



October 2022

## A Message from the President—Graham McFaul

Spring has most definitely sprung and with it a lot of rain. Castlemaine has seen a great deal of inclement weather in the last few months and this has an impact on our Shelter. Our dog kennels are in desperate need of an upgrade due to their age, deterioration of some of the materials they are constructed from and general wear and tear over the years. MAAW would like to continue providing an excellent service to the people and animals within our Shire and to do this we need to ensure that our facilities are up to date and fit for purpose. We rely greatly on funds raised by the Op Shop but money is generally spread thinly considering the ongoing cost of operating a shelter such as ours.

Another stream of income is from the very generous and much appreciated donations of money from both members of MAAW and the general public, without which we could not survive. We are currently discussing some fundraising options to assist us with an upgrade of the dog kennels at the shelter and will keep you all informed as to how that will look and of course, how our community of animal lovers can help us achieve this goal.

Our team of staff and volunteers at the shelter continue to provide a vital service to our community and are all dedicated to the care of every animal that comes to us for whatever reason.

Our team at the Op Shop continues to present a huge variety of goods for sale to the public, all donated by people within our Shire. The shop always looks amazing, and our online fans love our Instagram presence. We get glowing comments from customers coming into the shop for the first time and continue to attract many repeat customers and this is down to the dedication of both staff and volunteers who are responsible for cleaning, researching and presenting goods to the public in such a way that people want to come back again and again.

Most of our Op Shop customers know we support the Shelter and often give generously to our donation box on the counter, on top of purchases they might also be making. We do indeed live in a very generous community who love animals and want MAAW to succeed and continue providing this extremely valuable service in and to our community.

Thank you one and all for your continued support and we look forward to a rewarding and positive relationship with you all for a long time to come.

Kindest regards,  
Graham McFaul  
MAAW President



## **MAAW ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER**

**U**nder the rules governing MAAW, the organisation will be holding the Annual General Meeting on Thursday, November 24 at the Castlemaine Town Hall. The meeting will begin at 6.00 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.

One of the many benefits of committee membership is ensuring the future of the MAAW Shelter and the welfare of animals in our community. Committee members should be committed to MAAW's mission, have excellent communication and interpersonal skills, an ability to respect confidences, an ability to be impartial and fair. They should understand accountability and legal responsibilities.

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 requested from

[Secretary@maaw.org.au](mailto:Secretary@maaw.org.au).

Nominations must be received by close of business, November 4. 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. This form is attached to the email sent to you with this newsletter. A proxy form can also be obtained from [Secretary@maaw.org.au](mailto:Secretary@maaw.org.au). Proxy forms should be received by the secretary by Tuesday, November 22.

### **Annual General Meeting**

**When– Thursday, November 24, 2022, beginning at 6.00 pm.**

**Where – Castlemaine Town Hall, 25 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine**

**Elections for President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and three  
ordinary members**

# Volunteering—a personal story

By Tom Robb

**P**ossum was not a possum, possum was a cat. Found at two weeks old he slept with his head on my pillow and his little body under the blankets for 21 years, he was my best friend. Found Xmas day 1996, he died Xmas day 2017.

After losing my dearest friend, I decided many of my belongings no longer had meaning, I started a big clean out and donating to MAAW. That's when I met Tania Butterworth, manager. One look and she new I needed a shoulder so, after coffee and a little weep in the staff room, she asked if I would like to volunteer at the shop. A big yes was the answer, so began our collaboration on the MAAW window displays.

Tan comes up with ideas by the score and I do my best to turn her visions into reality. It always amazes me that an item might sit in the shop for months but, put it in the window and it's gone straight away. We work very hard to make MAAW so much more than an op shop and the appreciative remarks from customers is a great incentive to get even more creative.

Thank you to all those wonderful supporters who make MAAW a part of their regular shopping sorties.



## Calling for Volunteers

**H**ave you considered volunteering but thought there isn't anything you could offer MAAW? Nothing could be further from the truth. You'd be surprised what tasks it takes to keep our organisation operating at peak efficiency.

At the **Shelter** our priority is the welfare of the animals in our care. As well as socialising and exercising the dogs, there are tasks like cleaning enclosures and bedding and even washing up.

When you visit our **Op Shop**, you will meet our fabulous team that work 'front of house'. When donations are made the behind-the-scenes team swings into action to ensure only top quality goods are offered for sale.

Everyday skills are needed to keep both sites ticking over. If you would like to know more about volunteering at one of our sites please contact:-

Op Shop Manager – [Opshop@maaw.org.au](mailto:Opshop@maaw.org.au) or the Shelter Manager – [Shelter@maaw.org.au](mailto:Shelter@maaw.org.au).

## News from the Shelter

**M**AAW Shelter has seen a high intake of animals this winter, caused, in part, by the current a dog crisis in rescue shelters across the entire state. Unfortunately, we are seeing a consistent increase of animals come through the shelter and an increase in unwanted and surrendered animals. Neighbouring shires have requested our assistance at times, and we have been happy to help when we can.

More people need help and assistance with keeping their pets. We offer an emergency welfare boarding service to the community for a two-week period. This assistance can mean the difference between a pet being kept in a loving home or surrendered

Our dedicated staff and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure that high quality care is given to every animal. I thank them for their commitment and support.

The shelter has rehomed 134 animals and reunited 120 animals with their owners so far this year, which is a great result.

Kitten season has already started. We call on all cat owners to get their cats desexed as soon as possible to avoid shelters being overloaded this spring and summer.

The shelter suffered minor flood damage during the recent deluge. We are currently seeking funding/donations to help with upgrades. Due to more residents moving to the shire, the expansion of our kennel area is being discussed.

We had our pound contract with Mount Alexander Shire Council extended for one more year in June and enjoy a good working relationship with council staff.

MAAW attended the Castlemaine Emergency Expo in October which gave residents the opportunity to talk to us about animals in emergencies.

I always like to thank the members and community who to continue to support the shelter with the donations and funding that is vital to keep the shelter operating. Also thank you to the local newspapers who continue to support the organisation.

Warm regards,

Rosey Skinner

Shelter Manager.





## Our Heroes

**A**nimal shelters like ours get called on for all manner of things – caring for lost animals, looking after animals for families facing hardship and rehoming stray and surrendered animals.

Helping save the lives of animals in our community was added to the list last month.

Healthy Pets Veterinary Clinic put out the call for a healthy dog weighing over 30 kilograms. They needed an urgent blood donation for a dog in their care. Shelter staff were happy to oblige and rushed our Husky, Misty to the clinic. Misty (pictured above) was able to donate blood that was used to save a sick pooch.

The very next day Castlemaine Vet Clinic made the same request. They needed another 30-kilo dog to donate blood for one of their patients. Misty couldn't make another donation so soon and we didn't have any other dogs fitting that criterion. So, we turned to Shep, our 25-kilo Kelpie X Heeler. Like Misty, Shep (pictured below) was made to be a hero. His blood donation proved to be a lifesaver too.

And the happy ending to this story – both Shep and Misty have found their forever homes and are doing well.



For more details on blood donations go to the next page for a story by CVC Practice Manager Athena Williams.



## **An Act of Kindness**

It can be a critical moment in the lives of cats, dogs and your veterinarian when to save a pet's life, blood must quickly be sourced for a transfusion.

Blood can be required to treat trauma, disease, cancer or during surgery. In metro cities there are pet blood banks. Accessing blood in some regional and remote clinics areas isn't so easy. In many cases when a clinic needs blood there is a mad ring around to see which clinic has what blood. Staff pets have also been the go to as potential donors.

Recently, after unsuccessful calls to five clinics our minds thankfully turned to MAAW. We knew there was at least one dog with the right health and disposition who would be a great donor without jeopardising their own welfare or wellbeing,. Calling Rosey at the shelter we learned our colleagues at Healthy Pets had made the same call just a few days earlier. We knew we couldn't use the same dog, as Misty needed to rest up. Rosey suggested Shep, who we knew from previous shelter visits. We were delighted to work with him in order to share some of his own blood as a lifesaving gift.

When a dog like Shep generously donates we try to provide a calm, considered environment where the donating dog can be relaxed and comforted. The donating dog is sedated to keep them comfortable, and an IV drip line is placed into the donating dog to keep them hydrated. Blood is then drawn from the dog's jugular where it feeds into a blood collection bag. During collection the blood is kept in rhythmic momentum to reduce the risk of blood clotting. The blood donor and the blood collection is monitored continuously as there are strict rules about how much blood can be collected. Once collection is completed, the donated blood is set up to be transfused into the patient. The patient is heavily monitored for any risk of rejection of the transfusing blood.

What makes a suitable donor?, A dog aged between one and five, and generally over 25kg, in good health, vaccinated and has a calm temperament. Unlike humans, blood matching is not essential for dogs, however the transfusion from dog donor to dog patient requires continuity if another transfusion is required.

Cats on the other hand require blood matching, which makes it a little more complicated. Cats need to be over 4 kg to donate, also be healthy, vaccinated and ideally calm.

Not all dogs or cats are suitable donors like Shep, a pet's disposition is critical - It would be amazing to have a list of local dogs on hand who may be potential donors. If you think your dog could provide a gift for life, please contact us as one day we may need to call upon them!!

A huge thanks to both Shep and MAAW. MAAW provided such valuable, compassionate and generous support in saving two animals by providing two blood donors in the one week - Extraordinary!!

## News from the Op Shop



**T**his nineteenth century microscope recently sold on the MAAW website just two hours after it was posted. It was made for one, Thomas Gaunt who was a prominent Melbourne jeweller and maker of scientific instruments. Some people might remember his fabulous shop on the corner of Royal Arcade. The microscope was just one of the treasures that are regularly donated for sale at MAAW. Such treasures are generously donated by people who bring them in because they realise MAAW has a great team of staff and volunteers who will work hard to sell the objects and raise funds for the MAAW animal shelter. These funds go towards vet bills and food, and occasionally for behavioural training of the animals.

People are often amazed and delighted to see their donations on display, and to realise their contribution is vital to the life of the organisation, which translates into the life of the animals at the shelter.

Each staff member and volunteer at the shop has a role to play. Washing, darning, restoring books, restoring vintage linen. There are two furniture restorers, and an electrician who tests electrical items. Then there are those who clean, sew, label, and package. There are artists who might paint a chipped picture frame, restore a broken figurine. The valuation team consists of experts from across Victoria. It's quite a busy hive at MAAW.

Then there's the presentation and display. The windows are constantly updated. Sometimes it seems there must be a museum curator or a professional window dresser at work here, but it's just the Op Shop Emporium at work. During the time of the Queen's funeral, the window was lavishly and gloriously filled with royal memorabilia. People used to come by at night just to study the array of books and biscuit tins and china, not to mention the kilts, flags and Paddington Bears.

A recent parcel of from a very generous online customer in Queensland brought even more of these things to sell. MAAW makes constant use of social media, with Facebook and Instagram being instrumental in not only selling, but in encouraging people to donate from far and wide.

[More...](#)



## More news from the Op Shop



**T**he MAAW website is another platform on which to display the more expensive collectable items that have international appeal, and that are also sought by collectors from all over Australia. Across social media, customers regularly express their delight in their purchases, telling also of their gratitude that the funds are used for the welfare of the animals.

One of the biggest sellers is clothing which ranges from babywear to incredibly wonderful vintage dresses – and everything in between. Designer labels, wedding gowns, Blundstone boots in mint condition. There is an amazing range of enticing jewellery. All these things convert quickly into money to fund the vital work of the shelter. And both the donors and the buyers frequently express their joy in the fact that they are contributing to the success of the shop, which means the success of the shelter. The more puffer jackets MAAW sells, the more animals are given the opportunity of better lives.

Members of the public are encouraged to become members of MAAW. Donations of goods can be made at the shop every day it is open. Financial donations can be made at the shop or at the shelter or via the website [www.maaw.org.au](http://www.maaw.org.au) I wish you a safe and happy spring-time.

Tania Butterworth, Senior Manager MAAW Op Shop Empawrium