

Greater Dandenong Leader

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HOME HUNT

Keysborough Animal Protection Society has 200 cats and kittens in their care but has room for just 100 at their new shelter. Can you help?

REPORT PAGE 5

Picture: TIM CARRAFA

ALL PACKED FOR FOREVER HOME

Megan Bailey

ANIMAL shelters are always short on space and the Keysborough Australian Animal Protection Society is feeling the pinch more than most.

The charity is building a new shelter on Perry Rd after the education department last year bought the Homeleigh Rd site, where the shelter has been for 30 years, to build a new school.

The society will move into an interim building in April but can only take 100 of the 200 cats they have at the shelter.

President Megan Seccull said the shelter was running a "Get Them Home"

campaign throughout March to try and find homes for the cats and kittens before the move.

"It's sad for us when we cannot help as many animals," Ms Seccull said.

Cat and kitten adoption fees have been halved in an effort to get as many homes as possible for the animals.

The cattery is also open for twilight adoptions on Thursdays until 7pm.

All animals going out for adoption will have been vaccinated, microchipped and fully health checked before leaving the shelter.

The shelter is at 10 Homeleigh Rd, Keysborough.

Details: 9798 8415



These cuties are ready for a home. PIC: TIM CARRAFA

P4 19 FEBRUARY 2018

Shelter move

By Casey Neill

Keysborough's animal shelter is on track with its relocation.

The Journal revealed last July that Australian Animal Protection Society (AAPS) had sold its Homeleigh Road site to the Department of Education and Training for use as a primary school.

Manager Natasha Marginis said the shelter had bought land on nearby Perry Road and would build a new centre to open in July.

Greater Dandenong Councillor Matthew Kirwan asked the Monday 12 February council meeting about progress for the relocation.

"A couple of hours ago a resident contacted me via Facebook to inquire why the permit for the new site of the Keysborough Animal Shelter had not been granted," he said.

City planning, design and amenity director Jody Bosman said he'd look into the concerns.

But Ms Marginis confirmed with the Journal that everything was still on track.

"We needed to submit our final plans to council on 9 February, which we did," she said.

"It's now in council's control."

The shelter has been in Homeleigh Road for about 30 years, and a move has been in the works for the past two.

"We saw the residential areas coming up," Ms Marginis said.

The shelter houses about 50 dogs and 200 cats, and rehomes more than 1700 animals a year.

"We're looking to at least double the number that we're able to accommodate now," she said.



AAPS manager Natasha Marginis with one of the dogs up for adoption. 170515

Fairfax Community Network

MON., DANDENONG JOURNAL, MAY 30, 2010

**Soft touch:** The Australian Animal Protection Society is appealing for winter woollies.

Picture: Lucy Di Paolo

Cold comforts sought

By Marg Stork

STAFF and volunteers at the Australian Animal Protection Society in Keysborough are making their annual winter appeal for donations of warm woollies to cater for an influx of cats and dogs being brought to the society's kennels and catteries.

Shelter assistant welfare co-ordinator Arabella Gates said gifts of blankets in good condition, old jumpers, fleecy throwovers, handknitted rugs and towels would be gratefully

accepted. They can be dropped off at the shelter in 10 Homeleigh Road from 10am-3.30pm Monday to Saturday.

Miss Gates said this year there had been a marked increase in the number of dogs and cats brought to the shelter, which is at present "jam packed", and new homes were always being sought for the animals.

She attributed the influx to factors including the financial downturn and people downsizing from houses to units.

She said in some instances residents were banned from keep-

ing animals, particularly in rental units.

Climate change is also having an effect, with cats breeding for longer periods. An ageing human population, with more seniors going into retirement villages and nursing homes and having to part with their pets, are also contributing to the influx.

"The factors are numerous and compounded," she said.

Donations can be left at the AAPS desk.

Details: www.aaps.org.au or call 97988415.

Creature comforts at the op shop

BY KIRSTEN LEIMINGER

A KEYSBOROUGH animal shelter urgently needs volunteers for its fundraising op shop.

The Australian Animal Protection Society relies on donations and funds raised at its five op shops in Keysborough, Moorabbin, Cheltenham, Malvern and East Bentleigh.

The society is a non-profit group that finds homes for unwanted and abandoned animals.

Although it mostly cares for dogs and cats it accepts all animals including domesticated pets, native animals and farm animals.

The Keysborough Op shop operates at the Homeleigh Road shelter and is open four days a week. But it urgently needs more volunteers so it can remain open and possibly extend its hours.

The op shop had just enough staff to keep it open four days a week but it had trouble covering absences.

Volunteer Evelyn said the job involved sorting, marking and putting out donated goods and generally keep-

ing the shop tidy. "We sell everything from bric-a-brac, clothing and furniture. The goods are donated from the public seven days a week."

Evelyn said the op shop had been open for more than six years and had proven a great way to raise money for the animal shelter. "We have a lot of regular customers who want to come here because they know they're supporting the welfare of animals."

Evelyn volunteers two days a week at the shop because she loves animals.

"They don't have a voice to tell us what their needs are so that's why I decided to give my time to help animals be treated right."

"It's sad to see the dogs and cats coming in but we know we're making money to keep them comfortable in the shelter. All the workers here are fantastic with the animals."

The Australian Animal Protection Society Keysborough Op shop opens 9am-3pm on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Tuesdays. Details: 97988044.



Helping hand: Evelyn raises funds for the Australian Animal Protection Society at the op shop.

Picture: Sam Stiglec