

TRANSCRIPT Inner West Icons Season 2 Episode 1: Dogs

Deborah Lennis: Welcome, everyone, welcome. Bereewagal, Naaniya, bereewagal. My name's Deborah Lennis. I'm a very, very, very, very proud D'harawal woman. A local elder. I'm also the Cultural Advisor at Inner West Council.

These podcasts are about history and learning where you live, what you can do. And as I often say, Australia has yes, a very black history. But there is no white history.

What we have is a shared history.

So, on behalf of the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora Nation I'd like to say, Welcome, everyone, welcome.

Archive: Sydney, capital of New South Wales.... With a population well into the third million...

Bernie Hobbs: Sydney's story is full of unique things.

Archival music: They're building a bridge in Sydney, over the harbour too....

Bernie Hobbs: Famous things.

News reporter #1: Positioned on the water's edge, and overlooking the famous harbour...

Bernie Hobbs: Iconic things.

News reporter #2 : One of Australia's most iconic landmarks, the Sydney Harbour Bridge....

Bernie Hobbs: Tall things. (singing) "Oh, I remember this. I know a place..."

<music vinyl scratch>

Bernie Hobbs: Hang on a minute...

<music>

Bernie Hobbs: Why does the Harbour hog all the icons?

<music change>

Bernie Hobbs: This is Inner West Icons - the other side of Sydney. I'm Bernie Hobbs, long time inner westie. Come with me to the inner west, Gadigal and Wangal Country.

<end introduction>

Bernie Hobbs: This episode's icon is dogs.

About time! You can't swing a cat in the inner West without hitting a dog.

And that's exactly how it should be.

Opinion of the presenter and host, not necessarily reflective of the podcast.

Even our most famous resident of the inner west

Anthony Albanese: G'day. Anthony Albanese here with my mate Toto.

Bernie Hobbs: Australian prime Minister Anthony Albanese, meets foreign leaders with his dog.

Anthony Albanese: We're doing a calendar of Toto and other world leaders.

Now we need you with the pooch!

Bernie Hobbs: So grab your leash, and get those poo bags ready.

And let's hear about... the original dogs of the Inner West

Guy Hull: When you are walking around anywhere in the inner west, at some stage that was a dingo's territory.

Bernie Hobbs: Dogs in the Frontier Wars.

Stephen Gapps: Anyone who went outside the encampment of Sydney Cove was in danger of being attacked by dogs.

Bernie Hobbs: How Australia's practice of poisoning dogs started here in Sydney

And moving on from poisoning...

How we save dogs in the inner west.

Lisa Wright: If I did get off my tush and start a rescue, it would be named after her.

Bernie Hobbs: And even make them into local landmarks.

Richard Byrnes: I've heard people say, "I'll meet you up in Newtown by the dog."

Bernie Hobbs: Now in case you're wondering, it's okay. We are all dog people here at Inner West Icons. Everyone involved in this podcast has a dog.

Stella is my hairy little cinnamon scroll and couch companion. And Jane, the producer, and John, the sound engineer, have got a scruffy little terrier called Shroomie.

And because he likes to stay close, Shroomie is actually here during all of our recordings, dog-checking the facts. Back to the show.

Eneida: When I moved to Leichhardt, I moved on a Friday. And I spent the day moving all my stuff in. And then I took my dog on Saturday morning to the local park and one guy saw me and said, "You're new here, aren't you?"

Michael: I look forward to this. When I come home from work the first thing I do is get washed up and get work off my hands. And then, yeah, I'm straight down to the dog park.

Eneida: And I said, "Yes." And he said, "Look, come here at 4:30 every day. Welcome to Leichhardt. There's twenty or thirty of us that hang out every afternoon. And that was my initiation into Leichhardt.

Michael: When you first come down here for years, I didn't know anyone's name. We just know each other's dogs' names. And then it was good like that for a while.

That was one of the other advantages. They didn't know who you were. After a while you get to know it'll probably, it's okay if I know your name. It will be okay. And vice versa.

Eneida: So I had this wonderful dog community and the dog community. I just kept getting bigger and bigger and every, it's just a wonderful way to end a day, to start a weekend, whatever!

I got Stitch in 2018 and I think it was fate. So I really wanted to get a rescue dog, and I thought, what are the chances to get a whippet in rescue?

Michael: Retro's a cross ridgeback, staffordshire and greyhound. He used to get mistaken for being greyhound when he was younger. But he got a little bit more boofy-headed and it's pretty obvious he's not a greyhound to a lot more people now.

Eneida: As soon as I said that on a Sunday night, he appeared on a Monday morning in Central Coast. And then by Tuesday he was in my car and I brought him home.

Michael: He thinks he's the king down here. He gets into a lot of trouble and then the next person will say what a wonderful dog he is.

Michael: You walk another 50 metres down, someone says, "Oh, what a fantastic dog!" and someone else is about to report me to the police 50 metres the other way.

Eneida: We hang out all the time. I take him clothes shopping, so it's perfect. He kind of fits in with my life. Cafes. Puppuccinos here at Cafe Bones.

He was lining up with the adults waiting for his muffin. That's okay. He was very polite. He didn't push in, but he was there.

Michael: Yeah, I really enjoy the coffee shop down here. Michael, the owner, is a great host here for the park and a very sort of low key and yeah, welcoming sort of character.

Michael Lloyd-Jones: I'm Michael. I'm one of the owners of Cafe Bones in Leichhardt.

Bernie Hobbs: Yep. We loves our dogs here in the inner west. In fact, we love them so much that in 2000 we had a world first.

Michael Lloyd-Jones: Cafe Bones was the world's first truly dog-friendly cafe.

Bernie Hobbs: And you might be thinking, "Well, I can take my dog to my local cafe and they can sit next to me while I sip on my 'muggacino'".

But at Cafe Bones, your dog can have its own chino.

Michael Lloyd-Jones: 'Puppuccinos', that's us. And 'dogguccinos', that's us as well. They're our flagship trademarked thing. They're served in a bowl. I guess it's an homage to a cappuccino, but there's no coffee obviously, or chocolate or anything bad for dogs.

It is a secret recipe, highly sought after, but unique to us. Some dogs get a little portly and they're like, "Well, I don't want to miss out on my puppuccino, but you know, it wouldn't hurt to shed a couple of pounds." So we've got a dogguccino for them as well.

Bernie Hobbs: Now you might be thinking, who are these inner west puppuccino-drinking dogs? Well, they're not all fancy breeds ending in "oodle". Cafe Bones is actually a pretty down to earth place.

Michael Lloyd-Jones: We're situated in the most wonderful park in Leichhardt. We've got a canal running down one side and a railway running down the other. So it's mostly enclosed and it's long. So the dogs can have a good run if they want to.

Bernie Hobbs: That wonderful long park that Michael's describing, it's called the GreenWay. It's the 'green guts' of the inner West, and we made a whole episode about it back in Season One.

Michael Lloyd-Jones: We just try and be part of the community. We try and co-exist with cyclists, with dogs, with park users, with joggers.

<sounds of Leichhardt dog training club>

Michael Lloyd-Jones: The Leichhardt Dog Training Club operates here every Sunday morning and it strengthens the sense of community because they're providing a training service.

Bernie Hobbs: Yes. A dog training club run by volunteers each Sunday where your dog can train its human for a gold coin donation.

Michael Lloyd-Jones: And I get to see and play with every possible shape and size of dog, which is wonderful. I mean, when you're surrounded by dogs, how can you be bored, really?

Bernie Hobbs: Oh, I want that job. You'll find pretty much every kind of dog here in the inner west. Including a handsome wolfhound, crossed with God knows what else, called Stella.

You might even find a pet dingo. And that dingo would feel right at home.

Guy Hull: Everywhere in Sydney, in the inner west, that was a dingo's territory.

Bernie Hobbs: Fact check. Is a dingo even a dog?

Guy Hull: Dingo is a dog. Well, it's a canid as are wolves and foxes and all the members of that family, the domestic dog. It used to be called *Canus lupus*. Now it's *Canus lupus dingo*.

Bernie Hobbs: Phew. Carry on.

Guy Hull: My name's Guy Hull. I'm a dog behaviorist, breed historian and author. I've published a book called *The Dogs That Made Australia* in 2018.

Dingoes came to Australia between three and five thousand years ago. They were brought by travelers called the Lapita people we're pretty sure, and they were given as a gift to Indigenous people in Northern Australia.

Bernie Hobbs: Dingos came to live all over Australia from deserts to rainforests. So there's hundreds of words for dingo in Aboriginal languages.

Dingos are in Dreamtime stories of different Aboriginal nations, and the word in Australian English 'dingo' comes from the Dharug language of the Sydney Basin.

The Dharug people called tame dingos, *dingu*.
And there's a Dharug word for wild dingoes, *warrigal*.

The Dharug people and Aboriginal people all over lived with and tamed dingoes.

Stephen Gapps: Aboriginal people in Sydney lived with dogs, dingoes. They'd found the dingo to be critical not just as a hunting dog, but also as a source of warmth around the campfire.

I'm Stephen Gapps. I'm an historian focusing on Frontier Wars histories, and this is my dog, Shadie.

For Aboriginal people, the dingo was essential around the camp. Yeah.

Bernie Hobbs: In 1788, everything changed. Here's Guy Hull.

Guy Hull: When the First Fleet came, those colonists plonked itself down, not only in the territory of the people who were living there at the time, but also plonked themselves right down in the middle of a dingo's territory as well.

So they came and they immediately were offside with that animal. As soon as they laid eyes on it, it had to go.

Bernie Hobbs: So why did the British hate the dingo so much? Well, let's just say their animal rights record wasn't super strong.

Guy Hull: The British had just wiped out the last wolf in Scotland from that complete island after, you know, a centuries long pogrom to just get rid of any predator.

Bernie Hobbs: And when the Aboriginal people of Sydney realised that the British 'settlers' were actually 'armed invaders', they used dingoes against them, in conflicts we call the Frontier Wars or the Australian Wars.

Stephen Gapps: There's reports from some of the early colonists, their diaries and journals, particularly David Collins mentions it, convicts who were going out collecting rushes from outside Sydney Cove, set upon by dingoes.

Bernie Hobbs: Rushes are native grasses and reeds like lomandra that grow along Sydney Harbour. They've got important traditional uses as food, medicine and basket weaving.

The British commanders sent convicts out in boats to cut down and take the rushes as roofing material for the Sydney Cove camp.

Stephen Gapps: Aboriginal people were actively setting the dogs on the convicts at this period of conflict. So the use of the dog as part of the arsenal of weapons by Aboriginal people, was one thing.

But also, the Europeans found that they could set their dogs on Aboriginal people as well. And that happened later in the Frontier as well.

Both sides in the conflict in Sydney, Aboriginal people and Europeans, in the 1790s in particular, found dogs to be a critical resource in conflict.

Bernie Hobbs: In 1788, protein was in pretty short supply for the invaders.

The British could keep taking local fish and oysters, which they did, and they could eat the precious cattle and sheep they brought.

Or they could eat the protein that was jumping all around them.

Stephen Gapps: One of the interesting things about here in the inner west is that Petersham was the nearest open space to this early colony, where there were known to be lots of kangaroos.

It was still bush, but it was more open than around the [Sydney] Cove.

Guy Hull: So the kangaroo endemic to the Sydney regions, eastern gray kangaroo, or the grey scrubber as they call them. And it's a creature of the woodland and clearings and open spaces

Stephen Gapps: If you've ever been out in the bush where kangaroos are not tame and not used to seeing people, you see that, from a kilometre away they will run from a person.

Because historically they're used to being prey and hunted. They were traditionally the prey of Aboriginal people. They were wary of humans.

So it was really hard, surprisingly it might seem, for Europeans with a musket to be able to shoot kangaroos.

Bernie Hobbs: And since they can't shoot themselves a kangaroo for dinner, the British have another plan. Dogs. They head off with their hunting dogs to Petersham, aka Kangaroo Ground.

Guy Hull: The governor would've let them use his greyhounds to start coursing them, and 'coursing', we mean chasing them.

But greyhounds are very lightly built. They're built for really chasing smaller animals like hare and even smaller rabbits.

Skippy looks like she's sweet and kind and harmless, but they kill a lot of dogs.

Kangaroos, they're the most dangerous terrestrial animal in Australia, and they're probably the most dangerous herbivore in the world when they're cornered.

They can grab a dog and disembowel them with their big toes. They get into water and then grab dogs and stand on them and drown them. So they've had thousands of years practice doing this with dingos.

Bernie Hobbs: Disemboweling? Drowning? Geez, Skippy, you are full of surprises.

Skippy the bush kangaroo: (talking noises)

Bernie Hobbs: What's that? Skip?

Skippy the bush kangaroo: (talking noises)

Bernie Hobbs: Totally, you've got a right to defend yourself.

Guy Hull: When the British arrived, they created this breed called kangaroo dogs.

They were fast, they were maneuverable. They had that killer instinct and they were large enough to tackle kangaroos. Breeding kangaroo dogs was big business.

Guy Hull: So they were the dog of the times. It was an essential dog.

If you were dependent on government rations, if you were lucky enough, if, particularly if you were a free settler to have your own kangaroo dogs or you are able to feed yourself if you're, if they were half any good.

Bernie Hobbs: And if you wanna see what a kangaroo dog looks like, we've got some picks in the Show Notes at innerwesticons.com.

It didn't take long for the inner west to become a bit too dog friendly.

Guy Hull: As Sydney began to grow, he put out an order that if you owned more than one dog, and they weren't greyhounds or terriers that you had to kill them.

People would, what they'd call, fold their sheep at night, put 'em in a pen and put 'em in a fold. And the dingo and the wild dog problem was so bad that they were coming in and climbing the fences and launching themselves on the stock in those folds and killing stock in the folds.

Bernie Hobbs: In 1804, the Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser reported

On Tuesday night last a dreadful ravage was made at Long Cove by native dogs. Six ewes were found dead, 11 others were torn and mangled so shockingly as few were expected to recover from their wounds....

Bernie Hobbs: Geez, dogs, you're not making it easy. Long Cove is what we now call Iron Cove - Home to the Bay Run.

Guy Hull: In 1807, Governor Bligh had had enough of all dogs.

And so he made a proclamation that, because of the number of sheep and lambs being killed in and around Sydney that all dogs were to be immediately destroyed.

Except those owned by officers and respectable housekeepers, kangaroo dogs, and house dogs.

But the problem was no one did anything about it and the problem just got worse.

And Sydney had developed the reputation of being like hell on earth for feral dogs. People were reporting it in London papers. It was a really really bad place for dog problems.

Bernie Hobbs: Feral dogs were just one of their problems.

Living in a dingo's territory was not working out so well for the new colony.

Guy Hull: So dingos, their main prey was kangaroo. That was your Sunday dinner for the dingos.

Normally they're solitary hunters, but they'd have to work as a pack. At least more than one or two to catch a kangaroo. Pretty hard work doing that.

Kangaroos are very lean, have no fat.

As soon as the colonists arrived, they brought these sheep that were slow, easy to catch, easy to kill, and fatty, and really delicious.

So as soon as the dingoes found those, they went, "Oh, I don't think we'll waste our time getting ripped apart by the local kangaroo. We're just gonna eat these things."

So there's immediate problems.

Bernie Hobbs: Grazing sheep on land stolen from Dharug people around Sydney was the growth industry for colonists.

But between the Frontier Wars, dingo attacks, and land completely unsuitable for sheep, setting up sheep runs had its challenges. Something had to give.

So Operation Get Rid of Dingos began. And has it ever stopped?

Guy Hull: The Reverend Samuel Marsden, the “Flogging Parson”, and Gregory Blaxland and some other sheep growers put a bounty on dingoes.

It was the rum colony back then. So they were offering rum for people to kill as many wild dogs as they could possibly find.

Bernie Hobbs: The sheep farmers did offer a non-alcoholic alternative - so very ‘now’ of them.

One pound sterling for the complete skin of a fully grown native dog. And 10 shillings or half a gallon of spirits for the complete skin of a native pup.

Guy Hull: That was the first time a bounty system or systematic extermination was trialed in Australia, in New South Wales.

That's when the poisoning started with arsenic. And it would've been in the region of Sydney's inner west, where all of that arsenic poisoning would've first begun.

That's how they were able to start wiping out the dogs, because dogs are scavengers. Poison up and meat throw it out.

If a dog doesn't eat it, it's probably just gonna be some of that annoying native wildlife that's gonna eat it and die, and who wants those anyway?

You put sheep here, you gotta declare war on nature. So that's the way that it went.

Bernie Hobbs: It's argued that this is how poisoning animals in Australia became normal. We got started on dingoes 200 years ago today.

Wild dogs are still baited on farmland and in Australian national parks today.

The debate over wild dogs rages. One side says that there are very few pure dingoes in Australia and that we need to control feral dogs.

And the other side asks, are we actually poisoning dingoes?

In May, 2023 the ABC reported on a new DNA test that shows nearly all wild dogs are actually pure dingoes. We've got links to the research and news reports in the Show Notes.

Guy Hull: As soon as firearms became self-loading and bullets were available and strychnine and poison, kangaroo dogs weren't needed.

By the time the kangaroo dog really sort of disappeared, it was only being used way out in the bush.

It got an ugly reputation and was really unfounded because all of those Greyhound breeds are lovely dogs. They might be killers, but they're very people oriented and make lovely house dogs.

Helen: His name's Levi. he is a Pomeranian cross Japanese spits, so he's very fluffy. He's got long hair. He's like a toasted marshmallow. Very fluffy. Yeah.

Sarah: I've got Percy, who's a Schnoodle. He's one year old now. Covid dog. I'd always wanted one all my life, but had never chosen a dog because I'd always worked at the office and hated the idea of working from home. But once I figured out I could do it, then along came the dog.

Jan: My dog's name is Bodie. He is close to three. He's a rescue dog. In theory, he is a mixture of border Collie and Dalmatian, but I think he's got staffy or something like that in him.

Sarah: And then Ted is my other dog who's a rescue dog who've we taken on just recently. Ted! Ted! Ted, come on, come on!

Jane: My dog wants to allow everyone to play ball with him. He just goes and drops the ball at people's feet and waits.

Pablo's owner: Mine's Pablo over there. He's two. He doesn't care about food, he doesn't care about toys. He only really cares about dogs as you can see. And so this is like his favorite place on earth.

Bernie Hobbs: It's hard to choose the doggiest suburb of the inner west with twenty suburbs in the council area. But you'd be hard put to beat Newtown where three dogs are permanent residents, very permanent.

Richard Byrnes: I've heard people say I've actually overheard them, "I'll meet you up in Newtown by the dog." When something becomes a landmark, I think it goes some way to embedding itself in the heart of the community.

Bernie Hobbs: And if you've walked down the main drag of Newtown, chances are you've walked right past or rather, under these life-sized public artworks. Three dogs,

each standing high on a poster bollard - Standing Dog, Running Dog and Walking Dog.

They're the work of inner westie artist and sculptor, Richard Byrnes. The dogs were commissioned by the local council back in 2000 with three things in mind...

Being durable public art.

Richard Byrnes: They're cast aluminum. So they're a silvery shiny material. Aluminum is perfect outdoors. They clean themselves, so they require nothing in the way of maintenance.

Bernie Hobbs: Reflecting the community's diversity and love of dogs.

Richard Byrnes: If you stand on a corner in Newtown, you'll see someone walk past with a diamante collared poodle at one instance, and then you'll see a bulldog with a rope around its neck, led by somebody else.

Bernie Hobbs: And telling local history through art.

Richard Byrnes: So each, each of the dogs are particularised to the history and the location. The dog in Newtown has a wooden kitchen spoon as part of its intestines. The wooden spoon was simply a reference to the restaurants.

Bernie Hobbs: This one walking dog is on King Street, opposite Newtown Station. It's the one you'll see in most selfies.

Richard Byrnes: It also has some cogs and wheels, and some machinery parts. Newtown around that area was the hub of the stage coach coming through from Sydney to Parramatta and other areas.

Bernie Hobbs: Standing Dog is also in Newtown, down Enmore Road outside the old post office opposite the Warren View Hotel. And the third dog sculpture, Running Dog is right next door to Newtown in the suburb of St. Peter's.

Richard Byrnes: Just out the front of St. Peter's station facing the old chimneys there. It was an industrial centre, there were factories around there in the turn of the century. Things like textile turning and the dying of fabrics went on there. So I included a large toothed cog to stabilize the back legs..

Every time I go past them, I'm glad. One of them one day was wearing a superman cape. they often attract the odd pink hula hoop over the top. I walked past about three or four months after they were first installed, and someone had very beautifully put on a full leather dog collar, with a beautifully studded metal finish to it.

Richard Byrnes: I've always loved Marrickville, I've been living here for over 20 years. It's a connection with your community. To have a public artwork in the very suburb you live in is quite special.

BeeBee's owners: Our one's BeeBee. She's six months now. Yeah. So she's got her period, her first period. She likes to look downstairs a lot, so yeah, with it being her first heat as well, she gets quite nervous around people but, just so you know, with the Chows, the other chows, she's more calm.

Alison: His name's Arthur. So he's just very blonde and beautiful. He's always happy and he thinks life's just a big dream. I like to call him an inner west rottweiler. He's actually a spoodle.

Well, it's my own sort of joke because when you see all the oodles walking up and down Darling Street in Balmain, they're always fluffy and very well kept, not aggressive at all. Cuz I think people reflect who their dogs are. Yeah, so it's just a bit of a joke because he's definitely not a rottweiler by any means.

Margaret: Her name is Olive and she's a gorgeous Dalmatian. She's food obsessed. She absolutely adores eating the tiny little figs on the Port Jackson fig trees here and loves the puppuccinos.

Bernie Hobbs: For a nation of dog lovers, Australians are abandoning our pets at alarming rates.

Why? The ABC reports, living costs, vet care, and the impacts of covid. And there's the law where, except in grownup Victoria, landlords can discriminate against dog owners.

And when dogs are dumped, animal rescue groups step in.

Lisa Wright: I'm Lisa Wright. I was a founder of Maggie's Rescue in 2011.

Bernie Hobbs: Lisa Wright says, the one question she always gets asked is, who is Maggie?

Lisa Wright: My take on Maggie, like I've, I've gotta be honest with you. I didn't know Maggie for very long. It was a day.

Bernie Hobbs: Lisa Wright and her family had moved from inner West Sydney to Brisbane.

Lisa Wright: There was a rescue group in Brisbane that I'd been doing some volunteering with.

And I got a phone call from a woman and said, I've been told you are the person to see about rescuing a border collie.

Maggie was living under a house, a Queenslander out near Ipswich. And it was a closed house. It was dark underneath.

And eventually when we did get Maggie, it probably was up there in my top five cases of animal neglect.

Her nails were probably about three quarters of an inch long. Her coat was so matted that she'd been turned back by three groomers.

She did go to a foster carer and the foster carer called me in tears and she said, "This dog is pacing, she's in pain."

And if you know border collies and most people out there will, like, you know, they're no more important than any other dog. But a border collie absolutely lives to make you happy. And part of the reason why I personally don't own a Border Collie is because of that.

They'll work through pain, they'll work through distress, they'll work through your disapproval and still be trying to keep you happy.

So the fact that that dog was living under a house, neglected like that. In pain, suffering with its coat matted down to its skin. Like how could you not be spurred into action?

And Animal Welfare League up at Ipswich took her in for a vet check. She had masses throughout her abdomen and she was at end stage cancer in their opinion. And we made the really awful and sad choice to euthanise her.

And look, I can talk about her now without crying. I couldn't for a long time.

I've often found this story very hard to tell, but my promise to her was that I would actually honor her. And if I did get off my tush and start a rescue, it would be named after her and all the Maggie's in the world.

And that's how Maggie's rescue, it was about her.

I really wanted, and this probably comes back to my inner west ideology, is a cooperative where everybody's skills will come together and we'll form this, you know, utopian world of animal welfare.

Lisa Wright: And so I went about doing it. So on 14th of August, 2011, we registered Maggie's Rescue. We always knew we'd be coming back to Sydney and so I registered it in New South Wales.

Bernie Hobbs: For five years, Lisa ran the rescue rehoming dogs and cats, even though this episode is not about cats, out of her home.

Lisa Wright: My husband Mark and I tallied up the volume of dogs alone that came through our house and we lived in a terrace in St. Peter's. It was 172.

Bernie Hobbs: Forget 101 Dalmatians. 172 rescue dogs pouring their way through your house is a lot of dog.

And as well as that charming terrace slash kennel in St. Peter's, the other place you'd come across Maggie's Rescue was the Addison Road Community Centre, affectionately known as Addy Road.

Lisa Wright: Over the years, we had a big presence on the grounds of Addy Road and we often did a lot of our adoption days and things like that when the markets were on. People listening to this might have actually been hit up by a guy for money walking around. That was my husband.

Bernie Hobbs: In 2016, the cooperative moved out of Lisa Wright's home and into a permanent space at Addy Road.

From Rehoming Dogs in the lounge room, kitchen and god knows where else to advocacy, giving out donated dog and cat food and a whole lot more in their very own space.

Maggie's rescue has come a long way, thanks to its hundreds and hundreds of volunteers. And we thank you.

For Lisa Wright, the memory of Maggie, the border collie will always stay with her.

Lisa Wright: And for me, I didn't want her life to mean nothing.

And I guarantee you, there are a thousand Maggies out there right now, that really, really need people to just notice them and recognise them as being worth doing something about it, you know?

You don't have to be going out there and starting a rescue. But the Maggies of the world need to be noticed. They just do.

Bernie Hobbs: (Sniffs) Okay. That's it for this episode and I think we all need to go and hug a dog now. Stella. Come here baby.

Bernie Hobbs: Hey, it's so good to be back in your ears. We really hope you enjoyed this episode.

Please tell your friends - even the cat people.

Bernie Hobbs: And if you're a new listener, there's a whole season of icons to catch up with.

Our next icon of the Inner West is something we all know and do not love.

It's the flight path, baby. Oh yeah! The third runway.

Inner West Icons is researched, written and produced by Jane Curtis.

Sound by John Jacobs, and presented by me, Bernie Hobbs.

This podcast is mostly a labor of love, but we're super grateful for Inner West Council's community history and Heritage Grant and to inner West Council's living arts, which supported Jane to be a producer in residence at the Greenway Edge Arts Festival for this episode.

Sarah: Ted! Ted! Come on Ted!