

**Cat Welfare Society Inc.
2023 Annual General Meeting – 10 September 2023**



Election of Board Members –Statements of Nominees

15 August 2023

This paper provides Members with some background information on the voting process and information on those nominees who had indicated their intention to nominate. It is hoped that providing this information in advance gives Members more of an opportunity to evaluate the nominees rather than being presented with them for the first time at the AGM.

Nominations

A total of seven (7) nominees have indicated they intend to nominate for the six (6) positions up for election. Two Board members are not up for re-election, having served only one year of their two-year term of office.

In accordance with the Cat Welfare Society's '*Rules of Association*', AGM papers were issued to Members at least 21 days prior to the AGM with all valid nominations received. All nominees will give a brief address in person at the AGM.

Voting Process

As there are six Board positions for election, each Member will have up to six votes. If, prior to the AGM, a nominee/s rescinds their nomination thereby leaving fewer nominees, Members will have a maximum number of votes equalling the number of nominees. The election will proceed by secret ballot. There is no requirement to use all allocated votes – you should only vote for those you feel are suitable as Board members. You can only vote for each nominee once.

Any nominee receiving less than 50% of the votes of those Members present at the AGM including proxies will not be elected. Those who receive at least 50% of the votes will be elected in highest order of the number of votes received. For example, if seven nominees each receive more than 50% of the votes, the one with the least number of votes would not be elected.

Should there be fewer than six nominees elected after the voting, there will be a call to Members present at the AGM for anyone wishing to nominate at that point. The same eligibility rules will apply to those nominating at the AGM and they will be required to address Members present on their nomination. A supplementary secret ballot would then proceed along with subsequent like assessment. If following this supplementary secret ballot there remain any vacant position(s), the Board may choose to appoint a Member(s) to fill the position(s) until the election at the next Annual General Meeting. The Board may otherwise choose to carry the vacant position(s) providing there are at least five Board members (existing and new as elected at the AGM).

Nominee Statements

The order of nominees on the Proxy form, ballot paper and herein reflect the order in which they were received by the Returning Officer. These statements have come from each nominee and are provided to assist Members consider ahead of the AGM.

Kelly MCKENZIE

For the past twelve months I've been providing coaching and mentoring support to Asbhy Ranson, the HR Coordinator at the Cat Haven. Through this period I've learned more about the organisation, the challenges experienced by the management team in particular, as they relate to attracting, retaining and engaging a diverse group of employees and volunteers to provide services to members and most importantly, look after and find homes for the cats under their care. I am nominating to join the Board as I believe my 20 plus years experience in leading people and culture functions in organisations in the hospitality, tourism and agriculture sectors will allow me to continue to provide guidance and support to Roz, Ashby and the management team in people related matters. I am a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and hold a Master of Business Leadership and a Master of Business Administration. In addition to providing support to Ashby, I also volunteered to wrap Christmas gifts at Joondalup last year and contributed financially to the Cat Haven through the Quiz Night in May. I hope to continue being involved in Cat Haven's journey into the future.

Nominator Statement:

Kelly has been a great asset to the People and Culture subcommittee of the Cat Haven Board of Management over the past year. Her mentorship and support have been invaluable as a new HR Coordinator came on board after having the position vacant for some time. Kelly understands how important volunteers are to fundraising for Cat Haven, and how important it is to build and maintain this valuable resource, as well as our staff. She not only bought a table, but also hauled tables, chairs, and silent auction prizes for the Quiz Night, and put her excellent skills to good use to cover spaces in the volunteer roster for the gift-wrap both at Joondalup last Christmas. Kelly's strong background in, and approach to, human resources would fill a much needed skillset for the Board. Along with her formal training in business, leadership, and directorship, she would bring valuable knowledge and experience to assist the Board in supporting staff and volunteers. The people of Cat Haven are essential to what we do—taking care of them is critical to be able to take care of the cats.

Robin ORTON

I am pleased to nominate for a third term on the Board of Cat Welfare Society having been elected at the 2019 AGM and serving as your Chair for the past two years. I have also served on various working groups and assisted at events as well as being a regular donor. I am an avid cat lover with three Cat Haven rescues.

Since 2019 I have helped the organisation navigate the challenges of operating through COVID and am particularly proud of how we have emerged stronger and more resilient.

My day job is as a civil engineer which requires large amounts of problem solving, planning, coordination, and liaison with stakeholders. These are all skills complementary to Cat Haven and no two days are the same.

I am a strong believer of continual improvement. Whilst change can be unsettling, we cannot remain stagnant. We need to move beyond being reactive and build greater resilience and capacity. As Perth's preeminent shelter we have a unique opportunity to continue to advocate for change and be recognised as the voice of responsible cat ownership. This is no more important than over the coming term with the Cat Act review and harmonisation of car registration as well as splintered pushes by some local governments for cat containment.

I would like to see Cat Haven continue to improve its financial sustainability through diversification of revenue streams. Part of that includes increasing our touch points with customers across the services we offer – retail, clinic, boarding – rather than a single touch at adoption.

I bring to the Board a knowledge of the organisation and hence offer stability. There is also a sense of unfinished business and strategic goals I would like to see through.

I am humbled by your ongoing support and do not take for granted serving this wonderful organisation which, at its core, is founded on compassion.

Nominator Statement:

Robin has led the board as Chairperson with great effect. Robin's passion and commercial mind set has seen the continued growth of the organisation, while looking to secure the future financially.

Under Robin's guidance the Cat Haven has looked to rebuild its retail store front, and begin to generate income from sources other than bequests. This has been a significant project, which has gone extremely well.

Robin has been the driving force behind a strategic focus of the organisation to not only continue to make sure every cat matters, but to also ensure the organisation is current in terms of WHS and Governance.

Robin's impact on the board and Cat Haven in general is nearly impossible to measure, and it would be impossible to imagine the board without his leadership.

Katy JAKSIC

Having been a Board Member since 2019, I am keen to contribute for a further term.

I've been volunteering with Cat Haven since 2005 and in that time have been privileged to witness the growth Cat Haven has sustained over the years.

In particular, I have volunteered in the fundraising space which has included leading major events such as Wet Nose Day and the Quiz Night. I've also been instrumental in ensuring Cat Haven attends external events as I believe we need to have a continual presence out in the community - this allows us to understand not only the expectation of Cat Haven but how it is perceived in the wider arena. Over the years I've also managed Cat Haven event volunteers and believe volunteers are one of the most critical components to Cat Haven's sustainability.

In my time with Cat Haven, I have built relationships with numerous stakeholders including donors, event participants, councils, venues, stall holders etc. I've also had opportunities to advocate for Cat Haven with high-profile people.

In 2018, I was awarded a Lifetime Membership to Cat Haven for my commitment to fundraising.

With animal welfare being my passion, I have previously served on other committees of animal welfare organisations, attended a self-funded trip to Las Vegas to take part in a companion animal shelter expo run by the US Humane Society and volunteered at a cat shelter in Bali. I have two 13 year old cats who I initially fostered from Cat Haven as kittens - they run my house, living indoors with access to an outdoor enclosure.

In my full-time professional career, I'm employed by a publicly listed company to manage the offices of all Federal Members of Parliament across WA and SA. My background in both facilities and project management has allowed me to bring in pro bono goods and services since being involved with Cat Haven.

Despite the last few years being challenging for the organisation, the Board, working alongside staff has made significant progress in numerous components - from building improvements to organisational structure, advocacy and more importantly cat welfare. During my time on the board, I led the Fundraising and Marketing Subcommittee and was a contributor to the Volunteer Subcommittee. I have been an active, collaborative and proud member of the Cat Haven Board for the past four years and would love to be considered for a further term.

Thank you for considering my nomination.

Nominator Statement:

I've been volunteering with Katy Jaksic since 2008 and support her nomination for the Board.

In my experience, Katy is a dedicated, energetic and passionate Cat Haven volunteer. We've been working together extensively in the community fundraising space over the past decade.

Apart from co-ordinating many of the events throughout the year, writing promotional content for Cat Haven's socials amongst other things Katy manages the event volunteers and has always ensured she provides communication thanking them for their efforts (despite being a volunteer

herself). Over the years, Katy has built strong relationships with many different stakeholders bringing benefit to Cat Haven.

Katy also initiated the Felines and Fashion brand which has brought in a vast amount of money over the years and uses her home as the base for sorting donations and storage of stock.

Katy's long involvement with Cat Haven has given her the experience and understanding ensuring that any Board decisions needing to be made are appropriate.

I know cat welfare is Katy's motivation for being involved with Cat Haven and I believe that she will continue to make a valuable contribution to the Board.

Paul ANDERSON-JOHNSON

I have been on the Board of Cat Haven since being elected in 2019 and re-elected in 2021 and I am presently Chair of the Volunteer Sub-committee and also sit on the Finance, Governance and Risk Sub-committee where my specific focus is on Workplace Health and Safety, underpinned by my history in this area the corporate and private sectors.

As a Volunteer with both Cat Haven and Perth Rescue Angels, both at the grassroots of providing foster care and socialisation for undomesticated adult cats and variously at administrative and managerial levels in both organisations, I am not only keenly aware of the value Volunteers bring to our organisation but also an understanding of the highs and lows of Volunteering. Our Volunteer Sub-committee has already developed and had implemented fundamental and positive changes to the Volunteer experience, and contribution, to Cat Haven and with new and dynamic changes in the pipeline I am keen to continue working with the Team to help bring these to fruition with another term on the Board.

As an independent cat trapper working mostly with undomesticated cats in industrial areas and some domestic situations I have a keen understanding of the varied challenges often faced by the Cat Haven Rescue Services Team and have assisted them with some trapping and rescue jobs outside the metro area or where the jobs could not be completed during normal operational hours.

Over the last 12+ months as cost of living pressures have mounted I have also been delivering pet food supplied by Cat Haven and PRA to people in metro and rural areas to help keep cats, and some dogs, in homes to avoid their owners having to surrender them so I have a holistic view of the landscape of animal welfare as it stands today.

Nominator statement:

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I have known Paul for approximately 7 years. His interest in cat welfare – all cats – is strong.

I've had the pleasure to work with him on several trapping & domestication of undomestic colony cats.

Brigitte BOUHOURS

As far as I can remember, I have been living with cats. From the start, I was brought up with a black kitten, born on the same day as me. He was followed over time by a number of stray and adopted cats. We have kept other animals as well, but cats have always had a special place in my family.

Professionally, I have an academic background in Sociology and Criminology. I worked as a researcher and consultant for 20 years. I am currently employed as a Research Development Officer in a large medical research institute. A large part of my work involves writing grant applications and raising research funding but also project management in collaboration with our researchers.

Throughout my life, I have held various roles in community and professional organisations; for example, I was a committee member for the ANZ Society of Criminology. Prior to coming to Perth, while living and working in Cambodia, I participated in starting a cat shelter in a small town there. I have learned that not-for-profit organisations all face similar challenges: raising enough funds on a continual basis, engaging the public for support/funding as well as politicians, and keeping members and volunteers committed.

I moved to Perth in 2017, and very soon discovered Cat Haven when I adopted my cat, Manu. I became a member shortly after and started volunteering in 2021 when I joined the 60th birthday committee. This gave me an opportunity to meet other members and volunteers, and I have been regularly volunteering since mostly with the Feline and Fashion events.

I am impressed by the range of essential functions that Cat Haven is fulfilling beyond “rescuing cats from the perils of the street”, which include advocacy, education, and policy advice regarding cat management. The breadth of Cat Haven’s activities and its success, notably in reducing the euthanasia rate to zero, makes it unique.

I wish to become a Board Member because my experience as a volunteer and what I learned about Cat Haven through my research has given me the incentive to get involved more deeply into the organisation and its future direction.

I am keen to share my experience in fund raising and strategic thinking. I am also interested in advocacy and education to encourage responsible cat ownership. I am concerned with potential negative attitudes toward cats and believe it is important to continue enjoying the company of cats while limiting the impact on wildlife with effective management plans such as compulsory de-sexing, limits to the number of cats, partial containment, etc.

Thank you for taking the time to read and hopefully support my nomination to the Board of Cat Haven.

Nominator Statement (next page):

I wish to support Brigitte Bouhours' nomination to Cat Haven's Board of Management.

I first met Brigitte in 2021 when we both volunteered to be on the Committee for Cat Haven's 60th birthday celebration. Brigitte volunteered to research the history of Cat Haven from how it started in 1961 until now and compiled statistics on adoptions, euthanasia rates, etc. Brigitte put a lot of time and effort into this project and her information was presented during the 60th birthday event.

Since then, Brigitte has volunteered at a number of Cat Haven events, and we have often worked together. Brigitte has assisted with some preparation work leading up to clothing fundraising events. Brigitte works really well in a team environment. Being an active volunteer provides Brigitte with insights on the way Cat Haven works and the challenges it faces. This experience as a volunteer will be helpful to serve as a Board Member.

Brigitte is committed to supporting the mission of Cat Haven and helping the cats. She has expressed interest in getting involved in the management of Cat Haven.

I believe Brigitte would be a valuable member on the Board of Cat Haven.

Kasia MCNAUGHT

I am honoured to submit my nomination for re-appointment to the Cat Haven Board. It has been an incredible privilege to serve on the board for the past two years, and I am deeply committed to continuing my contribution to this amazing organization. As the founder and owner of McNaught Media, a branding and marketing agency with a 7-year track record, I bring over 16 years of valuable experience in marketing and advertising to support Cat Haven in fulfilling its mission: to show that every cat matters.

During my tenure, I've had the pleasure of working alongside the dedicated individuals who make Cat Haven a beacon of hope for our feline friends. A notable aspect of my involvement has been my mentorship of our talented Marketing Manager, Amber. It's been truly rewarding to witness her growth and dedication to our cause. I am committed to continuing this mentorship and providing support in areas such as social media management, press releases, and marketing strategy, aiming to ensure Cat Haven remains at the forefront of the animal welfare community.

My goals for the upcoming term align with my deep commitment to Cat Haven's success. I aim to extend the reach of Cat Haven's brand awareness to new audiences, spreading the message that every cat's life matters. Additionally, I want to contribute to the growth of retail sales, generating more resources to support the invaluable work we do every day. Through strategic marketing efforts and creative initiatives, I believe we can make a significant impact.

I am inspired by the dedication and passion of the Cat Haven team, volunteers, and supporters. I am wholeheartedly committed to Cat Haven's mission, and I am excited to continue working towards creating a better future for our feline companions. Thank you for considering my nomination, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving on the Cat Haven Board.

Nominator Statement:

Kasia's wealth of knowledge in social media and marketing, and her mentorship and support of the Cat Haven marketing coordinator, have been incredibly valuable to Cat Haven's public face over the past two years. Maintaining visibility as an organisation is essential to be able to advocate, connect strategically, and reach out widely for donations, adoptions, and support from the public. Kasia capitalises on her diverse professional relationships to make connections to support the Board and benefit Cat Haven. She's also always got her eyes on the media, bringing relevant pieces to the attention of the Board, and identifying opportunities for Cat Haven to be seen and represented.

In addition to her professional expertise, Kasia also brings her understanding as a pet parent and Cat Haven adopter to her work with Cat Haven. Like many of us, Kesha has become known to friends, colleagues, and neighbours as a supporter of Cat Haven collating and delivering donations of towels, beds, and food. She's also a regular at Cat Haven fundraising events.

Gary WESTACOTT

I am writing to express my strong interest in being nominated to the board of Cat Haven. As an avid cat lover and a firm believer in the organisation's mission, I am committed to making a positive impact on the lives of our feline friends in need.

Having been actively involved in the local animal welfare community including for the past 12 years, as a volunteer and foster carer (2 years at the Cat Haven) I have witnessed the transformative work carried out by Cat Haven firsthand. Your dedication to rescuing, sheltering, and finding forever homes for cats in distress is truly commendable, and I am inspired to contribute my time, skills, and passion to further the organisation's goals.

I have been an accountant (CPA) for the past 30 years and I am currently a Senior Financial Consultant working with some of the biggest companies across all industries in Australia. I specialise in Financial modelling, Budgets and Forecasts, Reporting and Strategic Planning but also have strong leadership skills having lead teams and projects for 25 years. I believe these skills will be instrumental in driving Cat Haven's initiatives forward and ensuring the efficient management of resources to maximize the impact of our efforts.

Moreover, I have actively participated in fundraising events being on the RSPCA fund raising volunteer group for 3 years where we ran a number of fund raising events. This has given me insight into the challenges faced by animal shelters and the critical role that board members play in guiding the organisation towards sustainable growth.

For the past 8 years my Wife and I have run our own Cat behaviour business where we help people with their cat's problems.

We also help them to set up cat friendly homes.

Currently we own 3 Cats plus 1 Cat Haven Foster Cat.

If given the opportunity to serve on the Cat Haven board, I am committed to:

1. Advocating for the well-being and proper care of all cats under our care.
2. Collaborating with fellow board members to develop strategic plans that enhance Cat Haven's reach and effectiveness.
3. Strengthening community engagement and partnerships to foster a more compassionate and cat-friendly environment.
4. Ensuring transparency, accountability, and sound financial management to maintain the trust of our donors and supporters.

Thank you for considering my nomination. I am eager to contribute my skills and passion to Cat Haven and to work with likeminded individuals who share the same dedication to cat welfare.

Nominator Statement:

I met Gary whilst volunteering at RSPCA WA. I was amazed at his level of skills and his natural rapport with the cats he was caring for. His unwavering and steadfast manner together with an inner patience and strength gave him the ability to reach unreachable cats. He truly holds the title of Cat Daddy!! This level of dedication on many occasions gave me the confidence to engage with cats that I may not have engaged with in the past.

Gary has been a silent but active member of the feline welfare community for many years, advocating for the well-being of cats in various capacities. I know of him helping either financially or physically with animal rescue and fostering. Couple this with his profound understanding of feline behaviour, impressively demonstrates his deep commitment to the cause.

Gary's work as an accountant and consultant shows that he has the business acumen to succeed as a member of the board.

With Gary's expertise and genuine love for cats, I am confident that he will bring a fresh perspective and dedication to the Board of the Cat Haven. I strongly believe that his compassionate nature and leadership qualities will significantly contribute to advancing the organisation's objectives and enhancing the lives of felines in need.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support Gary's nomination to the Board of the Cat Haven. His dedication and passion for feline welfare makes him an ideal candidate for this crucial role.

Thank you for considering this nomination, and I am eager to see the positive impact Gary will undoubtedly make as a board member.