



Winter 2023

A Message from President Steve Mann

I am six months into my first term as President of MAAW and a rollercoaster ride it has been with changes to the operation of the Op. Shop.

As many of you would already be aware, the management at the Op Shop has changed with the manager, Tania Butterworth, resigning to continue her career in the travel industry. We all wish her the best of luck and look forward to her continued association with MAAW over the coming years.

Her departure has led to some staffing rearrangements with Graham McFaul continuing his role as Senior Valuer and stepping up to Acting Manager. We welcome a new team member Michelle Holmes who takes on the role of 2IC. Another change was necessary when Kris Harrison departed at the end of April to embark on a long-awaited holiday around Australia. We hope to see her back in the shop in around six months. To fill the gap Janine Jeffs, a long-time volunteer, has stepped up to assist both Graham and Michelle.

Our Shelter Manager, Rosey Skinner, is ably supported by her team of animal attendants – Bec Farley, Gretel Quirk, Alesha Brown, and Zoe Pocock. The ongoing success of the Shelter is down to the hard work of this team and the many volunteers who commit to care for the many needy animals in the community.

I would like to thank all the wonderful volunteers who give up their time to work in the

Op. Shop and Shelter supporting our dedicated staff. We can always do with more volunteers, along with helpers at planned events to not only raise funds for ongoing work but to get the name of MAAW out there, promoting our mission in the community.

We are here to help the people of the area with programs including *MAAW Helping Paws* and welfare boarding. MAAW welcomes those who have fallen on hard times and need to know that their beloved pet will be well looked after, and every effort made to find them a new loving home.

Unfortunately, our work has become more and more necessary as prices rise and inflation starts to bite, effecting the more vulnerable, and their loved pets.

My hope is that as a group of people we can continue to work together in the true spirit of MAAW. We are here to give the animals a chance at salvation and a place in life that can bring them safety and love while providing love and companionship in a new family.

My final message to every member, their families and friends is your involvement is vital for the continuation of MAAW and all it entails. The love of animals is why we are here. While others talk, we strive to make things better for as many as we can in the community.

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Regards, Steve.

President@maaw.org.au

Community support for MAAW

In recent months the support for MAAW from the local community has been amazing. From people making donations of food and cash at Bunnings, to a major fund raiser at the local tattoo parlour, we have been overwhelmed by the support.

Generous community members drop off food, or pop their change into our donation boxes at several businesses in the area. When we put the call out for blankets, towels and food for our kittens, the locals didn't disappoint. They dropped their donations off at the shelter where the girls were able to put them to immediate use.

Without doubt the most amazing effort was by Forest Creek Tattoo. In March they held a special day with all proceeds going to MAAW. Tattooists from Castlemaine and Melbourne worked all day on a constant stream of clients. They organised a sausage sizzle and a bumper raffle. Businesses were eager to get involved and donated prizes. Our 'hatted' restaurant, Bar Midland, coffee shops, florists, Theatre Royal, gift shops, T. Shirt shops – the list of prizes was massive.

The efforts of this incredible fund raised more than \$11,000. With this money we are completing the outdoor area of our cattery and there will be money left over to begin much needed work on our kennels. The generosity of Forest Creek Tattoo and their staff and clients means we can continue to provide the animals in our care with a safe and comfortable environment.



[More....](#)

More...Community Support for MAAW

In another sign of community support, but a little out of our area, Bunnings in Kangaroo Flat offered us the chance to set up an information table at the entrance to the store one weekend. We were able to talk to people about the work we do and the animals we have available for adoption. Shoppers donated food, cash and joined MAAW to help us continue our work. More than one animal found their forever home as a direct result of the 'awareness table'.

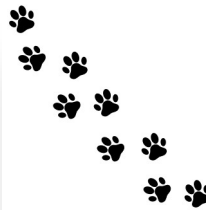


The following week we held the sausage sizzle at Bunnings. Thanks to the hard work of the MAAW committee, Shelter and Op. Shop staff and our members we cooked snags from 8.00 am until 4.30 pm. It was a long day, but we met some wonderful people who were full of praise for the important work we do. We will be back at Bunnings on July 9 running the sausage sizzle again. If you are passing by, stop in and say hi.

The unwavering support continues daily with donations of goods for us to sell in the Op. Shop and food and items we can use at the shelter, including towels, bedding and even clean newspapers.

MAAW wouldn't be able to survive without the support of our local community.

We thank you. The animals in our care thank you.



News from the Shelter

There is an ever-increasing emergency in animal shelters across the state and MAAW is no exception. It is a direct result of the financial hardship being felt by so many of our residents. Add to this the increasing rate of homelessness in our region and people are unable to afford to care for their pets. This situation is at crisis point. More loved pets are being surrendered to us than ever before.



And the kitten catastrophe continues. In May alone we had more than 40 cats and kittens brought into the shelter. These put added pressure onto our staff and volunteers who are caring for these animals. Some of the kittens have been so tiny our dedicated animal attendants take them home at night to make sure they get the care needed to help them thrive.

All of this puts a strain on our finances as we cover all the veterinary costs and ballooning food bills. The continued donations of food that is dropped off at the Op. Shop, Shelter and the food collection bin at the Maxi IGA is gratefully received. We thank everyone for their ongoing support.

The number of reluctant dog surrenders are increasing. It is sad to see the obviously devastated people who make the incredibly hard decision to give up their beloved pets for rehoming.



...News from the Shelter ... continued

The Shelter staff and volunteers continue to work tirelessly to care for the high number of animals in our care. Our goal is to rehome these animals but until that time comes, we offer the best care possible to the animals, big and small, young and old.

A special thank you must go to Forest Creek Tattoo for their major fund raiser. More details can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.



MAAW is proud to announce we have once again been selected by the Mount Alexander Shire Council to provide the pound service to our community. This means our residents have a locally based shelter.

In March the shelter celebrated 20 years of operations at our Lansglow Street premises. It is a huge achievement for a shelter to provide the pound service to the community for such a long period.

In that time MAAW was founded by local community members, taking over pound operations in December 2018. MAAW will be holding a 5-year celebration later in the year.

We look forward to exciting new projects at the shelter as we continue to provide a high-quality service to the community and engage in initiatives and programs to help support people, animals and their welfare in our community.

Thank you.

Rosey Skinner.

MAAW Shelter Manager.



News from the Op. Shop

The first half of 2023 has been a time of change for the Op. Shop. We have said goodbye to our manager of five years, Tania Butterworth as well as several long-time volunteers.

Of course, every good team needs a good leader, and we are grateful for the hard work and dedication Tania put into every aspect of her role as Op. Shop Manager. Under her leadership, Tania and the team

have raised more than one million dollars that has assisted in the continued operation of the MAAW Shelter. Thank you, Tania, your contribution is greatly appreciated, and you will be missed.

I would like to thank all those departing volunteers whose contribution to the Op. Shop over the years stretches back to before we became MAAW. Without them we would not be where we are today and, of course, an equally big thank you to our current team of dedicated volunteers who continue to keep our shop on the map as one of the best in the region.

I have stepped into the role of Acting Manager until a more permanent solution is found. Not easy shoes to fill and I can only do this with the support of our committee and of course our brilliant team of volunteers. A big thank you to the casual staff who have also stepped up. Everyone's hard work, support and teamwork keeps us moving forward.



More News from the Op. Shop

There have been some truly amazing donations coming in to the shop. We have quality clothes at incredibly affordable prices, thanks to the generosity of so many people in our community. And it's not just practical clothes. A number of brand-new designer items were donated last week, offering something very special for the fashionistas among us at bargain prices.

With winter upon us and the changeover to warmer clothing, overall, has been very welcomed by our customers. Our jumpers, cardigans, coats and jackets are quite literally walking out the door!

We've done so well so far, I think we'll be looking for more winter clothing donations sooner than we thought. So, please if you have unwanted men's or women's winter clothing you're never going to wear again, think of donating them to MAAW Op. Shop.....and tell your friends.



Thank you,
Graham McFaul
Acting Op-Shop Manager



A volunteer's tale

George Targett has been volunteering at the MAAW shelter for just over a year. The twenty-year-old is happy to help wherever he's needed, be it working with the animals or taking on any of the many cleaning jobs that always need to be done.

George has an eye for detail, right down to things like cracked litter trays that might be dangerous for the little paws digging around or the volunteers on cleaning duty.

"Work health and safety is important," he says taking a break from kitten duties last weekend.

George comes into the shelter most Saturdays and Sundays. If he is working with the dogs, he begins by giving them a biscuit treat and then gains their trust with a scratch behind the ear or back massage.

"Lots of the dogs just need hugs," George explains.

Sometimes his work will entail giving the dogs that much needed attention. On other days he will walk the dogs or take them into the exercise yard.

When George works in the cattery, he spends time with the kittens and cats once the cleaning tasks are completed. He does have advice for anyone thinking of joining him volunteering. 'Don't trust beauty'. One of the kittens took a shine to his hands and nibbled away on his finger, leading to a little bite under the nail. The culprit was one of the prettiest little kittens waiting for adoption. It didn't deter George. He was back at work the next week and won't let the kittens munch on his fingers again.

At home George has two pets, his cat Scrabble and mixed breed dog Lily. Lily came from MAAW and had suffered some trauma in her previous life. She's now settled into the loving home environment with George and his family and Scrabble.

For George the MAAW shelter is a special place. It gives him a chance to shine and get to know new people. He thrives on his work helping make life a little better for the animals in our care.

"And I love being connected to the people here and just being me. The people here are another family for me."

If you are interested in volunteering at the shelter or the op. shop, there is information and an expression of interest form on our website. www.maaw.org.au.

