues such as Indigenous Education, community development and water protection, Scott is an Australian Rural Leadership Program Fellow and was appointed Visiting Fellow at Queensland University of Technology and Adjunct Senior Lecturer at UQ.



AMRRIC's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group Co-Chair's Report



Well just before the world changed forever in 2020 with COVID-19, a few events occurred within AMRRIC with the involvement of the Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander Advisory Group (Advisory Group). Firstly, it was with a note of sadness that after three years as an AMRRIC Board Member I stepped down at the AGM in October 2019. I have however continued my role with the Advisory Group, co-chairing with Scott Gorringer in his first year on the AMRRIC board, as I am passionate about the work AMRRIC does in making a difference, *healthy animals = healthy communities*, for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people particularly in our remote communities. I offer a huge thanks to the AMRRIC Board and staff for their warm welcome and fabulous support offered to me over that three years, as I am often in awe of the work AMRRIC Board and staff undertake.

I am pleased to welcome our new Aboriginal Board Member Scott Gorringer, a Mithaka man from QLD, who I had the opportunity to meet with in Darwin in October 2019 at our Board and Advisory Group meetings; we look forward to supporting him and his involvement and contribution on the Advisory Group.

We know due to the COVID-19 Bio-Security zone restrictions in place, many of our remote Aboriginal communities were closed to visitors except essential services. This was a timely reminder of the need to upskill local people in these communities to be able to respond appropriately to injured or sick animals. While the staff have been working

through ways to provide remote support during the restrictions, we know that once the zone restrictions are lifted across the states and territories, our AMRRIC vets, nurses, education and support teams will be back to provide vital companion animal services and support, and I am sure for my mob seeing the vehicles with the AMRRIC logo and friendly smiles roll into town will be a very welcome sight.

Sadly like everyone we have missed our face to face meetings but we have soldiered on and the Advisory Group were happy to meet over teleconference, particularly with involvement in the AMRRIC Strategic Plan with a release date in July 2020.

Christine Ross, ADVISORY GROUP CO-CHAIR



Above:

Christine Ross, Advisory Group co-chair, announcing AMRRIC's support of the Uluru Statement from the Heart at a member & stakeholder function in Darwin in October 2019.

Right:

The Jetpets Companion Animal Rescue Awards Ceremony, September 2019. L-R: Dr. Magdoline Awad, Dr. Brooke Rankmore, and Dr. Anne Fawcett.



CEO's Report



Wow, another year has passed and what a year it has been. Twelve months ago, I don't believe any of us could have imagined the world as we currently

find it, navigating our way through a world-wide pandemic and what that means for our organization, the communities we service and each of us more personally.

Like many, COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the communities we support and our organization. Full details on COVID-19 impacts can be read in the COVID-19 section of this annual report.

Despite these impacts, reflecting on the last financial year has allowed me to consider the progress we have made across many different aspects of the organization. Over the last twelve months we have continued to grow and change. Much of this growth has been made possible through funding support provided by the National Indigenous Australian's Agency, small grants, and donations from supporters.

In December, we farewelled Dr. Jan Allen, our long-time Program Manager. For many, Jan was the face of AMRRIC, having contributed more than 10 years with the organization. In early 2020, we welcomed four new members to the team, including Dr. Chelsea Smart into the role of Program Manager – Operational Delivery, Katrina Doody into the role of Project Officer, Frances Grant as our new Communications and Marketing Officer and Kit Reed as Administration Officer.

AMRRIC also had the privilege of hosting Brooke Kennedy, a PhD student from University of New England for a 5-month internship investigating best practice management of owned cat populations in remote Indigenous communities. Having been witness of the increasing popularity of cats as pets in many remote Indigenous communities over the last few years, AMRRIC asked Brooke to analyze our census data and map known cat populations in remote communities nationally. Brooke's mapping work has identified a number of regions where cat populations are alarmingly high. AMRRIC will use this data to advocate for improved focus on humane management of owned cat populations. We also asked Brooke to undertake a literature review to identify best practice strategies for cat population management globally. Brooke's work has now been published and indicates that AMRRIC's existing approach – working with communities to develop companion animal population management programs that

are culturally appropriate, are tailored to meet the needs of the community, and utilize humane population control strategies such as surgical desexing – indeed align with global best practice.

We were delighted in September to be awarded the JetPets Companion Animal Rescue Award, for Innovation in Rescue, for our work to stem the flow of unwanted puppies and kittens into rehoming and rescue organizations through delivery of culturally appropriate desexing programs to remote communities.

In October 2019, AMRRIC held a workshop on remote animal management for Northern Territory Local Government. The workshop looked at delivery of veterinary services, education programs, strategic planning, and regulation. The workshop provided an opportunity to build relationships across the sector, bringing together those responsible for delivering animal management within their Councils with key stakeholders such as Environmental Health and Animal Welfare.

The first ever detection of Ehrlichiosis (a tick-borne disease) in Australia, in the Kimberley in mid-2020, has strengthened the need for sustainable companion animal parasite control programs and the need to build local capacity to deliver these programs between veterinary visits. AMRRIC has been working with WA, SA, NT and NSW departments of Agriculture and Health and Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) to support national surveillance actions and advocate for an effective response appropriate to the needs of remote Aboriginal communities. This will be a key priority for AMRRIC moving into the coming financial year.

I thank the Board and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group for their vision and guidance over the past year. As we continue to move through these uncertain times it is their guidance that is fundamental to us achieving AMRRIC's vision.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our staff for all their hard work and tireless dedication. This year has thrown many curve balls and their ability and adaption to rapid change and modification has been remarkable. It is only through a team effort that we can be successful and continue to make a positive impact to remote communities and their companion animals.

Finally thank you, to our donors, members, volunteers, and partners for your ongoing support of AMRRIC and your commitment to our rural and remote Indigenous communities and their companion animals.

Dr Brooke Rankmore, CEO



AMRRIC staff highlights

01 LAUREN SHAW GENERAL MANAGER, COMPANY SECRETARY

It has been a year like no other! We ended 2019 with a farewell to our colleague Jan, and the excitement of new team members joining us in 2020. We had such exciting growth and progress to reflect on in 2019 that we eagerly planned our 2020 programs, objectives, and communications together at our strategic staff meeting in March in Darwin. Within a fortnight we were planning our working from home conditions and re-working our operational planning to adapt to the new conditions we all faced. For me, this period proudly demonstrated the strength and resilience of the team, and with flexibility we have been able to plan for ongoing support for remote community companion animal management during the periods of restricted travel. I also look forward to and will value the experiences of working face to face again (hopefully soon) with our nationally and internationally dispersed team, Board and Advisory Group.



AMRRIC's staff reflect on their highlights from this year.

02 DR BONNY CUMMING PROGRAM MANAGER – STRATEGIC DELIVERY

My role has continued to bring enormous variety and I am privileged to have the opportunity to work with such broad and varying stakeholders and wonderful team members. A few big-ticket items for me this year have been our Local Government Workshop hosted in Darwin in October, and our Workshop for Veterinarians interested in remote Indigenous community service deliver, hosted at the University of Queensland in February. To be able to catalyse relationships, foster professional networks and facilitate knowledge sharing in our unique space is extremely gratifying. A further highlight was assisting Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council Animal Control Worker Daniel Weazel to make his very first conference presentation about the excellent animal management program that he and his colleagues coordinate, at the 2019 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference in Perth. Having worked alongside Daniel for several years now, to have the opportunity to support Daniel as he blossoms into owning his role brings me great personal satisfaction.



AMRRIC staff highlights (cont.)



03 DR CHELSEA SMART PROGRAM MANAGER – OPERATIONAL DELIVERY

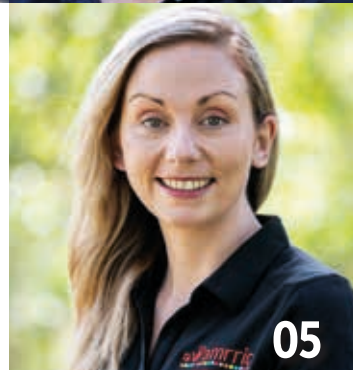
Beginning my role at AMRRIC this year was a welcomed challenge, however multiplied by the tumultuous global climate and the travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. I was wonderfully supported by the AMRRIC staff, board and stakeholders and feel grateful to be part of such a diverse group. I am looking forward to continuing to broaden my skills, hopefully getting back to some regular program planning, and continuing to contribute to the remote veterinary service AMRRIC facilitates.



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04 COURTNEY FALLS EDUCATION OFFICER

Every year my time with AMRRIC becomes even more special and memorable. First and foremost, education is a powerful learning tool and within my role very much a two-way learning process. I have many highlights from the past year, one of which included working with the East Arnhem Regional Council vet team and the Yirralka Rangers to deliver a week-long cat-focused education campaign within Gapuwiyak. The program was a wonderful mix of community events and education including a BBQ event with music, waterslide, face painting and an interactive educational table which the rangers hosted. It was also special, during an education trip to Nyirripi, to be part of the whole school involvement in the desexing of the principal's dog, which provided fantastic education and awareness learning experiences for the students. It is wonderful memories such as these that makes this role so rewarding each year.



05 KATRINA DOODY PROJECT OFFICER

I began my role as Project Officer with AMRRIC in March of this year. Since that time, I have been lucky enough to have worked with the team to establish a veterinary supply and equipment set up to facilitate greater reach for AMRRIC's remote program delivery. The highlight for me has been to work with such a forward thinking and progressive team who are constantly endeavouring to provide the highest standard of service we can with remote Indigenous communities throughout Australia.

AMRRIC staff highlights

06 FRANCES GRANT COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING OFFICER

Since starting at AMRRIC in January, I have enjoyed having the chance to learn more about the challenges in caring for animals in remote communities and the benefits of the One Health approach. With a background in the arts, I never expected that my workday would involve discussions about topics as diverse as increased pig populations in remote communities, to different desexing techniques, to exotic tick-borne diseases. I feel lucky to have been able to spend some time in town communities around Darwin for vet programs, and I was also impressed by how well the team adapted their work during the COVID-19 lockdown period.

07 KIT REED ADMINISTRATION OFFICER, TRAINEESHIP CERT III BUSINESS (GTNT)

I joined the AMRRIC team in January 2020. It has been a wonderful experience working with a team that are so passionate about their roles; I have found it truly inspiring. I have had many highlights with AMRRIC but seeing the positive impact they have made so far in the work they do, is by far my favorite. Also being able to bring my dog with me from time to time to the office is a bonus!



AMRRIC's staff reflect on their highlights from this year.



AMRRIC staff highlights (cont.)

The staff would also like to acknowledge two important team members who were not with us for the entirety of 2020.

08 DR JAN ALLEN PROGRAM MANAGER, RETIRED

Jan, AMRRIC's long-term Program Manager, was farewelled in December 2019 after a period of almost 11 years with the organisation. At her farewell the Board and staff were excited to present Jan with a video tribute to her time with AMRRIC, including many personal sentiments and stories shared with Jan in the video from those she had worked with throughout her years with AMRRIC. Her presence, knowledge and laughter have been missed around the office!



09 BROOKE KENNEDY INTERN

AMRRIC was thrilled to host intern Brooke Kennedy for 5 months across October 2019 to March 2020. Brooke's placement with AMRRIC focused on undertaking literature reviews and providing recommendations based on global best practice for cat population management for remote communities. Brooke is a PHD student at the University of New England and has a history of collaboration with AMRRIC through her ongoing review of outcomes related to remote community companion animal programs with the Tiwi Islands.



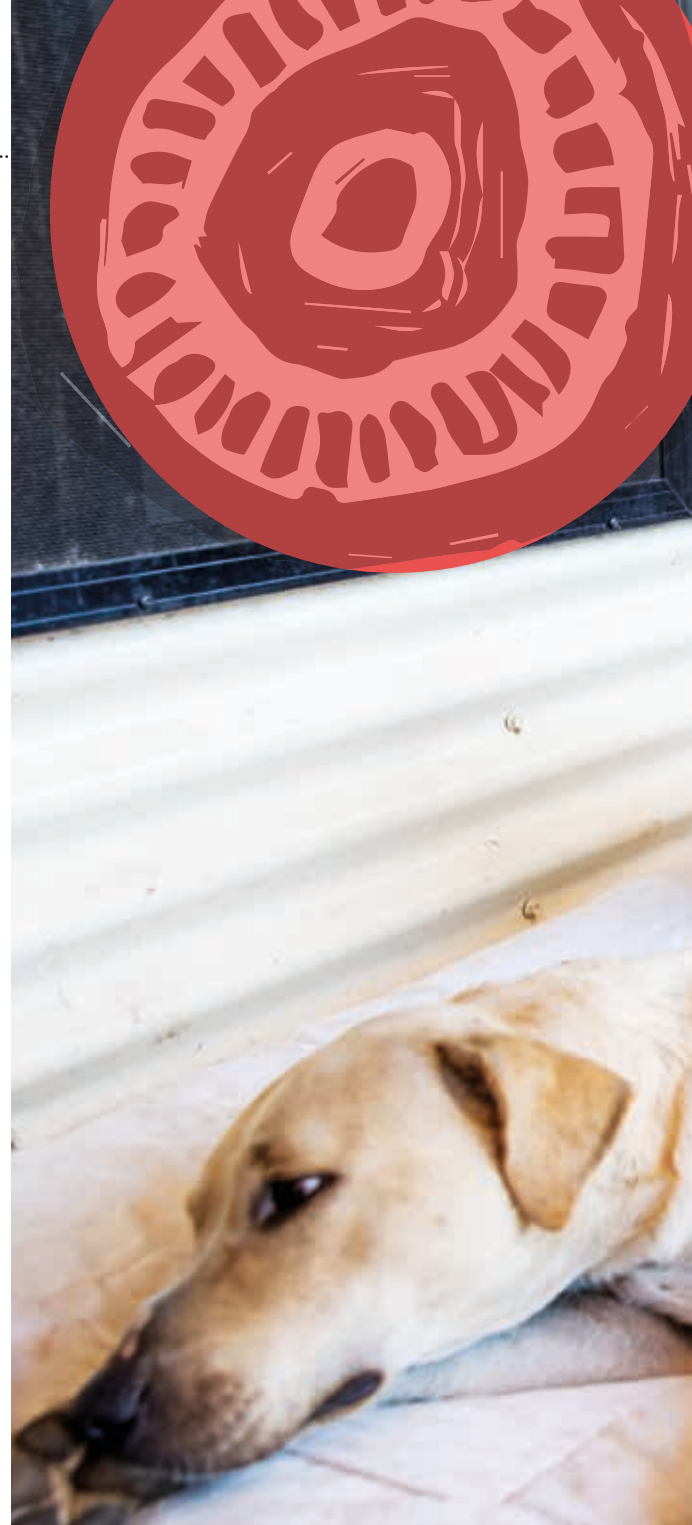
COVID-19 Related Impacts and Responses

COVID-19 has had far reaching consequences the world over and while cases in Australian remote Indigenous communities have fortunately been few, the impacts of the pandemic have still been considerable. With very limited health care facilities, and significant health and socioeconomic disparities, the impacts of a COVID-19 outbreak in remote communities would be catastrophic. Resultingly, from March to June – right at the commencement of what would ordinarily be AMRRIC's on-ground program-delivery 'season', most remote Indigenous communities in Australia were declared Designated Biosecurity Areas. These declarations meant extremely restricted access for visiting service providers, and for the most part veterinarians, including AMRRIC teams and partners, were prevented from delivering services throughout this period. For many remote communities this meant that the absence of veterinary services which is typical for 4-6 months over the wet season, extended until at least the latter half of 2020. AMRRIC's scheduled education programs were also postponed, as were AMRRIC's volunteer opportunities.

While office-bound, AMRRIC staff quickly adapted and utilised their time to support remote community animal health and management stakeholders by producing a range of educational materials and resources, assisting communities from afar by coordinating anti-parasitic product supply, and providing tailored animal health and management advice.

At the start of the travel restrictions, AMRRIC predicted that remote community companion animal populations would likely experience:

1. Increased breeding leading to dog and cat overpopulation, as veterinarians were unable to access communities to provide routine surgical/chemical reproductive control.
2. Increased internal and external parasite burdens due to lack of effective, locally available antiparasitic treatments. As parasite burdens increase, communities may also experience a higher incidence of zoonotic disease transmission (i.e. transmission of disease from animals to people).
3. Decreased general health and nutrition of animals in communities, due to lack of available or affordable pet food from local stores. Animal food scarcity may lead to increased hunting behaviour impacting safety and well-being of the communities.
4. Overall reduction in animal health and welfare and in turn, associated human health and wellbeing impacts. This likely adds to the burden of stress experienced as a direct result of COVID-19.



As this Annual Report goes to print, now that travel restrictions have somewhat eased, AMRRIC teams and partners have begun to address a backlog of veterinary service visits. During these visits, our teams have observed that these predictions have varyingly eventuated, relative to the availability and capacity of local animal management staff, and the reproductive control rates and general health of communities' animal populations prior to COVID-19. Those communities where AMRRIC and its partners have been providing consistent services for a number of years – i.e. those that have had a history of regular and effective veterinary services resulting in high desexing rates and good general animal health - have been best placed to endure the impacts stemming from the extended absence of animal health and management

Below:
Bagot resident
Helen Fejo-Frith
pictured outside
her home with
her dogs.



services. Nevertheless, for all remote communities, AMRRIC anticipates that the impacts of the reduction in services resulting from COVID-19 will be felt for many years to come.

On top of COVID-19, in May 2020, the detection of Ehrlichiosis dealt remote Indigenous communities a further blow. Ehrlichiosis is a tick-borne disease previously not known to occur within Australia, which causes significant morbidity and mortality in dogs. Ehrlichiosis is also a rare but potentially zoonotic disease if a human is bitten by a tick carrying *Ehrlichia canis* – the disease-causing bacteria. AMRRIC is contributing to ongoing surveillance and management plans for this disease, however early reports suggest the disease is now endemic throughout the Kimberley and many communities within the NT.

Ehrlichiosis, combined with the impacts of COVID-19 mean that remote Indigenous communities will need more One Health One Wellbeing support than ever.



Our Supporters

We would like to thank our supporters and organisations who share our vision of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that are healthy and safe for people and their companion animals. Your support enables us to deliver:

- more sustainable One Health One Wellbeing programs in rural and remote Indigenous communities
- culturally relevant and sustainable education programs in collaboration with Indigenous communities
- training and support work with Indigenous communities to build their capacity in effective animal health and management skills

Our Donors

We humbly thank and acknowledge the numerous and often anonymous individual and recurring donors who continue to support AMRRIC by assisting our work with remote Indigenous communities and their companion animal's health and wellbeing. We would also like to acknowledge the generous support of our major donors, the Isaacson Davis Foundation and two anonymous family Philanthropic funds who have together contributed this year \$40,000 to assisting AMRRIC's vision.

Major Grant and Sponsorship Supporters

up to \$50k

- ▶ Northern Territory Government's Animal Welfare Grant Funding – "Provide vet services to remote communities"
- ▶ Northern Territory Government's Business Growth Program – Digital Solutions
- ▶ South Australia Government, Dog and Cat Management Board – Vet and Education Programs SA

over \$100k

- ▶ Australian Government's National Indigenous Australian's Agency – Companion Animal Project

pro bono services

- ▶ The Leading Partnership – Philip Pogson, Sydney
- ▶ Christian Carbajosa, freelance animator, Darwin – educational animation production services
- ▶ Darrel Trueman – production and screening release of "Water Your Dogs" educational video

Sponsors and Product Donors

Boehringer Ingelheim – anti-parasitic product donations to support community animal health, and discounted wholesale price of Nexgard® for AMRRIC's use

MSD Animal Health – donation of Bravecto® products to support remote community veterinary programs

Aboriginal Broadcasting Australia – screening of AMRRIC Environmental Health Practitioner educational videos to remote communities, "Pets are Family, Treat 'em Good" series

AMRRIC would also like to acknowledge the ongoing valued professional assistance and mentoring of program participants and volunteers, of Dr Robert Irving, Dr Stephen Cutter, and Dr Sam Phelan.

Our Members

KEY:
Members
of AMRRIC



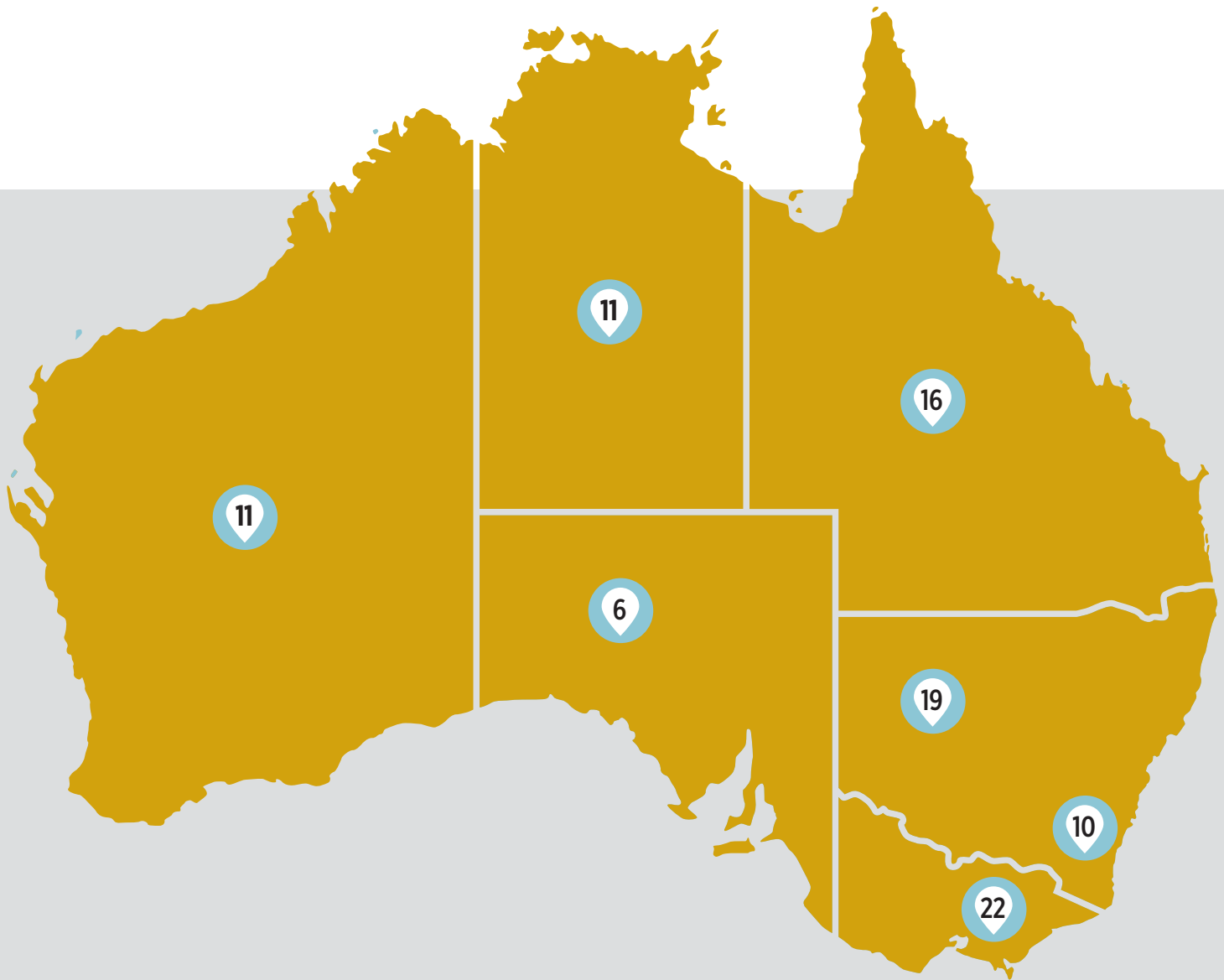
ACT: 10
NSW: 19

NT: 11
QLD: 16

SA: 6
TAS: 3

VIC: 22
WA: 11

Total: 98



Volunteers

Due to COVID-19, AMRRIC made the difficult decision to suspend field-based volunteer opportunities. This combined with the wet season meant that the majority of AMRRIC's volunteer opportunities during this financial year occurred from July – November 2019.

Like previous years, the majority of AMRRIC's volunteer opportunities this year were for vets, vet nurses and general assistants to accompany AMRRIC partner veterinarians' visits to remote Indigenous communities, to enhance veterinary program outcomes. Additionally, AMRRIC was also grateful to have three supporters volunteer their time on education programs – two on community education visits and one as an office-based education Intern.

- ▶ total **supporters registered** to receive notice of upcoming volunteer opportunities as of EOFY

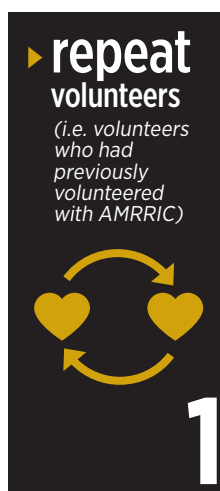
385

- ▶ **programs** that took volunteers during 19/20FY (pre COVID)

10

- ▶ **volunteer opportunities** during 19/20FY (pre COVID)

17



- ▶ **communities** visited

16

14 in NT
2 in SA



- ▶ **states** where programs occurred

2



Volunteers (cont.)

“If you are thinking about volunteering with AMRRIC, just apply! It’s an amazing experience.”

Dr. Tessa Mackie



Right:

Dr. Tessa Mackie volunteering at Yuendumu

▶ volunteer’s average expenditure on flights



\$1,080

▶ average kms travelled to volunteer
3,425



▶ returned volunteer experience rating

75%	25%
EXCELLENT	VERY GOOD

▶ estimated financial value of volunteer hours contributed
\$41,850



▶ % of volunteers that sacrificed regular income in order to volunteer
88%

Veterinary Programs

▶ communities visited

77



▶ requests for assistance

104

NSW: 2

SA: 10

NT: 57

WA: 16

QLD: 15

INTERNATIONAL: 3



▶ veterinary programs

26

▶ states where programs occurred

4



▶ cats desexed



67

▶ dogs desexed



614

▶ other treatments provided



360

▶ total parasite treatments delivered



1,718

Veterinary Programs (cont.)

KEY/STAND OUT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Providing ongoing support to Regional Councils and Aboriginal Corporations in NT, SA, WA, and QLD to support and encourage sustainable and effective animal health and management programs. Highlights include:
 - Delivering an AMRRIC **donations-funded** veterinary and education program to the extremely remote communities of Kintore (NT) and Kiwirrkurra (WA) – both communities rarely have access to surgical veterinary services and were incredibly grateful for AMRRIC’s services.
 - Working with staff from **Tiwi Islands Regional Council and The Ark Animal Hospital** to undertake companion animal census in the 3 Tiwi Island communities. Data from the census was analysed to inform animal management recommendations across the Islands.
 - The annual Cherbourg Animal Health Program achieved a milestone this year with the program team desexing their 200th animal since the program began in collaboration with **Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, Darling Downs Public Health Unit, The University of Queensland School of Veterinary Science** and AMRRIC.
 - Building relationships in South Australia including with **Dog and Cat Management Board SA, Eyre Peninsula NRM, District Council of Ceduna, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA), and Koonibba Community Aboriginal Corporation** through regular visits to Koonibba, SA
 - Ongoing support of the longstanding and valuable veterinary program in the APY Lands delivered by **Dr Robert Irving**



in collaboration with **Nganampa Health Council**.

- Ongoing collaboration with the **Thamurrurr Rangers** to provide training and support for the delivery of regular anti-parasitic treatments to companion animals in Wadeye including a regular companion animal census to assist ongoing monitoring of animal health and welfare in the region and support the Animal Health Program.
- Providing ongoing mentoring and support to veterinary service providers delivering culturally safe and effective remote community veterinary services:
 - Continuing our support to the **East Arnhem Regional Council** and **Roper Gulf Regional Council** employed veterinarians. Being employed in such unique roles, AMRRIC is pleased to be able to provide advice and a sounding board for these vets, as well as facilitate networking and workshop opportunities.
 - Providing continued support for veterinarians such as **Dr Helen Purdham, Dr James Holder** and **The Pet Mob** – veterinarians from PETstock Assist – who have commenced remote Indigenous community services delivery.
- Expanding relationships with veterinary drug manufacturers and wholesalers to allow broader access of anti-parasitic products to Local Government and Indigenous organisations at wholesale prices to support their community parasite management. AMRRIC’s ongoing advocacy in this space also contributes to increased opportunity for community residents to purchase anti-parasite products for their companion animals’ health and wellbeing. AMRRIC facilitated increased supply of Nexgard® and Drontal® products to **Outback Stores, ALPA stores, Napranum Aboriginal Shire Council, Pilbara Meta Maya Regional Aboriginal Corporation, East Arnhem Regional Council** and **Gundjehmi Aboriginal Corporation**.

“Thanks so much from coming, what you do is great!”

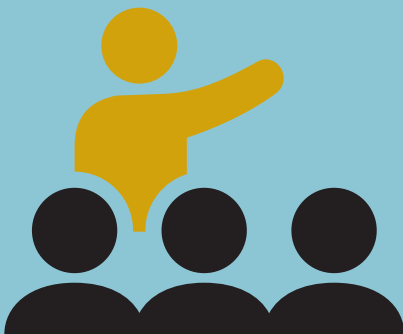
‘Community resident, Acacia’

**Community
Education
Programs**



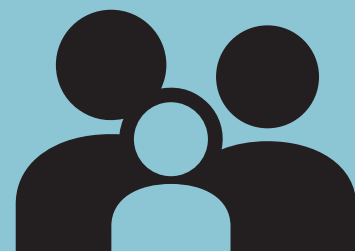
▶ **students** engaged within schools

632



▶ **community** members engaged in education

3040



▶ educational
**videos/
animations**
released



13

▶ education resources
developed



43

“Thank you for your great work in Ramo. Feedback has been very positive.”

Theo de Beer, Principal,
Ramingining

“This is a great program.”

Peter Baldry, Principal, Nyirrpi

Community Education Programs (cont.)

KEY/STAND OUT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Emphasis on creating school and community education resources to promote responsible pet ownership, resulting in 2 children's books **What Wally Needs** and **Bacon and Eggs Visit the Vet** focusing on dog needs and the benefits of desexing. Supported by the Hon Selina Uibo each book has been narrated and recorded to support remote schools' access and use.
- Continuing to build local capacity by:
 - training the **Yirralka, Demed and Thamarurr** Rangers on use of the AMRRIC App to collect companion animal population census data within their communities.
 - collaborating with **Yirralka Rangers** and **East Arnhem Regional Council Vets** to deliver a cat focused education campaign resulting in the desexing of 63 cats, taking the desexing rates of owned cats within Gapuwiyak from 49% to 68%.
- Developing cat focused education materials, including the design and development of the animation, **“What Cat, That Cat, How Many Cats”**, collaborative project with **Charles Darwin University** media school, promoting awareness of cat breeding rates and desexing.
- Collaborating with **East Arnhem Regional Council's** veterinary team to deliver responsible pet ownership education to 50 students and 55 community residents at a community held event, supporting veterinary delivery and community engagement of services.
- Ongoing collaboration with **Yilli Rreung Housing Aboriginal Corporation, The Ark Animal Hospital, City of Darwin, and Palmerston City Council**, for the Darwin Town Communities program including 22 visits to 7 communities offering veterinary visits, antiparasitic treatments and ongoing education and support.
- Development of 43 new education resources covering a range One Health One Wellbeing focused topics, aiming to improve the sharing of knowledge and empower local communities to make responsible and informed decisions regarding the health and welfare of their animals, and thus the health and wellbeing of their communities.



COVID-19 RELATED RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- To assist and support remote communities AMRRIC developed **a series of educational materials** designed for remote communities to address potential fears around COVID-19 and interactions with companion animals. Resource development included:
 - Two animations shared across social media networks, focusing on the facts regarding the role of animals in COVID-19 transmission while promoting awareness and mitigation of other zoonotic diseases through personal hygiene around animals,
 - Fact sheet COVID-19 and our animals: showcasing the importance of personal hygiene, how to practice good personal hygiene and the best ways to support our animal's health and wellbeing during COVID-19.
 - Informative poster COVID-19: How is it spread? Reducing the fears of links of animal human transition. Supports good personal hygiene and animal care.
 - Development of two online training tools to support and enhance remote community capacity to undertake basic first aid and adopt safe animal handling practices to support companion animal management health.



Support for Stakeholders

Beyond facilitating and delivering veterinary and community education programs, a considerable portion of AMRRIC's work – much of which occurs behind the scenes – is in supporting our diverse stakeholders to deliver best-practice animal health and management programs and activities. This work is variously achieved through our response to requests for assistance, in hosting professional development events, in advocating and raising awareness to relevant audiences, in partnering with researchers to improve the evidence-base for our work, and in developing tailored tools and resources for use by our stakeholders.



AMRRIC HOSTED EVENTS

The Why's, How's & Where To's of NT Remote Community Animal Management

A 1.5 day professional development opportunity in October 2019, for Local Government Staff and others involved with animal management activities across the NT. The Darwin-hosted workshop provided an overview of the essential components of remote community animal management:

- veterinary service provision
- education and community engagement to promote responsible pet ownership
- collecting and using data to inform animal management strategies
- consideration of by-laws and/or Territory-wide animal management legislation.

Workshop for Remote Community Veterinary Service Providers

A 1 day workshop in February 2020, providing veterinarians and veterinary nurses interested in providing services to remote Indigenous communities the opportunity to share practice and network. The workshop was associated with the VetEd Down Under Conference for veterinary educators at The University of Queensland, Gatton, and explored a range of topics including:

- What's the need? Identifying the needs, the scale of challenges, key stakeholders, and current programmes.
- Making it happen: Cultural safety, sustainability over time, clinical logistics and achieving field hospital best practice.
- One Health: Knowns, unknowns, and unknown unknowns! Identifying existing evidence and knowledge gaps regarding zoonoses, welfare considerations, supporting the human-animal bond, population monitoring and management, and evaluating outcomes.



Support for Stakeholders (cont.)

ADVOCACY

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

MONTH	LOCATION	CONFERENCE/EVENT	PRESENTATION TOPIC	PRESENTER/S
Jul-19	Gold Coast, QLD	Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists Science Week	A collaborative initiative into an Indigenous community for veterinary science students	Greg Simmons - UQ; Bonny Cumming (Dan Schull, UQ)
Jul-19	Darwin, NT	NT Dept of Education Graduate Teachers workshop	Guest Speaker, Panel Discussion member, Education Resources & Tools for remote delivery: stallholder	Courtney Falls
Aug-19	Teleconference	University of Sydney 3rd year Veterinary Students	Them Cheeky Dogs Cultural considerations when working in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities	Bonny Cumming
Sep-19	Surfers Paradise, QLD	8th National G2Z (Getting 2 Zero) Summit: Beyond the Shelter	Partnering to deliver companion animal management in rural and remote Indigenous communities	Brooke Rankmore
Sep-19	Perth, WA	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference (NATSIEH)	Counting Dogs and Cats - how an Annual Census benefits the Cherbourg Animal Management Program	Daniel Weazel - Cherbourg Animal Control Worker; Amanda Hutchings - Darling Downs Public Health Unit; Bonny Cumming
Sep-19	Perth, WA	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference (NATSIEH)	Wadeye's Healthy Homes Program - an integrated model of service delivery that improves the health and wellbeing of families.	Rob Faughlin - Thamarrurr Development Corporation Healthy Homes Coordinator; Tamara Riley - ANU Masters of Applied Epidemiology Student/ Wadeye Program Evaluator; Bonny Cumming
Sep-19	Perth, WA	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Environmental Health Conference (NATSIEH)	Enhancing animal management delivery with education resources	Courtney Falls
Oct-19	Sydney, NSW	CVE One Welfare Conference II	The contribution of companion animal veterinary services to remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community wellbeing	Jan Allen
Oct-19	Darwin, NT	NT Dept of Education: Teachers as Leaders Conference	Education resources & tools for remote delivery: stallholder	Courtney Falls

Support for Stakeholders (cont.)

ADVOCACY

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

MONTH	LOCATION	CONFERENCE/EVENT	PRESENTATION TOPIC	PRESENTER/S
Oct-19	Darwin, NT	AMRRIC Local Government Workshop	The Why's, How's & Where To's of NT Remote Community Animal Management	Various presenters in workshop program
Oct-19	Darwin, NT	Australian Institute of Animal Management (AIAM) Conference: Our animals, our people, our community	Reducing the threats posed by cats in remote Indigenous communities	Brooke Rankmore
Oct-19	Darwin, NT	AIAM Conference: Our animals, our people, our community	The contribution of companion animal veterinary services to remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community wellbeing	Jan Allen
Oct-19	Darwin, NT	AIAM Conference: Our animals, our people, our community	How to deliver a community education program	Courtney Falls
Nov-19	Darwin, NT	Territory NRM Conference	Abstract: Caring for the community's cats & dogs; a community driven, One Health approach to improving animal, and human health and wellbeing	Thamarrurr Rangers
Dec-19	Cairns, QLD	NAQS Scientific Discipline Meeting	Community-driven dog and cat population surveillance	Bonny Cumming
Dec-19	Darwin, NT	Australian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS)	Reducing the threats posed by cats in remote Indigenous communities	Brooke Kennedy
Feb-20	Gatton, QLD	Vet Ed Down Under	Enhancing Veterinary Service Delivery to Remote Indigenous Communities with Education	Bonny Cumming
Feb-20	Gatton, QLD	Vet Ed Down Under post conference work-shop:	'Workshop for remote community Veterinary Service Providers' Workshop program attached included as an appendix to this report.	Various presenters in workshop program
Mar-20	Online Recording	UQ School of Veterinary Science; First Year Students - Careers Forum	Off the beaten veterinary path including Animal Management in Indigenous Communities (Bonny's Career) – About AMRRIC	Bonny Cumming

Support for Stakeholders (cont.)

ADVOCACY

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

MONTH	LOCATION	CONFERENCE/EVENT	PRESENTATION TOPIC	PRESENTER/S
Mar-20	Online Recording	UQ School of Veterinary Science; Third Year Students - Professional Studies Unit	Culture is Deadly – Cultural considerations of AMRRIC's work	Bonny Cumming
Jun-20	Online Recording	University of Sydney Veterinary Students	Interview with Bonny Cumming: AMRRIC's approach to community consultation and engagement; cultural considerations of volunteering experience	Bonny Cumming

AMRRIC has contributed commentary to the following document development by invitation.

MONTH	LOCATION	ORGANISATION/DEPARTMENT	DOCUMENT TITLE
Feb-20	NT	Australian Government Department of Health, Therapeutic Goods Administration	Public Submission: Proposed amend-ments to the scheduling of Pentobarbital (CAS number 76-74-4)
Apr-20	SA	Department of Primary Industry and Regions, SA	Submission: Revised Wild Dog Management Policy
Apr-20	National	Skills Impact, for the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment	Australian Government training responses to COVID-19
Apr-20	NT	Department of Local Government, Housing and Community Development, NT	Discussion Paper: Uniform Companion Animal Legislation in NT
Jun-20	National	House of Representatives Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs	Submission: Inquiry to the Terms of Reference for the enquiry into food pricing and food security in remote Indigenous communities

Support for Stakeholders (cont.)

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS

AMRRIC seeks to base its policies and practices on current best-practice evidence, and as such partners with communities and researchers to undertake ethical, capacity building research in topics relevant to our work. During this financial year, we are particularly pleased to have supported a number of Aboriginal researchers who are furthering the One Health One Wellbeing evidence-base. AMRRIC proudly supports these projects through a range of functions including:

- mentoring and industry support by staff including introductions to AMRRIC’s network of veterinary partners
- project design support including advice on feasibility and cultural appropriateness of design, and development of appropriate monitoring & evaluation indicators
- identifying and linking researchers to community contacts
- assistance developing sampling and participation consent processes alongside identifying and undertaking sample collections
- use of AMRRIC App for data collection
- support of travel and other associated project costs
- commissioning research project opportunities
- staff contributions through on-ground support and to published literature reviews

RESEARCHER/S	INSTITUTE	PROJECT	OUTCOMES
Brooke Kennedy – PhD candidate and AMRRIC Intern	The University of New England, NSW, in collaboration with APR. Intern	5 month Internship, based in AMRRIC’s Darwin Office, investigating owned cat populations in remote Indigenous communities, and best-practice population management strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internship completed Nov 2019 – Mar 2020 • Publication: Kennedy, B., Cumming, B., & Brown, W. Y. (2020). Global Strategies for Population Management of Domestic Cats (<i>Felis catus</i>): A Systematic Review to Inform Best Practice Management for Remote Indigenous Communities in Australia. <i>Animals</i>, 10(4), 663. https://doi.org/10.3390/ani10040663 • Collation and analysis of cat population data across remote Indigenous communities • Additional companion animal census data collection in various Top End communities • Development of cat-focused educational resources • Various conference presentations – see Advocacy
Dr Tamara Riley – Veterinarian and Masters candidate	Australian National University, ACT	Ongoing project that forms part of the researcher’s Master of Philosophy (Applied Epidemiology) studies, evaluating the impacts of a community-driven animal management program in a remote community in the Northern Territory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual companion animal censuses undertaken in collaboration with researcher, AMRRIC and local ranger group, 2017, 2018 and 2019 • Census data analysis completed; evaluation report and draft publication in progress. • NATSIEH conference presentation – see Advocacy
Associate Professor Daniel Schull – Veterinary Professional Studies	The University of Queensland, QLD	Ongoing project, aiming to utilise qualitative data analysis to understand the motivations and experiences of AMRRIC partner Veterinary Service Providers, in order to inform recruitment pathways and support provided by AMRRIC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online survey and interviews of AMRRIC volunteers and veterinary partners completed • Data analysis underway with report to be provided early 2021

Support for Stakeholders (cont.)

RESEARCHER/S	INSTITUTE	PROJECT	OUTCOMES
Dr Stephen Kopp – Veterinary Parasitologist; Associate Professor Joerg Henning – Veterinary Epidemiologist;	The University of Queensland, QLD	Pilot study that formed part of the Cherbourg veterinary visits in 2018 and 2019, aiming to determine the prevalence of zoonotic pathogens in the Cherbourg dog population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results show relatively low prevalence of zoonotic pathogens in community dogs, relative to each dog's history of anti-parasite treatment dosing. • Results indicate that anti-parasite treatment program is having positive impacts on dog health and reducing risks of potential zoonotic disease transfer. • Results reported back program collaborators including Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council and Cherbourg Health Action Group.
Dr Cameron Raw – Veterinarian and PhD candidate	The University of Melbourne, VIC	Study investigating the role that dogs and cats in remote Indigenous communities play as reservoirs of infection for zoonotic parasites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial community consultation trip attended by researcher and AMRRIC Program Manager – Strategic Delivery • Research now on hold as a result of COVID-19.
Professor Elizabeth Murchison, Dr Andrea Strakova and colleagues from the Transmissible Cancer Group	The University of Cambridge, UK	Ongoing project aiming to understand how cancers – such as Canine Transmissible Venereal Tumour – become transmissible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication: Baez-Ortega, A., Gori, K., Strakova, A., Allen, J. L., Allum, K. M., Bansse-Issa, L., ... & Corrigan, A. M. (2019). Somatic evolution and global expansion of an ancient transmissible cancer lineage. <i>Science</i>, 365(6452), eaau9923. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aau9923 • Publication: Strakova, A., Nicholls, T. J., Baez-Ortega, A., Leathlobhair, M. N., Sampson, A. T., Hughes, K., ... & Allen, J. L. (2020). Recurrent horizontal transfer identifies mitochondrial positive selection in a transmissible cancer. <i>Nature communications</i>, 11(1), 1-11. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-16765-w



Support for Stakeholders

TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT BEST-PRACTICE APPROACHES

In addition to animal-focused community and school educational resources, by developing tools and resources that meet the unique needs and context of remote communities, AMRRIC is supporting remote community stakeholders to implement effective animal health and management programs.

The AMRRIC App

AMRRIC initially developed a companion animal health and population data app during its Animal Management Worker program back in 2013. This prototype has been invaluable for many remote communities in monitoring and evaluating their animal health and management programs, however, like many things in the digital age, AMRRIC recognised in 2018 that the prototype had reached the end of its useful life. With the support of the Australian Government, in July 2019, AMRRIC commissioned Towcha Technology – a Supply Nation certified Indigenous Business – to set to work redeveloping the AMRRIC app. This work continues and in addition to the prototype's features, will result in a suite of new functionality which further assist remote Indigenous community stakeholders to effectively monitor and evaluate their animal health and management programs. The new and improved AMRRIC App is due to release in 2021.

Revision of AMRRIC's Environmental Health Practitioner Guide

Originally published in hardcopy in 2010, AMRRIC's '*Dog Health Programs in Indigenous Communities – An Environmental Health Practitioner Guide*', has been a pivotal animal health and management resource for many stakeholders nationally. The original manual, authored by AMRRIC Life Member and Veterinary Partner Dr Samantha Phelan, had been extensively used as a training resource for remote Indigenous community environmental health and animal management workers, as a resource for developing further education materials and activities, and as a reference guide for those responsible for designing and implementing remote Indigenous community animal management programs. With some of its content requiring updates, and the desire to make the Guide accessible to a broader audience via the web, in 2018, with support from the Northern Territory Government, AMRRIC began a project to revise the 19 existing chapters of the Guide, and redevelopment them for digital viewing. 10 short video clips were also developed to complement the Guide's content. The digital format now allows us the flexibility to update and add new chapters to meet the evolving needs of providing remote community companion animal management. With a few new chapters already in development, the revised Guide, retitled '*Delivering Animal Health & Management Programs in Remote Indigenous Communities – An Environmental Health Practitioner's Guide*', as well as the video clips, are now available via [AMRRIC's resource library](#).





This painting depicts 'malikijarra Jukurra' (two dogs Dreaming). The 'kirda' (owners) of this Dreaming are Nampijinpa/Nangala women and Jampijinpa/Jangala men.

This Dreaming comes from country adjacent to the windmill at Warlarla (Rabbit Flat). This site is part of a long Dreaming track that stretches from Yarralpa in the extreme west of Warlpiri country to Warlaku (Ali Curung) in the east. In this Dreaming story, two dog ancestors, a Jampijinpa and a Napangardi, travelled from the west to the east. They began at Yarralpa (a waterhole) and travelled through Wirninginpa, Jinarli, Karljawarnu (a rockhole), Jilwirra, and Waanjurna (a rockhole). They dug holes in the ground and created 'warnirri' (rockholes) and 'ngapa' (waterholes) as they went.

At Tapu (a rockhole), the two dogs separated. The female dog, Napangardi, went to the south towards Ngamarnawarnu. The male dog, Jampijinpa, went to the north through Mukirri and Paruwu. Eventually he became lonely and howled for Napangardi in the south. She came running to him, and they married each other at Ngarnka. They wore men's and women's marriage headdresses, and Jampijinpa painted himself with white clay for the ceremony. After the wedding, they continued on slowly to the east through Kurduwijawija, Warlarla (Rabbit Flat), and Yurlpuwarnu (rockholes). At Yurlpuwarnu they started a fire using a 'jimanypa' (stick), a spear-thrower, and 'yiniirti' (bat-wing coral tree [Erythrina vespertilio]) wood for firewood. The dogs then continued east through Kulpurlunu (a waterhole) and Ngumurlungu, where they encountered some other dogs. However, these dogs sent them away while they performed a sacred ceremony.

The two dogs continued running east, past Jarramarda and Yankirrikirlangu, before arriving in Warlaku (Ali Curung). Many other dogs were living in Warlaku when they arrived. There were many families of dogs, mothers and fathers and children and uncles all living together. Jampijinpa and Napangardi made a burrow to rest in and started a big family of dogs there. They chose to stay in Warlaku and live with all the other dogs. In this way, the 'malikijarra Jukurra' (two dogs Dreaming) tells the story of proper conduct in families and marriages.

In Warlpiri paintings, traditional iconography is used to represent the Jukurra and other elements. The ribcages of the Jampijinpa, Napangardi, and their family of dogs are depicted in this work. Their ribs can also be seen as features in the landscape in the Yankirrikirlangu area. Concentric circles are used to represent the 'ngapa' (waterholes) around Yankirrikirlangu.

For information about artist

Murdie (Maudie) Nampijinpa Morris was born in the 1930s at Rabbit Flat, a tiny settlement in the middle of the harsh Tanami Desert in the Northern Territory of Australia about 160 km from the Western Australia border and 315 km north-west of Yuendumu. Her parents would have taken her out bush in around Nyirripi area, showing her sites and teaching her the traditional ways of her country. In the early 1980s she settled in Yuendumu and worked at the Old People's Home - a Program that cares for the elderly by helping them when they are sick, and being with them when they are alone or when they are frightened during storms. She was married but is now a widowed woman. She never had children.

Murdie has been painting with Warlukurlangu Artists Aboriginal Corporation, an Aboriginal owned and governed art centre located in Yuendumu, since 2012. She was prompted to paint when she attended a workshop in 2012. She enjoys painting, and paints her father's jukurra, Maliki Jukurra (Domestic Dog Dreaming) and Malikiarra Jukurra (Two Dog Dreaming). Dreamings that have been passed down through the generations for millennia and relate directly to the land, its features and the animals and plants that inhabit it. She uses an unrestricted palette to develop a modern interpretation of her traditional culture.



**“The feedback
was fantastic from
teachers and we
would happily see
you again whenever
you mob want to
come and visit.”**

John Kitchener,
Assistant Principal,
Yuendumu