

SHEPPARTON FESTIVAL
emerging voices
march 1 - 11, 2013
sheppartonfestival.org.au

in partnership with **LA TROBE UNIVERSITY**

Have you reviewed your home loan?
Call Rob now

Rob Chaston
0431 357 250

119 Wyndham Street Shepparton
Phone (03) 5831 6699
Fax (03) 5831 6662
Web www.brokerhouse.com.au
ACL 388907 brokerhouse

Threadsville
NOW OPEN, NEW LOCATION!
13-15 FRASER STREET, SHEPPARTON

- Hire or Buy
- Debutante
- Bridal
- Vintage, Retro & Modern

5831 1957 / threadsville.com.au

Get the right advice today.

CAMERONS LAWYERS
EST 1887

(03) 5821 4144
2-4 Edward Street, Shepparton. 3630

The NEWS
of Shepparton and the Goulburn Valley

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY, PIONEER SHEPPARTON 31-0311
Published for the G.P.O. Melbourne for transmission by air on 6 November
Vol. XC. No. 59. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1997. 22 PAGES

Now & Then
Online Feature
- peek into the community's past

Each month we dip into the Shepparton News files to explore our community's modern history and connect it to the new digital world.

• People • Places • Recipes

with **Rob McLean**

SHEPPARTON News
www.sheppnews.com.au/now-and-then

IN BRIEF

Driver airlifted

A man was airlifted to Melbourne's The Alfred hospital yesterday morning in a stable condition after the car he was driving struck a tree south-east of Seymour.

Seymour police Senior Constable Joel Barclay yesterday

day said the man was travelling on King Parrot Creek Rd, near Goulburn Valley Hwy, when he collided with a tree.

Sen Const Barclay said the man was airlifted to The Alfred in a stable condition.

Seymour police and paramedics were in attendance at the scene.

Condition serious

The condition of a 20-year-old man who was seriously injured in a weekend swimming pool accident at Orrvale remained unchanged yesterday.

A spokesperson for The Alfred hospital said the man

remained in a serious, but stable condition.

An Ambulance Victoria spokesman said the man appeared to have jumped or slipped from a roof into a swimming pool and hit his head on the side of the pool.

The man suffered suspected head and spinal injuries.

Dog health frenzy

BUT SOCIAL MEDIA COMMENTS ABOUT COUNCIL'S ANIMAL SHELTER INACCURATE



A dog at the centre of a social media frenzy about its welfare has been given a clean bill of health and reunited with its owners.

In a statement issued to *The News* on Friday, Greater Shepparton City Council said four-year-old Staffordshire bull terrier Jade was to be returned to the care of her owners after a 13-day stay at the council's animal shelter.

Homeless Hounds Rescue Victoria's Facebook page was flooded with almost 400 comments after the animal rescue group posted a picture of the dog on the social networking site on Thursday last week.

It was alleged the council was refusing to work with rescue organisations to rehome the dog and that she was due to be euthanised within 24 hours.

It also raised concerns about an apparent injury to the dog's left eye.

But Shepparton Veterinary Clinic director Dr Rob Bonnanno said the dog had received two veterinary assessments during her stay at the shelter and he was satisfied she was in no pain.

"Jade's eye condition is a result of an injury that occurred a long time ago. It is past being painful, there is no tenderness, therefore there was no need for any pain management or ongoing treatment as the dog is not suffering," Dr Bonnanno said.

"It's not a healthy eye, but it's not painful."

A council spokeswoman said it was unclear why the dog had attracted so much attention as a candidate for rehoming when it was listed on the council's website as "missing/lost".

The spokeswoman said the dog had remained at the pound for longer than the mandated eight-day period while community rangers

COUNCIL PLANS TO BOOST ANIMAL REHOUSING RATE



Animal house: Greater Shepparton City Council sustainability and environment manager Greg McKenzie with a Labrador puppy at the animal shelter. *Picture: Jayme Lowndes*

A new domestic animal plan is being developed by Greater Shepparton City Council to emphasise its commitment to animal welfare.

Council sustainability and environment manager Greg McKenzie said the plan would address the health and wellbeing of animals as well as the potential risks to the public associated with releasing animals into the community.

He said council was committed to improving rehoming rates for all animals.

"At present, the council has looked at and held preliminary discussions with some animal welfare groups and we hope to confirm potential working arrangements," he said.

Figures released by council indicate 1257 dogs were detained by the council-run animal shelter last financial year.

Of these, 145 were rehoused while 542 were euthanised. The records also show of the

1141 cats detained by council's community rangers, 65 were rehoused and 991 were euthanised.

Mr McKenzie said the decision to euthanise an animal was "not made lightly".

"There needs to be reasonable grounds to euthanise an animal," he said.

"The decision is based on safety for all concerned. . . we have a responsibility to ensure that rehousing is in the best interest of an animal and a potential new owner. We need to ensure that a rehoused cat or dog does not place people or other pets at risk."

Mr McKenzie said euthanasia rates had been reduced during the past four years to 43 per cent from 54 per cent for dogs and to 87 per cent from 90 per cent for cats.

Homeless Hounds Rescue Victoria founder Susan Taylor said although improvement had been made, the numbers did not compare favourably to

other council-run shelters.

"That's a really poor statistic when you look at council-run pounds," she said. "Mildura has a virtual no-kill rate."

Ms Taylor said it was "maddening to be told you can't help them".

"The public certainly want the Shepparton pound to work with rescue, they certainly want a better option for the animals in their community," she said. "As a representative of rescue, I would love to offer them a better option."

Mr McKenzie said the plan would also focus on responsible pet ownership and encourage all pet owners to ensure their pets were vaccinated, microchipped, desexed and registered and were contained securely in their backyard.

● **For more information about how to give an animal a new home, visit** www.greatershepparton.com.au

organised her return to her owners.

The dog had not been at risk

of being put down.

She said it appeared some of the contact details registered

on the microchip had not been updated which caused a delay in the reunification process.

TAKE CARE WITH SOCIAL MEDIA COMMENTS

Social media users are being urged to exercise caution when engaging in online discussion.

Melbourne-based cyber safety expert Susan McLean said it was important for people using social-networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter to check their facts before posting comments.

"When you're dealing with the

internet the truth doesn't always come through and people jump to conclusions," Ms McLean said.

"There's some great uses of social media, but the problem is it gets out of hand very, very easily."

Making direct reference to last week's Homeless Hounds and Greater Shepparton City Council animal shelter issue, Ms McLean

said the internet was not an appropriate place to air such concerns.

"The internet is not the right forum for this sort of stuff. As you can see, it gets out of control," she said.

"I'm sure the intention initially was well-meaning, but the problem was that photo is a photo, it doesn't always reflect

the reality."

She said users should read all previous comments to ensure they were fully aware of the context before entering into the discussion.

She also encouraged organisations and individuals to monitor and vet the content posted on their site to minimise potentially harmful comments.