

# TALES FROM THE BUSHFIRE

A special thank you to all the individuals, organisations and businesses who continue to give so generously of their time, money and spirit.

animalaid<sup>®</sup>  
NEWS

EDITION 11

[www.animalaid.com.au](http://www.animalaid.com.au)



More than  
**'just a shelter'**

**ALL DONATIONS OVER \$2 RECEIVED BY ANIMAL AID ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

Many thanks to our major sponsors and donors during the Victorian Bushfires.





**A Division of the Victorian Animal Aid Trust**  
 Member: Animals Australia.  
 World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA)  
 Australian Institute of Animal Management (AIAM)  
 Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Community (AMRRIC)

**Shelter**

35 Killara Road, Coldstream  
 (Melway Ref 281 F7)  
 P.O. Box 34, Coldstream VIC 3770  
*Reception of homeless dogs, cats and other domestic animals.*  
*Pet Education and Resource Centre*  
*Veterinary treatment of shelter animals.*  
*Adoption service for dogs and cats and other domestic animals.*  
 Hours: Mon-Sun 11:00am to 4:00pm  
 (closed public holidays)  
 General Manager: Nell Thompson  
 Volunteer Program and Promotions  
 Co-ordinator: Karen Blizzard  
 Bequests Program: David Bramley  
 Fundraising Co-ordinator: Matthew ETTY-LEAL  
 Donation Enquiries: Debra Boland  
 Tel: (03) 9739 0300  
 Fax: (03) 9739 0400  
 e-mail: enquiries@animalaid.com.au  
 www.animalaid.com.au

**Pound Services**

*For the Shire of Yarra Ranges and City of Maroondah City Council*  
 35 Killara Road, Coldstream VIC 3770  
 Hours: Mon-Sun 11:00am to 4:00pm  
 Tel: (03) 9739 0300

**Coldstream Boarding Kennels and Cattery (CBK)**

35 Killara Road, Coldstream VIC 3770  
*Boarding of cats and dogs.*  
 Hours: 8:00am to 5:00pm,  
 7 days a week  
 (Closed public holidays)  
 Supervisor: Sharon Smith  
 Tel: (03) 9739 1988  
 e-mail: boarding@animalaid.com.au

**Animal Aid Veterinary Clinic**

35 Killara Road, Coldstream  
*Veterinary services to the general public by appointment.*  
 Practice Manager: Belinda Gale  
 Appointments/enquiries:  
 (03) 9739 0500

**Opportunity Shops**

**Blackburn**  
 130 Canterbury Road,  
 Blackburn South VIC 3130  
 Hours: Tues-Fri 9:30am to 4:00pm  
 Sat 9:00am to 12:00pm  
 Manager: Maggie Mills  
 Tel: (03) 9877 4271

**Croydon**  
 506 Dorset Rd,  
 Croydon South VIC 3136  
 Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00am to 4:30pm  
 Sat 9:00am to 1:00pm  
 Manager: Doreen van Spanjen  
 Tel: (03) 9723 9551

**Lakes Entrance**  
 233 Esplanade,  
 Lakes Entrance VIC 3909  
 Operating hours are seasonal:  
 Spring/Summer:  
 Monday to Friday 9am-4pm  
 Saturday and Sunday 10am-2pm  
 Autumn/Winter:  
 Monday to Friday 9am-4pm  
 Closed on Saturday and Sunday  
 Manager: Carol Thompson  
 Tel: (03) 5155 2055

**K9 Kompany**  
 Manager: Cindy Christensen  
 Lilydale Showgrounds  
 Mob: 0400 390 300

**Animal Aid East Gippsland**  
 40 Giles Street, PO Box 1889,  
 Bairnsdale VIC 3875  
 Hours: Mon-Sun 10:00am to 3:00pm  
 Manager: Narelle Brasier  
 Tel: (03) 5152 1389  
 Fax: (03) 5152 3798  
 Pound services for East Gippsland  
 Shire Council  
 Adoption service for dogs, cats  
 and other animals

**Animal Aid News**  
 Editor: Debra Boland

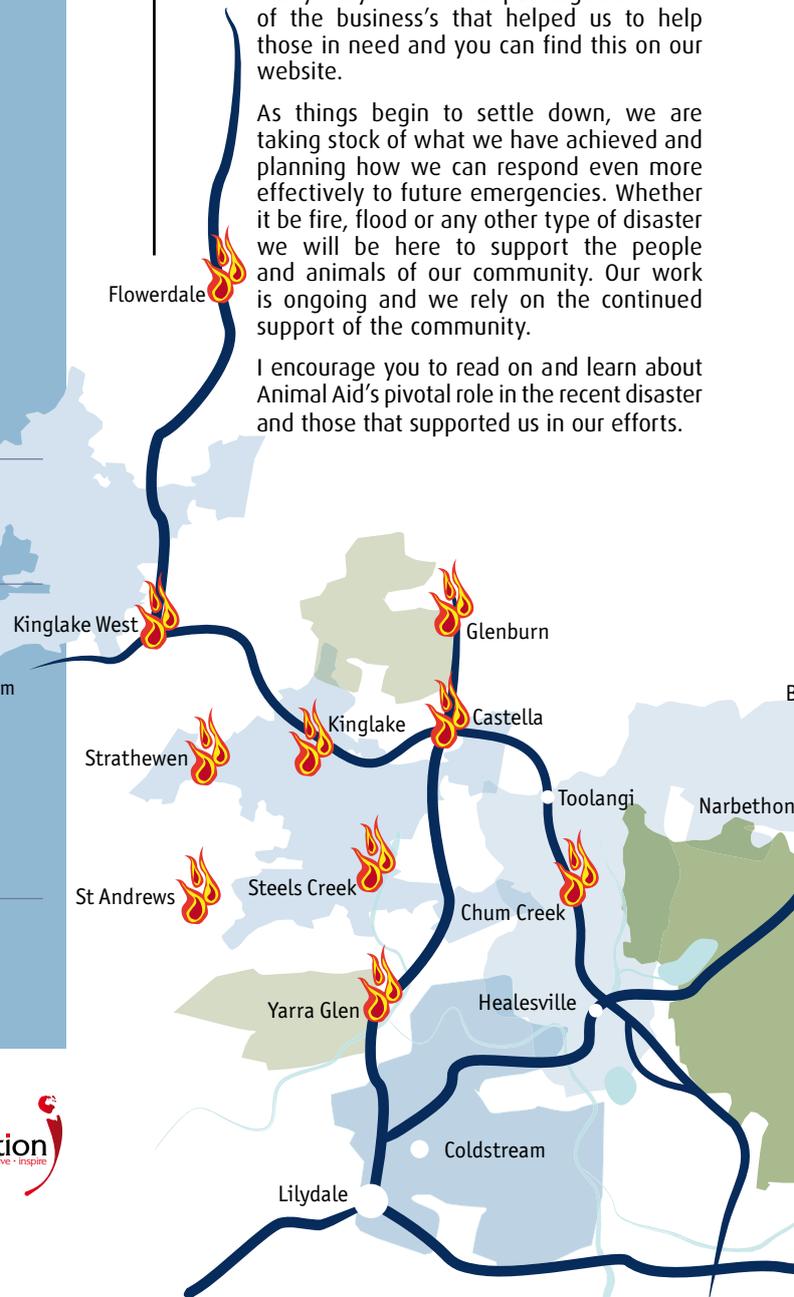
**FROM THE EDITOR**

Welcome to edition 11 of Animal Aid News. The theme for this edition had been set some months ago, and focused on the significant role that Animal Aid plays in the community. We also wanted to acknowledge the community minded businesses that help us provide for all the animal welfare related needs in our local area and the broader community. You might think that Black Saturday and the events that followed would make us have to change this theme, but in fact, this event has only served to make this theme even more relevant. The main article in this issue takes you on a day by day journey through our bushfire response, to illustrate exactly what a gargantuan effort was involved.

Of course, we could not have responded in this way without your support and we thank everyone who has helped us during this crisis. There are simply too many individuals to identify but I hope that you know just how much we appreciate your support and generosity. A big thank you also to all the people who offered help in many ways. We have put together a list of the business's that helped us to help those in need and you can find this on our website.

As things begin to settle down, we are taking stock of what we have achieved and planning how we can respond even more effectively to future emergencies. Whether it be fire, flood or any other type of disaster we will be here to support the people and animals of our community. Our work is ongoing and we rely on the continued support of the community.

I encourage you to read on and learn about Animal Aid's pivotal role in the recent disaster and those that supported us in our efforts.



Newsletter designed by  
**CreativeJunction**  
 explore • evolve • inspire



A hay delivery at the shelter

**This massive undertaking was only made possible because of the dedication of our shelter staff, volunteers and everyone who donated financially or in the form of goods and foodstuffs.**

**Together we have:**

Provided emergency accommodation for 511 animals of all shapes and sizes at our Coldstream facility.

Offered ongoing accommodation for the pets of families displaced by the fires.

Provided on site and off site services to the residents of Kinglake, Castella, Glenburn, Toolangi, Myers Creek, Chum Creek, Dixons Creek and Steels Creek, through our Vet Clinic in Coldstream and our Emergency Clinic located in Toolangi.

Provided emergency aid to owners of small and large animals in the form of food and supplies/equipment – ongoing.

Co-ordinated relocation services for large animals to and from fire affected areas.

Given search and rescue assistance to areas affected by fire for all species.

Distributed food and water to areas affected by fires.

Offered a central store and distribution point for incoming donations.

Delivered all types of feed and supplies for all species to areas affected by fires.



Enabled many tearful reunions through our lost and found service, provided over and above our regular efforts.

Conducted cat trapping programs in Marysville and Kinglake.

Acted as a vital information and advice source for all those affected by the fires.

Co-ordinated and managed an army of volunteers.

Provided Animal Ambulance service to fire affected areas.

Supported wildlife carers and members of the public with emergency food and veterinary supplies.

**All of these services have been offered free of charge.**

As you can see from our diary the majority of these activities commenced within 2 days of the initial fire event which is critically important to the welfare of the people and animals involved.

We have had so many affected people come to us and express how grateful they are that we were there to assist them in such a broad capacity. To return a lost cat to a family who has lost everything else, to recover animals that were thought dead, to nurse injured animals back to health, to provide essential food and to provide safe accommodation to people's pets has been an honour for all of us and we are extremely proud of all we have achieved. We would like to thank our donors, supporters and volunteers and we also need to thank our incredible team of staff. Without them none of this would have been made possible. It is fair to say that this disaster has had an incredible impact on us as an organisation, on many levels.

So now we move into the recovery and planning phase. We know that the response could have been more effective and faster and we are developing and adjusting our plans accordingly. It is also hoped that Animal Aid will be part of "the bigger picture" and continue to be

## TALES FROM THE BUSHFIRE



Dr Emma and Brooke treat Happy

involved with the numerous de-brief and emergency planning sessions that are now commencing. We will be conducting staff and volunteer training sessions specific to emergency environments, developing an emergency response unit and we will be educating the community and service providers on the importance of planning for animals in emergency situations. We hope we will never again be faced with a challenge such as Black Saturday but if we are Animal Aid will be there again to answer the call.

For further information on planning for your pet during an emergency see [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au) and go to their action guides or call your local Municipality.



Calton Lodge Equestrian Centre volunteers

## A SHELTER UNDER FIRE: A DIARY OF ANIMAL AID'S BUSHFIRE RESPONSE

**Our location, in Coldstream, often goes against us. It's difficult to attract the attention of the Metro media and some people may think it is just too far to go to adopt a companion. But our location, being just outside the fire zone, has been pivotal throughout this disaster. Having several staff living inside the worst affected areas has given us a level of access and ability to provide essential assistance that we may not have otherwise had.**

Our story begins on the afternoon of 7 February 2009 –

### BLACK SATURDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

Predicted extreme fire danger an ominous reality, shelter enacts fire plan and prepares for emergency response and influx of animals.

Shelter experiences ember attack as fires begin to threaten Coldstream.

Liaised with Shire of Yarra Ranges, Animal Aid is the best choice as site for emergency evacuation of animals and to let people know that we can assist.

### SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

First evacuee arrives at 1 am, as day progresses another 160 cats, dogs and assorted poultry pour in.

Emergency response requests for Animal Aid to equip relief centres issued.

First burns patient arrives at vet clinic. Happy, rescued from a burning house, with severe burns to her feet and parts of her body.

Dismay at the enormity of the previous days events sets in and relief as all Animal Aid staff and their animals are confirmed safe and relatively unharmed.

The phones don't stop all day and night, this was a very long day for staff, the last one leaves at midnight.

### MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

Phones start ringing at dawn, as calls for assistance and offers of help flood in.

More staff called in to work extra shifts as emergency escalates.

Injured Tawny Frogmouth admitted to clinic, first aid administered and alternative accommodation arranged.



Emergency accommodation cats

Desperate Kinglake evacuees, unable to return home, fear for their pets and seek our assistance.

Search and rescue operations and water distribution runs undertaken in Kinglake by staff that had saved their homes.

Offered assistance to local Veterinarian as clinic has burned down.

Another very late night for staff at the shelter.



Canine evacuees

### TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

Need to collate requests for, and offers of, assistance - database created.

Shire of Yarra Ranges takes supplies from Animal Aid into Kinglake via Whittlesea.

Maroondah Council also gets supplies into Yarra Glen and Healesville.

Carlton Lodge Equestrian Centre comes to the rescue with the offer of storage space and horse evacuation assistance.

Animal Aid issues an appeal for supplies of all manner of animal paraphernalia. Cat and dog food, caged and wild bird seed,

crates and carriers, stock feed, emergency assistance and transport for livestock and other large animals.

Animal Aid hires a truck to transport feed to support volunteer driver with truck on delivery runs.

### WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

Urgent request for horse supplies answered with flood of donations.

Volunteers mobilized to unload and sort donated goods and dispatch relief supplies.

100's of bales of hay, hard feed for stock and cat and dog food transported to Kinglake.

Over 160 evacuated animals still being housed at the shelter.

Burn victims arrive at shelter for first aid and treatment including cats, dogs and a goat.

Animal Aid prepares Emergency Response Veterinary team to go into the field



Carlton Lodge Equestrian Centre volunteers

### THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY

Animal Aid sets up emergency 24 hour vet clinic at Toolangi, catering for small and large animals, including wildlife.

Truckloads of supplies sent to Toolangi relief centre and Glenburn CFA relief centre from the shelter.

Fire risk once again increases as fires burn on three sides of Coldstream, a very tense day, warm and cold embers rain down again.

Donations of bedding refused due to increased fire risk.

Evacuees arrive in all shapes and sizes.

Increase in calls for assistance with large animals as hay supplies run out.

Appeal emphasis now focused on livestock as small animal needs are well catered for.

Leonda By The Yarra announce their benefit dinner for Animal Aid.

### FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

Coldstream CFA visit Animal Aid to advise of increasing fire threat and review our fire action plan.

Our Toolangi clinic is offering first aid, food and supplies and evacuation opportunities to animals with a range of injuries and conditions. Burns medications supplied to horse and livestock owners to treat their animals.

Vet staff from Boronia Vet Clinic volunteer to man our shelter clinic. THANK YOU!

Animal Aid delivers supplies to Flowerdale and Narbethong and evacuates a badly burnt mare and her companions.

Top up supply runs sent into Dixons Creek, Steels Creek, Glenburn and Yarra Glen.

Wildlife food deliveries made to carers and property owners who are looking after fire affected fauna.

Increase in evacuated animals as Healesville comes under threat.

Need to buy large quantity of hay due to high demand.

## SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

Roads access into the fire zone is improving; large convoy of supply vehicles is dispatched to Narbethong, Buxton, Alexandra and Glenburn. Major logistical operation!

Toolangi Clinic receives some battle weary wildlife, offers first aid and something to eat then refers them on to carers.

Specialist wildlife and stock feed purchased.

Emergency vet clinic at Toolangi still manned 24 hours a day.



Nugget the Beagle

## SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

Increased level of frantic lost reports from Marysville residents, focussed mainly around cats. Residents and shelter staff alike frustrated at lack of access.

Our pleas for hay have been answered as donations of stock feed arrive from all over the country.

After a lot of hard work, sweat and dust it has been a very humbling day. An overwhelming response from a generous nation.

150 evacuated animals still in care at the shelter. Another late night for staff at the shelter.



Dr Jo Steuten attends to Garfield

## WEEK 2

### MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY

First fire affected staff members return to work at the shelter.

Many evacuated animals return home as fire threat to Healesville eases.

70 evacuated animals still in care at the shelter.

Hay and feed continue to arrive.

Singing Gardens Tea Rooms in Toolangi doing a wonderful job feeding and watering our vet staff and volunteers while we were operating in the region. Thanks!

### TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

Toolangi clinic still running but operating hours reduced to 8am-10pm.

Top up supplies delivered to Kinglake West, Castella, Chum Creek and Dixons Creek.

More fire affected staff members return to work.

The fire threat is relentless as staff and volunteers start to become run down.

Increasing requests for feed and assistance for wildlife, relieved to see that they have survived as they seek water and refuge in people's paddocks.

**8 FEB: FIRST EVACUEE ARRIVES AT 1 AM, ANOTHER 160 CATS, DOGS AND ASSORTED POULTRY POUR IN AS DAY PROGRESSES**



Dr Jo Steuten attends to smoke affected kookaburra

### WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

More extreme weather forecast for the coming weekend, Animal Aid staff brace for another wave of evacuees from the local areas.

Hospital ward starting to fill up, cats with burns to their feet and faces. Bandage changes are painstaking and time consuming, cats are so tough.

Assistance requested by the Shire of Yarra Ranges to set up relief centre at Lilydale.

Cages, crates, food, bedding etc dispatched to Lilydale Lake and Showgrounds.

### THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

More deliveries go out into all surrounding areas.

Our vets have been out on wildlife calls and sought professional assistance from Healesville Sanctuary. Thank you!

Cat traps delivered to local residents to help them catch injured and displaced pets.

Animal Aid instituted the emergency clause of the Code of Practice for Pounds and Shelters. This code regulates how we operate and this clause will enable us to hold those animals brought in to us from fire affected areas for much longer than the normal statutory period. This will help us reunite animals and owners that have been separated.

More extreme weather forecast for the coming weekend, Animal Aid staff brace

for the expected onslaught of evacuees from the local areas.

### FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

Extreme weather warnings heeded as Warburton and Yarra Valley residents evacuate en masse.

Animals arrive in all shapes and sizes.

Vet clinic at Toolangi closed today as local Veterinarians are permitted to enter the area to attend to their clients.

Road blocks are still in place but there is an increase in access as major arterials are deemed safe for residents and significant others to use in lower risk areas.

215 evacuated animals of all shapes and sizes in care at the shelter.

### SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY

Top up supply runs sent to Chum Creek, Steels Creek, Glenburn and Kinglake.

Evacuees continue to arrive as space runs low. A list of alternative accommodation resources is compiled from willing boarding facilities and individuals. Boarding kennels, catteries and Vet Clinics listed by the Pet Industry Association of Australia members who were willing to provide emergency accommodation to evacuees.

Animal Aid is a vital source of information and resources for anyone who is fire affected.

### SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

A survivor found in Kinglake, a ginger cat is a little singed but otherwise unharmed, maybe there are more.

### WEEK 3

### MONDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

Extreme fire alert again for areas around and including the shelter.

Shelter fire and emergency action plans revised and enacted. The fire hoses at the shelter were readied.

It was a very tense day with the weather maps and wind patterns monitored throughout the day. However emergency response now feels like second nature and all goes smoothly and no immediate danger occurs.



Stray cat from Kinglake

**23 FEB: EXTREME FIRE ALERT AGAIN FOR AREAS AROUND AND INCLUDING THE SHELTER.**

More emergency accommodation animals arrive at the shelter.

As predicted there is a greater demand for accommodation than we can provide today. Animal Aid uses alternative accommodation contacts. Our thanks to these organisations for helping us meet the community's need.

## TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

Fire threat eases slightly but many animals are left with us because of ongoing risk.

Badly burned kitten from Glenburn admitted to our clinic.

Still 215 evacuated animals in care at the shelter.

## WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

Situation unchanged.

## THURSDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

Situation unchanged as people brace for another high fire risk day.

## FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

Fire risk extreme as strong northerly winds threaten to fan existing and start new fires.

Some more road blocks are lifted from burnt out areas while other roads are closed due to new threats.



Dr Emma Buckley attends to an injured foal

## SUNDAY 1ST MARCH

Benefit Dinner at Leonda By The Yarra a fantastic night, many heartfelt thanks to the Leonda Crew.

## WEEK 4

## MONDAY 2ND MARCH

Both the Shelter and Boarding facility are operating at full capacity housing evacuated animals.

## TUESDAY 3RD MARCH

Food relief, particularly for livestock is still in full swing.

## WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH

Rain Hooray!

Many emergency boarders go home giving exhausted staff a breather as the fire threat eases.

Marysville residents petition local police, requesting a cat trapping program in and around the township.

## THURSDAY 5TH MARCH

Shelter experiences an increase in the calls for assistance about wildlife and what they should and shouldn't be doing.



All kinds of pets needed our help

Information and feeding guidelines posted on our website.

## FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

Marysville cat trapping program is given the go ahead, Woo hoo! We are one of the first agencies allowed into the township since the fires.

Truckload of hay arrives from Aussie Helpers all the way from Charleville, Queensland. Aply assisted by the Conservation Volunteers Australia they made a quick job of unloading. Thanks!

## SATURDAY 7TH MARCH

After almost a month of solid use, Animal Aid return the hired truck and begin to wind down deliveries as more people can access transport and the majority of our volunteers have had to return to their paid jobs.

## WEEK 5

## 9TH - 15TH MARCH

Animal Aid representatives attend a number of emergency services debriefs with Shire of Yarra Ranges, RSPCA and AVA.

After almost a week the first cat is found in Marysville Yippee!!!! Fortunately she is not the only one and another one quickly follows. Both cats owners notified same day. Hard to describe how fantastic it feels for our staff to be able to accomplish an achievement like this.

## WEEK 6

## 16TH - 22ND MARCH

Cat trapping program continues in Marysville, another two cats are found a little thin but safe and well.

Emergency accommodation numbers are dwindling now, we are basically down to the pets of people who have lost their homes.

We see a surge in requests for cat and dog supplies, top up runs set up with Yarra Glen relief centre, Australian Aid, Aussie Helpers and Murrindindi and Yarra Ranges relief centres.

More cats turn up from fire ravaged areas.

## WEEK 7

## 23RD - 29TH MARCH

Large donation of hay arrives from NSW as a result of an auction held by Ross and Sue Smith, Thanks!

Another cat found in Marysville, another very relieved owner.

We are still being asked to assist many people with large animal feed supplies but as donations dry up we are finding it hard to meet their needs.

Emergency accommodation and veterinary assistance is ongoing for fire affected pets.

Trapping will continue in Marysville and on request in other areas until communities are satisfied they are no longer needed.



Puddy the cat

## WEEK 8 AND BEYOND

We will continue to offer assistance to those in genuine need and support the families displaced by the fires as long as they require.

**6 MAR:**  
MARYSVILLE  
CAT TRAPPING  
PROGRAM IS GIVEN  
THE GO AHEAD,  
WOO HOO!

## 8 MAKE YOUR SHOPPING COUNT FOR ANIMAL AID

Ritchies Stores are one of Animal Aid's long time supporters and Animal Aid would like to thank Ritchies Supermarkets and Liquor stores for their generous support over the last 10 years.

We are thrilled to announce that Ritchies and our supporters throughout Victoria who shop at Ritchies, have raised over \$31,000.00 for Animal Aid through Ritchies Community Benefit Program since our partnership began in 1998!

Ritchies was established back in 1870, when Thomas Ritchie opened a grocery store in Frankston and started donating part of his profit back to the community. Ritchies now have 58 stores but they are still wholly Australian owned and operated and just as community minded today as they were when Thomas opened his first store 139 years ago.

These days Ritchies support for the community is achieved through Ritchies Community Benefit Program, which has donated over \$29 million dollars in cash to nominated clubs, schools and charities since the inception of the program in 1993. 1% of the money customers spend at Ritchies is automatically donated to a club, school or charity of their choice when their Ritchies Community Benefit Card is presented at the checkout and Animal Aid has benefited from this outstanding support since 1998.



We are also thrilled to announce that since Ritchies new store at Yarra Glen opened in December, our monthly donations have doubled thanks to all those new Ritchies customers who nominated Animal Aid. If you would like to be a part of this rewarding way of supporting Animal Aid, ask for a Community Benefit Card at your local Ritchies Supermarket or Liquor store to give Animal Aid that little extra gift. Our CB number is 94252. Ritchies Community Benefit Card also gives you extra discounts on around 2,000 'CB' specials each week, so you can save money and help Animal Aid at the same time.

**Make your shopping count for Animal Aid by shopping at Ritchies – where the community benefits!**

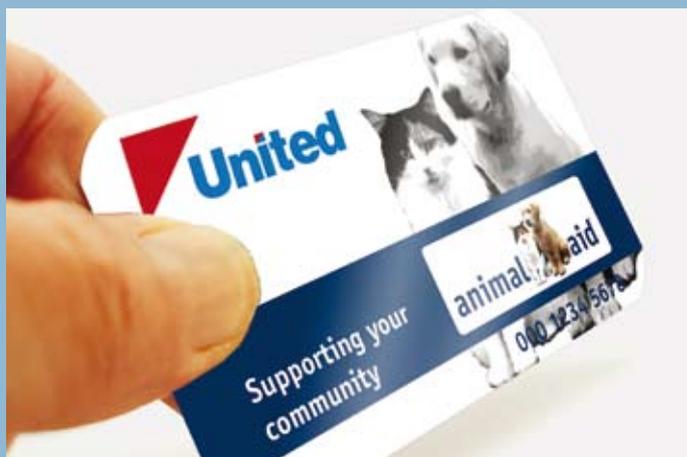
## ANIMAL AID FILL UP AT UNITED PETROLEUM

During our 60th Birthday celebrations, we formed a partnership with another corporate that supports charities: United Petroleum, through its United Community Card Program. United has more than 350 sites throughout Australia, out of which over 70 are based in Victoria (please see their website, [www.unitedpetroleum.com.au](http://www.unitedpetroleum.com.au) for a listing of these stations).

Animal Aid is now one of the beneficiaries of the Community Card Program. When you purchase fuel at a participating United Petroleum Site, one cent from every litre will be donated by United to Animal Aid.

Simply call us on 9739 0300, or send an email to [enquiries@animalaid.com.au](mailto:enquiries@animalaid.com.au) with your name and address, and we will send you an Animal Aid Community Card that you can start using straight away at participating United outlets.

Every time you purchase fuel from a participating United outlet, you will need to present your Animal Aid Community Card to the attendant so the transaction can be recorded. At the end of the month, United will make a donation to Animal Aid when the total donation exceeds \$100.



When you are a Community Card holder you have the opportunity to:

- Purchase competitively priced fuel
- Buy environmentally friendly fuels when you purchase ethanol blended fuel
- Support an Australian business and Animal Aid.

**United Community Card – Supporting your community and the environment.**

## IGA PLUS LIQUOR COLDSTREAM COMMUNITY CHEST

**At the heart of every IGA store owner is the firm belief that every little bit helps. That's why, through IGA's Community Chest and other related community programs, IGA Plus Liquor Coldstream is committed to donating a percentage of sales to local charitable causes. It's the cornerstone of who we are in the community.**

So far more than \$30 million has been raised over the past five years, with more than 7,000 groups, individuals and families that have directly benefited from Community Chest. For some we have meant the difference between staying viable and closing down. For others we can provide a reliable source of funds to help prop up a constantly challenged budget.

One such organisation that we have been only too happy to have helped is Animal Aid. As our local Animal Shelter we encourage our customers to allocate their shopping points to help provide a safe haven and a second chance to the thousands of cats and dogs that find themselves at Animal Aid's doors.

It is so easy to make a difference for the cats and dogs at Animal Aid, shoppers simply present their loyalty tag when shopping and earn valuable points.

Shoppers can earn bonus points and save money by purchasing nominated bonus point products throughout the store and liquor department. We donate 1% of nominated purchases to Animal Aid to help them continue their wonderful work.

Next time you visit Coldstream, come and visit our friendly IGA Supermarket on the corner of Maroondah Highway and Killara Road to fill out an application form and nominate Animal Aid as your preferred charity. You will be given a loyalty tag that you can use every time you visit our store. Please encourage family and friends to visit as well.

We thank our loyal customers for their continuing support of Animal Aid and look forward to donating more funds to them in the future.

**IGA Plus Liquor Coldstream – For more information ask at our service counter or call us 9739 1466.**



## DONATION HOME LOANS

**At Donation Home Loans, we believe that every business has an obligation to support the community in which it operates.**

The foundation of our business is that we donate 20% of the monthly, ongoing commission that we receive from our lending institutions to Australian Charities, Clubs, Schools and Non-Profit Organisations. These Organisations are nominated by our clients, while the donations come from our revenue and cost our clients nothing.

The current financial climate threatens us all, but for the Not for Profit sector it could have a more profound trickle down effect. This makes that fact that we donate such a significant portion of our revenues to Australian charities and non-profit Organisations through our Community Partner Program all the more important. We are currently donating over \$12,000 per month to more than 200 participating Organisations.

Animal Aid is always a very popular choice amongst our clients, and because they obviously care about animals, we are now contributing around \$7,000 per year and their accumulative donations are now over \$20,000. Our contribution supports the P.A.T Program™ (Post Adoptive Training). While we have always considered Animal Aid a very worthy recipient, they are fortunate in that we are just one business that is willing to support the local community.

We are pleased to appear alongside these other community-minded businesses that can offer great deals on their goods and services or donate a percentage of their revenue. In doing so, we also encourage other businesses to engage in similar socially responsible practices.

For further information about Donation Home Loans please visit our website:

**[www.donationhomeloans.com.au](http://www.donationhomeloans.com.au)**

**or call us on 1300 30 99 79**





Alanna Deutrom

## LEONDA BUSHFIRE BENEFIT DINNER

**The Black Saturday tragedy brought an overwhelming response from the Australian community by businesses and individuals. Our major bushfire appeal benefactor has been Leonda By The Yarra, one of Melbourne’s most popular reception venues.**

Leonda By The Yarra offered a very special night of food, wine and entertainment to Animal Aid with all expenses being met by Leonda and their suppliers. Over the next few days invitations were printed, tickets sold, entertainers engaged, auction and raffle items were gathered being underpinned by an extensive and highly professional promotional campaign.

On Sunday 1 March, more than 250 people were welcomed by Philip Brady and our MC, Sue Stanley. We did have a very special night with \$50,000 raised and as one attendee observed: “It was the best event I have ever been to”.

With many thanks to Carly Cohen and her fantastic team at Leonda By The Yarra. For more details about this wonderful event and a listing of all the supporters please go to: [www.animalaid.com.au](http://www.animalaid.com.au).



## CAPITAL APPEAL

**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”**  
Nelson Mandela

At Animal Aid we strongly identify with this statement, and if we are ever to achieve our ideal of animals and humans living in harmony, we must provide the community with the necessary skills and information to make educated choices when dealing with animals.

As a Registered Training Organisation, being able to offer quality animal management training opportunities is of vital importance. Historically we have struggled to make our courses viable due to the lack of appropriate facilities at our Coldstream property, and we know there is so much more that we could be doing. Our vision is soon to take one step closer to becoming a reality with our first redevelopment project, the construction of an Education and Administration building. Already on board are two experienced Education Officers, Linda Marston and Jodie Limon, that are ready to deliver our accredited industry training and community education courses.

If you would like further information about this innovative project please contact Nell Thompson or Matthew ETTY-Leal at Animal Aid during working hours on 03 9739 0300 or by email respectively [nthompson@animalaid.com.au](mailto:nthompson@animalaid.com.au) or [mettyleal@animalaid.com.au](mailto:mettyleal@animalaid.com.au).



**Wildfire**  
www.wildfirephoto.com.au  
PRESENTS  
*Tail Blazers*  
**PET PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Get your Pets Pawtrait taken at Animal Aid Veterinary Clinic on **Sunday June 28th**  
For bookings call (03) 9739 0500

only \$9.95 sitting fee  
Proceeds donated to Coldstream Animal Aid



An artist's impression of the new building

## A HAPPY TALE

### The story of one little dog, called Happy, typifies the bushfire experience.

Happy, the Blue Heeler x, was admitted to the Animal Aid Vet Clinic on the 8th February.

She had been rescued from a burning house in Grantham, just out of Narbethong, with burns to all four feet, smoke inhalation and other burns to her body. Over the next week we gave her fluids and nursed her carefully in our Vet clinic, she was in a pretty bad way. She was initially transferred to the Boronia Vet Hospital each night to receive overnight care. She was later transferred to the Melbourne University Veterinary Clinic at Werribee for specialist burns treatment and then returned to us for ongoing care. She has revisited the Werribee clinic a number of times since to assess her progress.

In the early stages of her recovery you couldn't blame her for being a bit miserable but the highlight of Happy's week was when her dad, Reg, came to visit. She was over the moon to see him and their mutual love was blatantly obvious. Reg and his daughter, not unlike Happy, have had a very tough time indeed, the one thing that has made his situation seem a bit brighter is that he knows that Happy was safe and in good hands.

Happy's burns are very severe. While they are healing; the skin on the soles of her feet is not thick enough to withstand the wear and tear of walking around and so we have provided her with some special booties to protect her sensitive new skin.

After Happy had been with us for 5 weeks, another aspect of this story came to light. Reg's family cat Alley, which had all but been written off as yet another bushfire statistic, had miraculously turned up. She had been handed in to Healesville Veterinary Clinic and transferred to our clinic. Happy and Reg couldn't believe their eyes when they saw the somewhat scrawnier Alley in the clinic cage. We didn't



Alley the cat



Happy and her dad Reg

manage to catch their reunion on film but Happy gave her a kiss through the wire and Alley returned the sentiment with a head butt.

Happy is doing much better than expected and is slowly taking over the management of the Vet Clinic. She can often be found curled up asleep under the reception desk or in the staff kitchen receiving a pat and a treat. We will continue to treat and house Happy and Alley while their Dad is finding

them all a new home. She and her family have a long way to go in their recovery and we are pleased to make this process a little easier for them all.



## HOW YOU CAN HELP

For over 60 years Animal Aid has been caring for lost, injured and unwanted animals and finding them new homes. This has only been made possible by the kindness of many donors and supporters over the years. To continue this important work we rely on the generosity of the public. Animal Aid receives no Government financial support. **If YOU are able to help financially, please complete and return the donation form below.**

**Yes, I want to support your efforts to help lost, stray, unwanted and orphaned animals.**

**Please tick one:**

\$20    \$50    \$100    Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Kennel/Cat Pen Sponsorship details:**

Full Pen: \$800  
 Half Pen: \$400  
 Quarter Pen: \$200

- Please send me information on monthly donations  
 I do not wish to have a plaque mounted on the pen  
 I do wish to have a plaque mounted on the pen

Name: (Please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

**YOU CAN PAY EITHER:** by CHEQUE (payable to Victorian Animal Aid Trust)

**OR:** by DEBIT (please fill in the details below)

DEBIT MY (please tick one): Visa  Mastercard

NUMBER ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRY DATE: \_\_ / \_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SEND ME:**

- Information on kennel and cat pen sponsorship  
 Details on how to make a bequest to Animal Aid in my will  
 Information on Volunteer/Foster programs  
 Tick if you would like to be removed from our mailing list

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Suburb \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ P'code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send your completed form to the following address:**

Animal Aid  
 P O Box 34, Coldstream, VIC 3770

## SUZY JOHNSTON

**My first involvement with Animal Aid was facilitated through a mutual friend who was contacted by Matthew ETTY-Leal, Animal Aid's Fundraising Coordinator. He had seen an old poster from a show I'd been in, got in touch, and so the journey began!**



It just felt like such a natural involvement for me, as I've been madly in love with animals all my life, and I currently share my home with 3 dogs and a cockatiel!

It's been terrific fun being 60th Birthday Ambassador - taking part in so many wonderful functions, getting to know all the wonderful people involved, and above all, seeing the organisation grow over that time. Such a joy and a privilege!

There are so many wonderful programs Animal Aid provides, but the Pets in Peril program really hits home for me. I think it's incredibly important and innovative, with such far reaching community implications. It's this sort of "thinking outside the square" that sets Animal Aid apart from so many other similar organisations. The role that they played in the Black Saturday Bushfire Response was brilliant, and I commend them for their comprehensive approach in offering assistance, but as far as on-going programs, Pets in Peril does it for me every time!

I think it's extremely important that organisations like Animal Aid have people to advocate for them! They are far too busy at the coal - face to get out there and spread the word, so it's imperative that you have influential friends in all walks of life to get out there and tell the community what marvellous things are going on.

I'd like to thank Tiffany Speight and Judi Connelli who have also been very involved over the past year. I'm always spreading the word about the quality work that Animal Aid do. I want people to understand the importance of Animal Aid, and to know it's not just a pound and shelter, but a vital part of our community.



## BULLETIN BOARD

**60th Merchandise still available**

Please purchase some of our 60th Birthday merchandise and help us celebrate this important milestone.

**Trivia Night and Silent Auction - Saturday 18 July**

Pit your wits against your friends at our Annual Trivia and Silent Auction Night held at the York on Lilydale. More details call 9739 0300 or visit our website - [www.animalaid.com.au](http://www.animalaid.com.au)

