

In the dog house

by MARY POWIS

LINDFIELD resident Bronwen McCloskey is a busy lady, but never too busy to look after someone else's dog as well as her own.

Bronwen cares for her family, plays badminton and hockey and is secretary of Diabetes Australia.

Her kelpie cross shares the big back garden with a miniature maltese terrier but there are often visiting dogs which come to stay.

Recently there were five dogs running around the garden.

Bronwen looks after them all.

She is one of the approved carers with Don't Fret Pet which offers an

alternative to boarding kennels.

The service acts as a match-maker, placing each dog with a home and family to suit while the owners are on holidays.

Jenny Brearly started Don't Fret Pet five years ago and said demand was constantly increasing. She said when people interested in becoming carers applied, she met them and inspected the garden to be sure her charges would be safe and happy.

"Bronwen donates cheques to Diabetes Australia and other carers give to their favourite charities," Jenny said. "Since the service began, payments of more than \$2800 have been made to charities including the RSPCA, World Vision, Austcare, Fund for Animals, the Cat Protection Society and Sydney City Mission."

During October for every dollar which any carer donates to a pet-related charity, Don't Fret Pet will donate 50c to the same charity.

All enquiries 1 300 30 70 21.

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