



Mt Alexander Animal Welfare Inc
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NEWSLETTER APRIL 2018

Dear MAAW Members and Volunteers,

Welcome to our April newsletter and a big welcome to all our new members who may be seeing our newsletter for the first time. Through this bi-monthly correspondence we make a concerted effort to keep all our members up to date and involved as much as possible in the successes and challenges we all share in our endeavor to provide a quality animal welfare service to the Mt Alexander Shire community.

Happy reading.

SHELTER UPDATE

So much has happened since our February Newsletter and we will start with some statistics from the shelter where we have taken in a total of 145 cats and dogs over the four months between our opening day on December 1 and March 30, 2018. During this period, we had times when we could not take in any more cats and kittens as we were at full capacity with sheltered animals. The cats and dogs that were in our care were fortunate to be either returned to their owners or rehomed after being de-sexed, microchipped, vaccinated and registered with Council. We have several beautiful cats and kittens awaiting adoption and they can be viewed on our website www.maaw.org.au or you can meet them at the shelter Monday to Saturday from 10am – 2pm.

The service we have provided to date to the 145 cats and dogs would not be possible without our wonderful team of volunteers and staff who worked tirelessly over the busy summer season to keep the animals safe, fed, exercised and loved, even if it is for the short period of time they might be in our care. Every animal that has passed through our doors since we opened has been given the greatest opportunity to find a loving family and we pride ourselves on the number of animals we have handled and rehomed to caring members of our community since our opening.

STAFFING

The heavy workload at the shelter has led to the Committee resolving to employ a number of casual animal attendants to help out Rosey and Helen. Interviews have been conducted and the successful applicants will be commencing over the next few weeks. Thank you again to everyone who applied.

SHELTER GARDEN



Bernadette Ryan, volunteer gardener and maintenance volunteer, with the assistance of volunteer Garry Wallin, has drawn up a plan for improvements to the shelter grounds. An ornamental grape has been planted and over the cooler months lots more planting and landscaping will take place with a view to making the shelter a much greener and leafier environment. When the cattery is built Bernadette will plant around the enclosures for shade, smell and stimulation.

THE CATTERY

For those who are unaware, MAAW has a large financial target to achieve before the end of the year. We need to raise over \$50,000 to build a new cattery on site at the shelter to meet with new compliance standards and to stay operational as a registered cattery.

We applied to The S R Stoneman Foundation for funding to kick start the savings, and they have granted us a wonderful donation of \$15,000. A fabulous beginning!

With the various fundraisers, donations, including on-line donations, we now have just over \$30,000 for the cattery. We are still making applications for grants and will be starting a bigger campaign for donations soon. The costs will possibly exceed \$50,000 so we will be relying on the generosity of construction and building tradespeople to assist in reducing our expenses.

The cattery is planned to cater for 20 cats in quarantine, 4 in isolation and 25 in adoptions. In the adoption area we plan to have 10 separate condos for cats that don't mix well and 4 larger areas to house 4 cats each. All 25 cats in adoptions must have access to the outdoors and the cattery will be built to have lots of windows for good air flow, good insulation to keep temperatures comfortable and the installation and use of passive solar to heat the cattery in winter.

We hope to have plans to share with you very soon and if you would like to donate to the cattery please go to our Web Page and hit the Donate button: <https://maaw.org.au/> or pop into the shelter or the op shop and donate in person and we can write a receipt the traditional way.

OPEN DAY AT THE SHELTER

Our Open Day at the shelter on Saturday March 10th was a fabulous day which raised over \$1,000 in funds for our cattery. Despite the heat we had a great time with wonderful support from Little Bean Coffee, Tori's Pooch Parlour, The Little Clown Company, and Mark Hudson of Swing 'n Croon Taboo. Our volunteers organized a sausage sizzle, an Easter stall, plant stall, raffle, lucky dip and fun dog competitions that saw every entry receive a prize.



Open Day from top left: Ebony and Tania draw the raffle; Bernadette on plants, Liz on memberships; Brian taking Freehold Fund donations, Garry and Steph helping everywhere; fun dog competitions.

LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER



Charles Young, (left) volunteer at the shelter, organized a wonderful lunch at his home and raised \$2,200 for the new cattery. The photos show what a beautiful day everyone had. Thank you Charles and everyone who helped to make the day so wonderful.

THE MAAW OP SHOP

The MAAW Op Shop at 105 Barker Street Castlemaine continues to receive amazing support from the community in the form of generous donations which we sell at very affordable prices to generate funds to support the shelter. The volunteer teams work incredibly hard to keep up with donations and to get the stock out into the shop in a timely fashion. We are extremely grateful to our members and the community for their generosity because it is the consistent flow of donated goods that helps keep the shelter running. The funds generated from the op shop STAY in Castlemaine and help fund the operational costs associated with maintaining our animal welfare services.

And with winter around the corner we have lots of wonderful warm woolly clothes starting to appear on the shelves (amongst other groovy things) so call in and grab a bargain. Op Shop hours are Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm, and Saturday from 10am to 1pm.

MAAW AND MORE COLLECTABLES

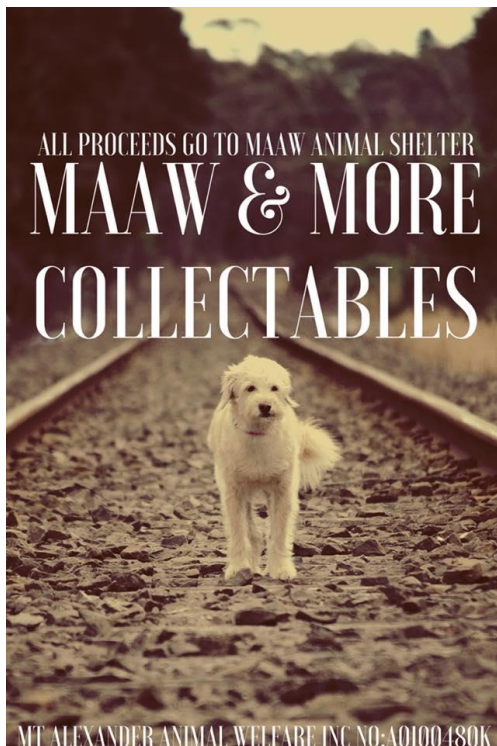
Is our new vintage venture at Exhibit22 in 22 Hargraves Street Castlemaine and another form of income for MAAW which helps to secure our future as a quality service provider of animal welfare services in our shire.

What inspired us to do this? In February this year we had items donated to the op shop by a donor who said they did not have the cash to donate to MAAW but wanted to give us something significant to sell to raise funds for the cattery. In order to meet our donor's request and achieve a good outcome for MAAW we set up our brand, MAAW AND MORE COLLECTABLES to sell vintage and collectable items. We eventually found an outlet that

supported our cause, sold the donated goods and profited \$200 from the sale. An amazing outcome for MAAW and the donor was totally chuffed to know their kindness resulted in such a sizeable donation toward the cattery.

We now have over 70 items for sale in Exhibit22 and manager Michael Tricarico has given MAAW AND MORE COLLECTABLES unlimited space and opportunity to display our stock for sale, while Shelly Plunkett, a MAAW volunteer and a veteran visual merchandiser displays our goods in a creative manner to give us the best possible edge to sell our wares.

Exhibit22 is open from Thursday to Monday and displays the MAAW AND MORE COLLECTABLES poster in store in support of our cause.



COMMITTEE MOVES

You will recall from the last newsletter that Tania Butterworth joined the Committee in February. At our last meeting Stephanie Miller stepped down as President due to the heavy workload of the past 10 months, and Tania took on the role of President. Stephanie is continuing on the Committee as Treasurer and Tania will bring lots of fresh energy and new leadership to the Committee. She volunteers at the op shop on a Wednesday and has actively set up MAAW AND MORE COLLECTABLES and will also begin assisting donors with their offer of deceased estate donations to MAAW.

FREEHOLD FUND

Another major MAAW goal is to raise enough funds for the purpose of purchasing the shelter outright and to get the ball rolling we have set up a Freehold Fund with all funds donated going directly toward the purchase.

If you would like to donate to our Freehold Fund please go to our web page and click on the Donate Button. For the more traditional, low tech members of our community, you are always most welcome to come in to the shelter to make your donation where we will greet you with open arms and hand write you a receipt.

Thank you all once again for your ongoing support and commitment to MAAW.

With our best regards,

The MAAW Committee

- Tania Butterworth - President and Op Shop Volunteer
- Brian Heydon - Secretary
- Stephanie Miller -Treasurer and Shelter Volunteer
- Elke Meyer – Vice President and Op Shop Manager
- Rosey Skinner – Committee Member and Shelter Manager
- Beverley Hardenberg – Committee Member and Shelter Volunteer

