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MOONEE PONDS

Service receives support

CAROLINE CHISHOLM SOCIETY IS THANKFUL FOR DONATIONS

Linh Ly

DONATIONS are flooding in to help a pregnancy and family support service forced to pack up and leave Moonee Valley for at least two months.

As reported in the *Moonee Valley Leader* last week, Caroline Chisholm Society has been given a notice to vacate its home at 12 Shuter St, Moonee Ponds, and in the meantime will have to operate out of its Caroline Springs branch.

The timing of the vacate notice falls short of the service being able to move into its new building in Essendon, which will not be ready until September at the earliest.

But chief executive Helen Cooney said the community had rallied behind the service, with the Lions Club of Doutta Galla and Schiavello Group committed to contributing more than $55,000 worth of furniture.

Meanwhile, Melton Council has given them access to space at a kindergarten in Caroline Springs so they are able to store the material aid they provide to women.

"Last week, we were beside ourselves. Two moves is terribly expensive and disruptive," Ms Cooney said.

"This week we are humbled by the caring response from our community to our call for help."

Ms Cooney said clients without access to cars would have a huge challenge getting to appointments by public transport while they were based in Caroline Springs.

The society is still seeking cash donations, removalist services and cars to help transport those unable to drive.

To help the group, call 9361 7000.

fast lane

Youth have a say

Six people from **Moonee Valley** took part in the 30th YMCA Victoria Youth Parliament program last week. They were among 120 people aged between 16 and 25 to debate and discuss legislation to be passed on to relevant ministers.

Projects rejected

Moonee Valley Council refused planning applications to build three dwellings at 20 Argyle St, **Moonee Ponds**, and three dwellings at 14 Banchory St, **Essendon**. They granted an application for 11 dwellings at 4-6 Canning St, **Avondale Heights**.

Race day winners

Moonee Valley Prostate Group, ovarian cancer awareness group RoCan and the Liquica District in East Timor have been chosen as beneficiaries of the Mayoral Charity Community Race Day. Moonee Valley Council's fundraiser is on August 20 at **Moonee Valley** Racecourse.

NIDDRIE

Georgia and Max meet Grover, the star of children's book *Grover McBane Rescue Dog.* Picture: MARK DADSWELL

Star of the pages pooch delights juniors

THIS pooch put his best paw forward when he and his author-owner embarked on a novel adventure in Niddrie.

St John Bosco Primary School recently had a visit from children's author and former student Claire Garth with her writing muse, Grover.

The *Grover McBane Rescue Dog* series is about the border collie's adventures and aims to dispel the stigmas around pound animals.

Garth, 32, said children's books were a good way of explaining difficult topics such as bullying, abuse and neglect suffered by animals.

"It was a really nice way of showing kids that bad stuff does happen but overall ... it is a good world out there."

The former Niddrie resident, now living in Sydney, said she fell in love with Grover after he was brought into the animal shelter she was working at.

Having escaped from being chained up in a backyard for long periods of time, Grover only weighed 11kg when he was supposed to weigh about 25kg.

The second book, *Grover and his Friends*, was released in May, with a third due in November.

PET OF THE WEEK

Sweet family duo

Name: Maggie and Flora
Breed: Domestic short-hair
Age: 12 and six months
Sex: Female
Temperament: This mother and daughter duo are sweet, gentle, love pats and would ideally be rehomed together
View at: Lort Smith Animal Adoption Centre, 24 Villiers St, North Melbourne
Web: lortsmith.com
Business registration number: 005ASH

Lady needs love

Name: Lady Meow Meow
Breed: Domestic short-hair
Age: One
Sex: Female
Temperament: Lady Meow Meow is a bit timid at first but is affectionate
View at: Lost Dogs Home, 2 Gracie St, North Melbourne
Web: dogshome.com
Business registration number: 001APNSH

Portfolio Update Mayor Cr Andrea Surace | Traffic and Transportation Portfolio

About the portfolio

This portfolio covers traffic management, parking, road safety and sustainable transport.

Council maintains local roads, manages parking permits and implements around 100 traffic, road safety and parking improvements each year. We work closely with schools and community groups to spread the road safety message including a team of school crossing supervisors, a thriving Walking School Bus program and the Better Moves Around Schools program.

Council also takes on the role of advocating to State Government on traffic and transport issues affecting Moonee Valley.

I sit on the Integrated Transport Committee which seeks to enhance road safety and improve local walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure, as well as assisting the transportation needs of various sections of the community.

Portfolio aims for Moonee Valley

Through our Integrated Transport Plan, Council aims to ensure Moonee Valley has access to safe and sustainable transport solutions that respond to the challenges of population growth, increasing congestion, rising fuel costs and the environment.

Council has had to make some hard decisions about local traffic and parking with Melbourne's growth in mind. We aim to tackle these complex issues in a fair, planned and consistent way by continually reviewing traffic and parking arrangements to ensure they are appropriate.

Through our long-term planning strategies we aim to direct higher density housing into suitable areas such as busy activity centres with good access to public transport, which will help to minimise the traffic and parking pressure in local streets.

Council aims to improve road safety through building safer networks, educating promoting and enforcing road safety. We also aim to increase the ability for residents to use sustainable transport.

Recent achievements

We have increased sustainable travel options with a new share car provider and more bicycle parking at local train stations.

Cyclists are safer with the introduction of sharrow line markings in key locations, and they now have access to Victoria's first bikes-on-buses trial.

We are nearing completion of the Buckley Park Local Area Traffic Management Study.

The Walking School Bus program has 20 new volunteers, the Better Moves Around Schools program was completed at five local schools and our Fit2Drive workshops reached 450 Year 11 students.

Projects coming up

After receiving great feedback on our draft Transport Safety Strategy, the revised version will be presented to Council for final adoption and implementation.

A new pedestrian path is planned to link the Pascoe Vale Road underpass to the Moonee Ponds Creek Trail. We will soon commence the North Essendon and Valley Lake Local Area Traffic Management Studies.

The Kent Street and Queens Avenue intersection will be modified to allow safe cycling from Pin Oak Crescent to Queens Avenue, while a contraflow bicycle lane is set to be installed on Queens Avenue from Kent Street to Ascot Vale Road. We will also complete an off-road bicycle path that runs from Milleara Road to The Crossway South.

We will encourage young people to get walking with a range of Walk to School activities throughout October.

Lastly, I am passionate and determined to continue to advocate for an airport to city rail link, or the extension of tram route 59 to the airport as an interim measure.

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City of Moonee Valley

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