



October 2023

A Message from President Steve Mann

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. Spring has arrived and as we head towards another AGM it is time for me to reflect on the past 9 months.

There have been many changes over this period, changes that hopefully will see MAAW continue to move forward as an organisation and continue to best reflect what it stands for and how the community at large sees the need for MAAW, the Shelter and its promise to look after those animals left in our care.

The many and varied changes that have occurred throughout 2023 in the economy have influenced a change in lifestyle for many residents within Mount Alexander and across the whole state.

We have seen a shift in the way so many people now have become dependent on charity organisations to make ends meet in financially difficult times. The Op Shop has been a strong and supportive member of the local community while also helping to support the Animal Shelter in its efforts to care for so many animals in need.

The impact of housing shortages and rising rents has not been lost on the staff and volunteers at the Shelter where they have seen an unprecedented rise in animal surrenders mainly for economic reasons.

The staff and volunteers at both the Shelter and Op Shop have been unwavering in their support of MAAW's commitment to its charter of giving as much help to our community as we possibly can, sometimes in unseen ways and without a lot of fanfare.

Recently MAAW was successful in our application for a grant from the State Government in the latest round of Pet Rehoming Grants this will also help lift our profile and puts much needed monies into the Shelter's renovation plans.

We have seen a rise in support for MAAW from local business helping in many ways to raise much needed funds to help with the very expensive costs associated with running the Shelter particularly this year with so many animals in our care.

The donations from these businesses are being put to great use in long awaited and much needed renovations to the kennels and an upgrade of the exercise yard allowing for more dogs to have time out to enjoy being dogs.

Full AGM details appear on page three

More...

The cats have not been forgotten in these improvements with an upgrade to their outside enclosures completed and further works in the pipeline to make the cattery a better environment for them before they are adopted into their new furever homes.

As funds become available you can expect to see ongoing changes to the facilities at the Shelter, all aimed at improving our ability to look after the welfare of its residents hence the W in MAAW.

As always there is a need for more volunteers at both the Op Shop and the Shelter. Without their devotion we would struggle to continue. So, if you have even a couple of hours each week to help this would be greatly appreciated.

And remember membership is a fantastic way to show your support for MAAW and its service to the local community. Encourage your family and friends to join.

As I said at last year's AGM, I am committed to seeing MAAW's reputation restored as a dedicated and important member of the local landscape, to help where we can and hopefully improve the lives of all our residents - the people and animals that live in our Shire.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the AGM In November and please remember if you feel the need to contact me on any issue, I am just an email away and always happy to talk about your concerns.

Kind Regards,

Steve.

President@maaw.org.au



Two of the puppies that have been in our care and found their forever homes.

THE MAAW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WILL BE HELD IN NOVEMBER

Under the rules governing Mt Alexander Animal Welfare, the organisation will be holding the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, November 18 at the Castlemaine Town Hall. The meeting will begin at 2.30 pm.

All MAAW committee positions will be declared vacant at the meeting and elections will be held for the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and three ordinary committee members.

To nominate for any of the positions you must be a financial member of MAAW. Only financial members of MAAW are entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting and vote for the new committee.

Members wanting to contest the election are required to be nominated and seconded by financial members of MAAW. Nomination forms can be obtained by emailing Secretary@maaw.org.au.

Nominations must be received by close of business, October 28. Once your nomination is received and deemed eligible you will be sent a form to complete, giving you the opportunity to explain the skills you would bring to the MAAW committee. These forms will be sent to every eligible member for their consideration prior to the AGM. The Agenda for the AGM will also be distributed to members prior to that date.

If you cannot attend the AGM you may fill in the proxy form, nominating a member to vote on your behalf. The link to this form is in the email sent to you with this newsletter. Proxy forms will also be available at the MAAW Op. Shop in Johnston Street, the Shelter in Langslow Street and by contacting the Secretary - Secretary@maaw.org.au.

Annual General Meeting

When– Saturday, November 18, 2023 beginning at 2.30 pm.

Where – Castlemaine Town Hall, 25 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine

Elections will be held for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and three ordinary members

News from the Shelter

Throughout the winter period MAAW Shelter has continued to experience a high rate of animals being surrendered.

We have been successful in rehoming dogs, cats, kittens, other animals and 30 puppies.

Staff and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure the animals receive the best care possible until they are rehomed. The positive feedback we regularly receive from our customers verbally face to face and on social media regarding the work we do makes a huge difference to us and helps with the daily challenges we face.

The regular donations of food and bedding we get from the community are gratefully received.

Upgrades to our kennels and other areas of the shelter facility will ramp up in spring. We anticipate there will be some disruptions to opening hours during this time. We will do our best to keep the public informed in advance.

Kitten season has been constant throughout the year, but it is about to increase during the warmer months. We urge people to get their cats desexed now, before it becomes an issue with breeding and unwanted kittens. Shelters have struggled throughout the year and will struggle to be able to house and care for an influx of kittens this summer.

There are desexing vouchers available at the local council and not-for-profit groups are conducting free and low-cost desexing days throughout the region on a regular basis. Staff at the shelter are happy to assist and refer people to appropriate services that are available.

Rosey Skinner

Shelter Manager



A letter from Lily

MAAW received this letter of thanks from Lily who has now found her forever home after spending time in our shelter.

Dear Gretel and staff at MAAW,

I want to say thank you for looking after me in my time of need.

My two new human companions love me and have been caring for my every need thanks to your great advice and friendliness.

We go for walks in the forest or down the street.

I run around like crazy on the 23-acre farm.

I play ball by myself, and I bounce very high throwing and catching the ball.

I get anxious at times and need love and hugs.

I love my food but am gradually learning to control my urges.

I'm a bit of a goofball but I am loving my new life. I like sitting in the car watching the world go by and I met a new furry friend. We played a lot, and I was very sorry he had to go home.

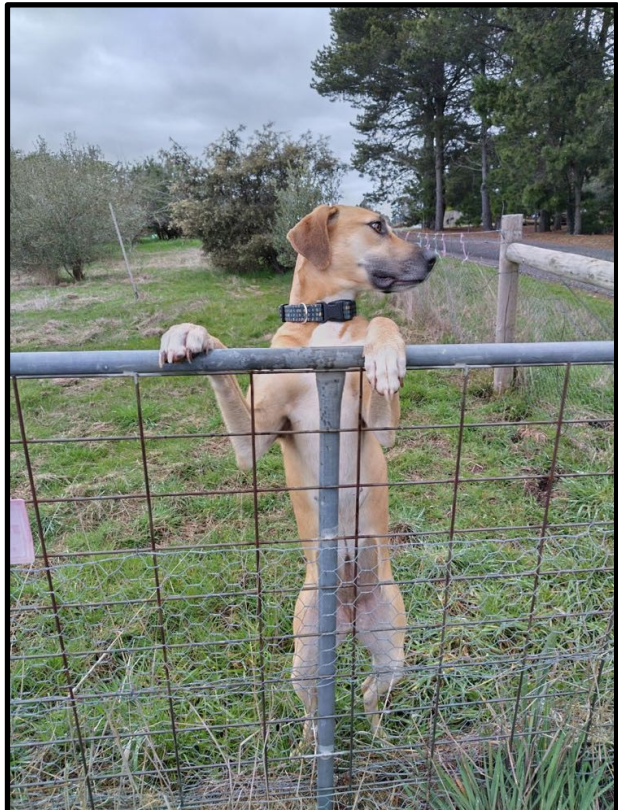
I like to help my humans around the farm, like digging holes for them when they're planting trees, but I don't understand why they put a plant in it (and I try and dig it out).

I like to sniff everything, so my human is going to make a snuffle rug for me. They are learning a lot from watching *A New Leash on Life* on TV. They say they've learned a lot about my odd behaviour and how to address it.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and help.

From

Lily



MAAW Op Shop News

Where has the year gone? Here we are in October already and heading fast into the next festive season!

A huge thank you to all our volunteers and part-time staff for all the amazing work they do to not only keep the shop ticking over but for making us one of the best op shops in the region. We continue to receive exceptional donations from people who are very grateful for the work done by MAAW to improve the lives of the animals left in the care of our shelter workers.

With Spring comes an influx of donations of all sorts of donations and this Spring is no exception. It has only just begun and expect no slowdown for a while yet. Our sorting area is a very busy place, as is the front counter. We all work toward the same goal of supporting our furry friends while they wait for their forever home or are reclaimed and reunited with grateful owners.

The money raised from the shop sales is essential to helping operate our shelter and we are grateful to those people who just come into our shop to give cash donations without purchasing anything. We have amazing community support, and we are most grateful for that. We look forward to being an important part of this community for years to come.

Come in and see our new stock of Spring and Summer clothing as well as a great selection of household items, antiques, art and a spectacular selection of books from 4 for a \$1.00 to cheap soft and hardcover novels, coffee table books, cookbooks and a nice selection of collectible and antiquarian books.

We also have a vast collection of music which includes records and CDs from pop to classical and again we cater for collectors of rarer collectible vinyl.

In all, we have something for everyone!

Thank you and please continue to support us whether it's volunteering, donating or shopping at our 'Empawrium'.

Graham McFaul

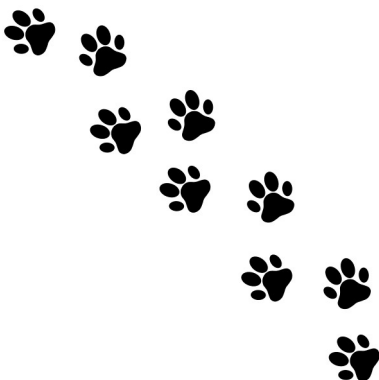
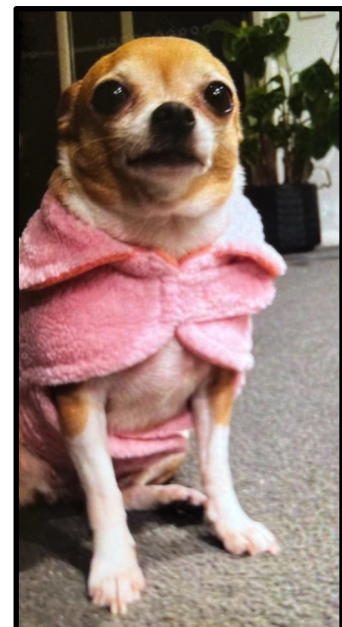
Acting Op. Shop Manager



Behind the Scenes



Well behaved dogs on leads are welcome at the MAAW Op. Shop on Johnson Street. Here are some of our recent visitors. Every pooch is offered a treat. Some of the more regular visitors head straight to the counter for their treat, no matter which part of the shop their owners want to visit!



Community support for MAAW

MAAW couldn't continue without the support of our community. In recent months we have been the fortunate recipients of the good will of local businesses and community members.

In August the Guildford Family Hotel donated total ticket sales of the regular Friday night meat raffle to MAAW. Committee members, volunteers and staff spent a couple of hours at the pub selling raffle tickets and the pub donated the takings. It was a fun way to support MAAW and we all got to meet many of the Guildford locals. Some donated pet food as well as taking their chance in the raffle.

*

Karcher Australia made an incredibly generous donation of two pressure washers to the shelter. These make cleaning the dog kennels a much quicker and more hygienic process. It cuts the time the hard-working girls at the shelter spend cleaning the kennels, leaving them more time to spend with the animals ensuring they are best prepared to be adopted.



*

Shedshaker Brewing at the Mill have instigated a 'Keg for Good' program where they donate the sale of a barrel of their incredibly popular Pale Ale to a local charity. MAAW was the recipient of this initiative last month. On two nights all proceeds of the sale of Shedshaker's Pale Ale at their Taproom was donated to MAAW. While patrons sipped on a beer they could view a magnificent exhibition by our talented local artists – *Dogs are the Best People*.

*

MAAW was also the recipient of a cash donation from the ASQ 'VIP Community Rewards Program'. The local garden supply company donates 1 per cent of all purchases made over a nominated period to a chosen community group. MAAW was one of the recent recipients.

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The MAAW Committee, staff, volunteers and the animals in our care are grateful for the support we receive from the community.