



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 1987

ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

In this Newsletter, special attention is given to the welfare of domestic animals kept within the Shire, a subject too often neglected. In particular, dogs, which are not properly supervised by some owners, are causing other residents, the council and service groups such as Animal Aid, increasing problems.

Recent changes to the Dog Act have resulted in increased penalties.

A leaflet designed to help you give your dog the love and attention it deserves has been produced by the Municipal Association's Working Party on Responsible Ownership of Domestic Pets, and the Petcare Information and Advisory Service, in conjunction with Council.

To help make pet ownership a pleasure for everyone in the community, here are some excerpts from the brochure.

- From the age of six months, your dog must be registered with the local council. The council will give you a registration disc to attach to the dog's collar and you must add an identification tag so that the ranger can contact you if your dog becomes lost.
- When you own a pet, you have another member in your family who loves and depends on you. When you go on holidays, make sure your pet is well looked after.
- You must ensure that your dog is contained within your house boundaries particularly when you are out during the day or asleep at night. Family dogs, those which seem to be quiet and docile, may attack farm animals when allowed to roam free, or when 'dumped' in the country by persons who no longer want them. For the good of the community, your council asks you to pay particular attention to this matter.
- Make sure your dog doesn't bark all night and keep you - and the neighbours - awake. Make sure your dog has a cosy warm kennel and has been fed an evening meal. Training should be considered if your dog remains restless and is allowed out and upsets garbage bins in the street.
- If your dog caused an accident, how would you feel? Your dog should not be allowed out to chase cars and put drivers into a situation which could cause an accident. It is also an unpleasant experience to be menaced by a dog in the street. Make sure your dog is courteous and well behaved at all times.
- There are various diseases your dog could contract. Make sure you visit your local veterinary surgeon for all the necessary injections. Have your dog immunized, and take your dog to the vet when any signs of illness show. Regular worming is also very important. Discuss with your vet the question of neutering or spaying to prevent unwanted pups.
- Your dog is an important member of the family. Include your pet in activities, play in the yard, go for walks and show affection.
- Before getting a dog make sure you have room for it and whether you will exercise and groom it regularly.

THE RULES -

The most important things to remember are that your dog must be properly cared for, be registered with the council and must not be allowed to roam free.

Your council has a responsibility to the whole community and for irresponsible owners who disobey the rules there are penalties.

DOG ACT PENALTIES INCREASED

THE PENALTIES -

The penalties listed below apply where a dog infringement notice is issued by a council's proper officer. A court may impose higher penalties.

The new penalties are as follows:

Failure to register a dog	\$200
Dog at large outside owner's premises (At night) (Daytime)	\$200
Unauthorised person seizing, selling, injuring or destroying a dog	\$100
Greyhound outside owner's premises and not muzzled and under effective control	\$100
Owner's name and address not on collar	\$ 50
Registered dog outside owner's premises without a collar	\$ 50
Person removing registration collar or defacing registration badge	\$ 50
Unregistered dog wearing a registration collar	\$ 50
Dog on premises of a school or shop	\$ 50
Dog in or about a railway station or in shopping area and not on a leash	\$ 50
Owners of unregistered dogs are advised to have their dogs registered immediately to avoid a penalty of \$200 being imposed on them.	

Dog Registration forms are available at the Shire Offices.

REGISTRATION FEES

Unsterilised dog or bitch	\$25.00
Unsterilised dog or bitch owned by pensioner holding Travel Concession Card	\$12.50
Working dog	\$ 4.00
Sterilised dog or bitch	\$ 6.00
Registered Kennel Control Club dog	\$ 4.00
Guide Dog	No Fee



Other serious offences under the Act attract the following penalties:

A person who wilfully sets on or urges a dog to attack, worry or chase any person or any horse, sheep, goat, poultry or cattle \$500. The owner of a dog which rushes at, attacks, worries or chases any person, horse, cattle, sheep, goat or poultry - \$500.

Section 24 of the Act provides that the owner or occupier of any field, paddock, yard or other place enclosed by a fence in which any animals or birds kept for farming purposes are confined, or a person acting under the authority of any such person may without incurring any liability shoot or otherwise destroy any dog found at large therein. 'Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986' came into force as of March 4. The purpose of this Act is to prevent cruelty to animals and promote community awareness about the prevention of cruelty. The Shire is required to appoint an Inspector to enforce the provisions of the Act.

• Dogs impounded are kept for eight days and are then either sold or destroyed. Daryl O'Brien, the Shire Ranger, can be contacted on 72 4725.

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

After nearly eleven years as a North Riding Councillor, including a term as Shire President in 1983/84, Mr. J.M. [Mac] Barty has resigned.

In his letter of resignation Mr. Barty said he has found he is unable to give the necessary time to Council duties due to the commitment to his family business.

As Mr. Barty was re-elected twelve months ago, the vacancy created by his departure necessitated the calling of an extraordinary election.

In response to advertising, only one nomination was received, from Mr. Richard Smith of "Sundene", Redesdale, a farmer and airline pilot. He has therefore been declared elected, and is expected to take his seat at the Council meeting on July 28.

When nominations for the annual elections closed on July 8 the following had been received for the various ridings:

North
South
Taradale
West

John Barker
Hugh Robert William Dettmann
Ian James Cochrane
Philip Joseph Glare

All of the unopposed candidates, the first three of whom are retiring councillors, will be declared elected on election day, August 1.

The only newcomer is Mr. Philip Glare, who is licensee of the Elphinstone Hotel. He will replace Cr. Len Ellery, who did not seek re-nomination, after Cr. Ellery's term expires on August 1.

Cr. Ellery has served 21 years, and was Shire President in 1976/77. He is the Council's representative on the Municipal Fire Protection Committee and the Mount Alexander Koala Reserve Committee.

In the Chewton Riding the retiring Councillor is Cr. Alan Elliot. When nominations closed at 4.00 p.m. on July 8 there was no nomination for the Chewton Riding, apparently through a misunderstanding.

An extraordinary election will therefore be required and nominations will be invited early in August.

Proposed Shire of Metcalfe Planning Scheme

The planning scheme maps and ordinance have been revised in the light of submissions accepted some time ago by the Council.

The council has asked the Minister for Planning and Environment, Hon. Jim Kennan, M.P., to appoint a three-member panel to give consideration to those submissions which is has felt unable to accept.

Panel hearings are expected to be undertaken within the next

few months. Persons concerned will be notified of the arrangements.

Recommendations by the panel will be submitted to the council for consideration, after which the scheme will be put into its final form for submission to the Minister.

Road Funding

The Central Victoria Association of Councils, of which Metcalfe is a member, has received the results of a study carried out on the subject of road funding. The findings of the report are:

- Funds from Federal and State sources have declined.
- At current funding levels assets must deteriorate.
- Maintenance of roads is falling behind.
- High priority improvement and extension programs are being scrapped.
- The situation is not helped by present inefficient distribution of funds.
- There is a suspicion that all funding for unclassified roads will become a council responsibility in future.
- As yet, sealed roads have not reverted to unsealed, apart from a few 100 metres.
- Council employment has not dropped significantly, although there has been a slight decrease.
- C.E.P. funds have been used, but his is held to be of doubtful value for road works.

Copies of the report have been sent to Members of Parliament and others likely to be able to influence the provision of funds for roads.

Member councils will share the cost of a pamphlet outlining the Association's case for more government assistance for roads. The pamphlet will be given a wide distribution.

The council has also agreed to contribute towards the cost of another pamphlet, to be produced by the Calder Highway Improvement Committee, highlighting the need for greater allocation of funds for urgently needed improvements to the Calder Highway.

Overdue Rates and Charges

The Council has taken legal action against a number of defaulting ratepayers.

\$50,000 remains to be collected, out of a total of \$602,000. Persons who have not yet paid should do so immediately, not only to avoid a summons but also to avoid further interest being added.

COUNCIL MEETING TIMES

Metcalfe Shire Council meetings are currently commencing at 2.00 p.m. instead of the traditional 10.00 a.m. This arrangement began in May for a trial period of three months.

The change appears to have worked reasonably well, but of course does not suit everybody. Some welcome the opportunity of a full morning's work before the meeting; others have found there can be a clash with evening commitments.

The Council will decide on July 28 whether to continue with afternoon meetings, which inevitably run into the evening, or to revert to the customary time.

BICENTENNIAL NEWS

With less than half a year until the Bicentennial, collecting the Shire's history has become a matter of urgency, if it is to be published in 1988.

It was decided early in July by Council and the Bicentennial Committee to aid progress by employing a co-ordinator for the project, using part of the Bicentennial Grant.

Katherine Seppings, who had already begun compiling the history, has undertaken this position immediately. Ms. Seppings is a freelance artist, writer and photographer, with many years experience in the publishing field.

She aims to complete the task of collecting and writing the history by the beginning of 1988 when the production of a book will commence.

Katherine will be aided by Helen McGeachin in researching, collating and writing the history.

A great deal of help will be needed by locals with historical information throughout the Shire.

Noel Davis from Sutton Grange has already given enormous support in seeking out material and organizing an evening of locals to reminisce together, revealing anecdotes to Katherine, lending photographs and other documented records to be copied.

Gettogethers of this kind will be happening in all areas in the coming months. Katherine will also be contacting individuals who are known for their anecdotes and private historical collections.

All material published will be acknowledged. If you are able to help with relevant information or would like to do your own research and become an acknowledged contributor to the book, guidelines to the contents are listed below.

TYPE OF INFORMATION REQUIRED:

1. The Aboriginal Occupation
2. The Landscape before 1830's
3. The Explorers - Major Mitchell
4. Early European Settlement before 1850
5. The Gold Rush
6. Geological interest: where found, how much.
7. The People: nationalities, how many.
8. Lifestyles: surviving the hardships
9. Fortunes found
10. Towns - Growth and Prosperity
11. Buildings, early builders, town planning
12. Homes, gardens - a new life.
13. Food and other necessities
14. The black markets and other trade
15. Hotels
16. Social conditions
17. Churches - multicultural religions
18. Schools - children of the Victorian era
19. The law and its enforcement
20. Communication - Post Offices etc.
21. Transport - beasts, buggies and feet
22. The Murray River Railway
23. The forming of Communities
24. Individual achievements
25. Industries - urban
26. Industries - rural
27. Decline, depression, the search for greener pastures
28. Pastoral settlements
29. Orchards
30. Gold - other alternatives.

And for more recent history:

Disasters- Cyclones, floods, fires and disease.
The effects of Wars - Land divisions. Faraday Kidnapping.
Politics and Presidents - past and present.
The Changing shape of the Shire. Theatre and the Arts.
Sport and Recreation. Rural retreats - the cottage revival.

People with access to or who are in possession of appropriate and interesting information are urged to contact Katherine Seppings - Main Road, Chewton 3451, (054) 72 4230

"ONE MILLION TREES"

The Natural Resources Conservation League of Victoria has been in existence for over 40 years as a non-government, non-profit organisation dedicated to the conservation of natural resources, especially trees.

As a contribution to the Bi-Centennial year, the League has joined forces with Project Branchout in their Bi-Centennial project "One Million Trees" in the Loddon Campaspe region. The target is a very worthwhile endeavour for the region and for the State.

N.R.C.L., for this Region only, and for this Bi-Centennial project only, will supply tubed seedlings of indigenous species at a special price as a N.R.C.L. contribution, and hopes that all landowners in the region will help support the project.

To establish one million trees in the region as a Bi-Centennial goal, the Loddon Campaspe Revegetation Project Inc. (Project Branchout) has embarked on an ambitious program of seeking enthusiastic community and government support.

Once established, these trees will play an important role in combatting the region's land degradation scourges of salinity, erosion and tree decline.

The Project Branchout Committee has decided to phase out its plant nursery operations in favour of existing Natural Resources Conservation League (NRCL) and C.F.L. (VicFlora), and local tree nurseries.

For the "One Million Tree" Campaign, Project Branchout has negotiated with N.R.C.L. to be its prime supplier of indigenous tubes stock at a special price for 15 cm. (6") wood veneer tubes stock at 53 cents each (\$53.00 per hundred trees) which includes 3 cents per tube promotion allowance for Project Branchout for the range of tree species listed in the enclosed N.R.C.L. "Tree Planters Guide". This special price offer applies to Project Branchout and N.R.C.L. clients (including Municipal Councils) within the Loddon Campaspe Region. This arrangement applies to land owners in the Shire of Metcalfe.

Please contact the Shire Offices for a N.R.C.L./Branchout order form, and post it direct to N.R.C.L. This special form will enable your order to be identified for special pricing and to add your tree order to the "Million Trees" campaign barometer. This barometer will be

Hotel History

The first licenced hotel in the Shire was established in 1854. During the next thirty years there were thirty five hotels in Chewton alone.

By 1910, when Taradale had a population of 500, five churches remained and so did five hotels. Today there are only two hotels in the whole Shire, the Red Hill at Chewton and the Elphinstone.

The history of hotels is fascinating because just as they were an essential part of society during the gold rush, they still play a major role today, as a focal point for a town in architectural and social terms.

Before beer licences were issued in 1854, sly grog, mainly gin, whisky and rum, was sold illegally from tents often disguised as selling refreshments such as coffee.

The first woman to arrive at the Forest Creek Diggings in December 1851 ran one of these sly grog tents.

Apparently her tent was burnt down as often as once a week by the Police but was just as quickly put up again by the diggers.

Hotels did not flourish merely because the miners were heavy drinkers. They provided an excellent situation for social contact amongst the largely male population as well as being a place of comfort and relaxation compared to the bitterly cold winter evenings one could spend alone in a tent.

Some hotels did not survive long, often as the result of being destroyed by fire.

Others, however, still exist today in other forms. One of these was the Mount Alexander Hotel, said to be the grandest on the goldfields. Originally it was two-storey, but in 1863 part of it was gutted by fire. Today only half the facade can be seen as a private dwelling on Main Road.

The British American Hotel once stood on the corner of Main and Golden Point Roads in Chewton. Some fine trees still remain on this site which displayed beautiful gardens where one could pick cherries, grapes or strawberries for a small charge.

In 1856, Lola Montez performed at the Manchester Hotel which was at the western end of Chewton. This hotel was the most active centre of the diggers political movement. Vincent Pyke, who became our first M.L.A., began his career there as an outstanding diggers' advocate.

The Red Hill Hotel, still operating 133 years later, was said to have been built from the money fetched from gold found whilst digging the cellars. The original building was actually destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1858 with an adjoining assembly hall, possibly the last of its kind in Australia.

It is possible the cellars of the Red Hill Hotel had a variety of uses during the gold rush. The 24" thick sandstone walls meant it was ideal for secure gold storage, a temporary lock-up, cold storage prior to a post mortem and an excellent hiding place for drinking after closing time.

located in Bendigo and the barometer score will also be reported regularly in the regional press.

N.R.C.L. will rail your trees promptly. You must then protect tubed stock from direct sunlight, water them regularly and plant them out as soon as possible. Remember, proper site preparation, careful planting procedures including initial watering, are essential. Also stock proof fences, rabbit control/protection and tree maintenance are vital for a successful result.

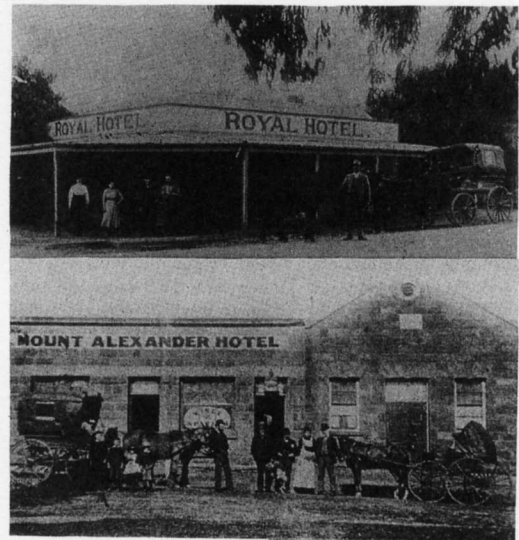
Project Branchout and N.R.C.L. wish you well with this and future tree planting ventures.

SHIRE HISTORY - Full Steam Ahead!

One man who used to frequently visit the Red Hill left his horse and buggy outside the front door so that when he had drunk too much the licensee would carry him out to the cart, slap the horse on the behind and send them home, safe and sound.

I'm sure many people these days wish their cars could be as well trained.

Anecdotes about hotels will be sought after for the publication of the Shire's history. There must be countless tales to be told. If only the walls could talk. If you have any humorous or interesting stories or photographs please contact Katherine Seppings, Main Road, Chewton, 72 4230.



TOP: The Royal Hotel - One of the 34 Hotels in Chewton which no longer exist. This Hotel was on the corner of Main and Fryers Roads, where the football oval is now.

BOTTOM: The Mount Alexander Hotel, originally 2 story was said to be the grandest on the goldfields. A section of it is now a private residence.

Private Works By Council

From time to time the council is able to undertake minor works for property owners when staff and plant are available.

Typical jobs include carting of gravel, grading of driveways, fire protection work, installation of vehicle crossings.

Call the Shire Engineer on 23 2302 if you wish to take advantage of this service.

Redesdale Water Supply Proposal

A well attended meeting in Redesdale Public Hall on July 3 heard the proposed water supply scheme explained by Mr. Martin Neave, representing consulting engineers Garlick and Stewart Pty. Ltd.

The original 1979 proposal was based on pumping from the Campaspe River to an elevated storage, from where the water would gravitate to consumers.

The scheme did not immediately qualify for government financial assistance. Following the 1983 drought the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission asked the council to investigate the feasibility of an alternative scheme utilizing bore water.

After consideration of the consulting engineers' further report in April, 1985, the council formed the opinion that a satisfactory supply could not be obtained from underground sources, and adopted the option of a surface water supply.

The latest report takes into account recent housing development, and reflects the substantial increase which has occurred in costs associated with reticulated water supplies.

At the public meeting, a new Redesdale Water Users' Committee was appointed to further investigate the proposal without committing the community.

Details of the report may be obtained from Cr. John Barker, Redesdale, telephone 25 3174, or from the Shire Office.

TOURISM AWARDS

The Victorian Tourism Commission and Develop Victoria Council are again inviting entries for the 1987 State Tourism Awards. These awards are for excellence in provision and operation of tourist facilities and attractions.

Application forms for entry kits are available to the public at your Council offices or the local library.

If you have any queries, please telephone Michael Dennis at the Victorian Tourism Commission (03) 619-9444.

ROADSIDE TIMBER

The removal of trees from road reserves is illegal, and offenders are liable to be prosecuted.

That was the clear message given at the June Council meeting after recent instances had been brought to notice. In some cases trees have been dropped over farm fences, entailing expense and annoyance to the property owners and allowing the escape of stock. The practice can also endanger road users.

The council does not have the same objection to the collecting of fallen timber for firewood, but the felling of trees for any reason, without approval from the council, will not be tolerated.

INSIGHT INTO NEWEST COUNCILLORS

Over the past year Metcalfe Shire Council has acquired four new Councillors, John Barker, Ian Cochrane, Don McGregor and John Petschauer.

Many of us may know these men either by face or name but few of us know the extent of their ideas, or how their position contributes to the community.

Interviews revealed that all four councillors are relatively new residents to the Shire, bringing to Council new vigour and enthusiasm for the place they have chosen to call home.

The following profiles give us an insight into their backgrounds, their work and their personal lives.



John Barker North Riding

Seven years ago John Barker had never heard of Redesdale.

Arriving home after a flight from Perth one day, he noticed in his local paper the 'House of the Week', featuring the home beside the Redesdale Iron Bridge.

John and his family had been living in Sunbury for ten years. They had no plan to move.

After tea that evening they went for a drive and viewed the house from the road. On a whim, the following weekend, they returned and bought the place.

'There was no logic in our decision. The house didn't suit us and had to be modified considerably. Fuel prices were rising and I needed to begin work early in the mornings, in Sunbury!'

John Barker is 43 years old. When he was sixteen he migrated from England with his family. A couple of days after his arrival in Melbourne he began work as a junior salesman, selling bathroom fittings in McEwans.

In 1964 John married. His wife, Norma who previously worked in security for Coles Stores is now there as a matron. She is also studying psychology in Castlemaine.

They have a 21 year old daughter who has a Bachelor of Science and works as a Micro Biologist and an 18 year old son who is an Apprentice Electrical Mechanic.

Thirteen years ago John Barker became a Flight Engineer Officer with Australian Airlines. His work involves assisting pilots, to ensure the safe completion of a flight. He is the technical member of the flight crew and provides the background on how systems work.

His job does take him away from his family for three or four days at a time, where he may travel from Melbourne to Perth to Sydney, then to Brisbane and back again.

'If I had my time over again I would have been a pilot, but that takes a lot of money', said John.

John Barker is very interested in electronics. His kitchen table was strewn with wires and tools and a little black box that would one day tell his watering system that due to the rain today it needn't operate.

Although John is something of an inventor, he explains it is more to do with collating ideas rather than constructing something totally original.

John Barker claims he did not join Council for egotistical

reasons. 'For several years locals were saying to me they needed someone from Redesdale. People like to bump into a Councillor in the street and for some residents the other Councillors seemed too far away. The North Riding has a small population. I didn't think I could provide a better service than already existed, but people were saying, 'we need you'. When Rita Barber resigned I took the position.'

John says he is here to hear complaints. He likes passing on information and enjoys being able to provide an explanation on the spot.

'It always gets down to dollars and cents. The people in Spring St. are giving us hell at the moment. Regardless of political point of view, the Victorian Ministry are very clever. They are re-distributing the burden of paying for services onto property owners. The system is unfair and the people who play piper don't call the tune anymore.'

John believes politics shouldn't come into Council but philosophies do.

Having a heifer on his five acres, John and family are definitely not farmers, but John is sympathetic to farmers' views.

'A farmer makes no more demands on our services than any other resident, so why should they pay thousands of dollars in rates. If the farmer didn't have the land he/she wouldn't have a job. If you believe in one vote, one value, you have to go all the way.'

John Barker is indebted to Cr. Mac Barty and likes his style. 'When pressure builds up Mac has a happy knack of getting to the crux of the matter.'

When John isn't flying around Australia or dealing with Council matters he plays a bit of golf at Heathcote. He was the founding member of the Sunbury United Sporting Club. He is the Apparatus Officer in the Redesdale Fire Brigade.

John also plays the Organ. His music can often be heard at dances in the Redesdale Hall or at Christmas parties.

Seven years later, John Barker is well and truly a part of Redesdale.

Ian Cochrane Taradale Riding

Ian Cochrane always wanted to live in the country, but up until six years ago, he lived in Melbourne. It was raining on the day, ten years ago, when Ian looked at land in Taradale. He liked what he saw.



'If you decide you like a place when it's raining, it must be good,' Ian said,

Aesthetics are important to Ian Cochrane. They should be. Ian has a Building Design and Landscaping business which he began on a full scale six years ago. He still runs an office in Melbourne, however, most of his work now comes from his own district.

Ian left school to work in a design office then returned to school to study for a Mechanical Design Certificate. Before completing this course he spent 6 months travelling overseas.

Ian then worked as a designer in the petro-chemical industry on gold and coal mines in Queensland and the Jabaroo oil field.

Ian Cochrane has been married fifteen years. His wife, Jill, is a bank accountant in Melbourne. There is little spare time in their lives together. Jill is the secretary of the Pipers Creek Wine and Food Society, to which Ian also belongs. He contributes cartoons to their newsletter. His satirical drawings have also been published in this Newsletter.

Ian enjoys sailboard riding, cross country running and competitive squash.

Three years ago he joined the Residents and Ratepayers Association because he believed they could tap resources that otherwise wouldn't be tapped. 'It showed people were interested in what was going on,' he said of the association. 'People should be more interested. If every riding was contested each year it would be great.'

In November last year Ian took his beliefs a step further and stood for Council. At 35 years of age Ian Cochrane is one of the youngest to ever be on the Metcalfe Shire Council.

'I live here and like the area. Rather than complain I wanted to do something constructive. Its pointless standing back and whinging.'

Ian believes the diverse backgrounds of our Shire Councillors is excellent.

'Metcalfe has one of the better rural Councils. They are conservative but I don't see that as a problem. We should be cautious and need to be wise. A lot of pressure comes from other Government departments, the economic climate, the holding back of funds, more responsibility is placed on local government and increased workload.'

Taradale is now coming of age, according to Ian Cochrane. 'It is at the stage where, with more building, people are worrying about their neighbours. Screening and landscaping are becoming important' he said.

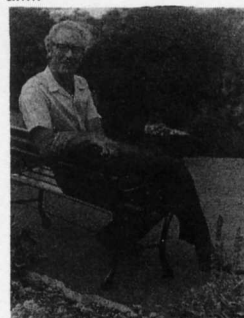
There is pressure these days to allow all kinds of development and although Ian is interested in aesthetics he is sympathetic to existing businesses.

He sees a problem in the future with more people moving into bushland estates, outside the existing towns, where there are no services and roads are in poor conditions. People choose to live in these environments but later yell at Council to have them improved to the standards

they were previously accustomed to.

It is in these areas where Ian finds much of his work. He prefers architectural design and landscaping to the petro-chemical industry. He shows an affinity and concern for his area.

He designed his own home, a job that took longer than any other. He now has no time to do the things he wants to around it. His working day begins at 7 a.m.



Don McGregor South Riding

'You expect Council to run business to suit you. That's the theory. Whether they really know what you want is another thing. Council can do with all the input that can be mustered. Use Councillors - that's what they're there for. All our Councillors are good and do consider things well. If you sat in the gallery you'd find they do.'

Don McGregor sat in the gallery for 22 out of 24 Council meetings before he stood for Council last July. At that time he was on the Residents and Ratepayers Association Committee. They needed someone in the gallery all the time.

Don and his wife Betty moved onto their property at Metcalfe from Melbourne three years ago. They became concerned about the Planning Scheme.

'I listened to all the arguments and felt I wanted to say something. You can speak after Council meetings but its not the same thing. I stood for Council as soon as a vacancy came up. By that time I knew everyone so well. I was able to transmit the feelings of ratepayers as an ex-Residents and Ratepayers Association Committee member. Council met most of what we wanted.'

Don went on to say the Residents and Ratepayers Association supported Council through the anti-Amalgamation battle and it brought them together. 'They saw our value and we needed them.'

Don is not the kind of person to sit back and watch. He wanted to have a voice in all matters in Council. 'There are lots of demands for money. You can't keep costs down from the gallery. The State Government are manipulative. They're cohercing and forcing Council to take over responsibilities which means rates will go up. The amount of road funds cut means we need another 20% on rates to cover it, without any cost of living increases. Library funds were also cut which is the most expensive human service we provide. No one wants to pay extra rates so I am fighting against increased costs.'

Don believes we should retain the country as country. 'The Melbourne attitude towards the country, we don't need.' He believes that a lot of people who move up here from Melbourne want the same level of services they had. He thinks they should be more independent.

Don is on the forward planning committee which looks ahead to see what the Council can aim for through possible objectives and costs.

'If you think something is controversial you should talk to

your Councillor because he/she will have to vote for it. Support It!' Don states emphatically.

Don McGregor came to the district for a quiet life and a change of lifestyle. He is 61 years old and has been married for 39 years. He has 3 children and 2 grandchildren.

Don was an Engineer at Mobil for 26 years. He spent 2 years with Woodside, a drilling organisation, setting up the North West Shelf drilling rig.

These days Don is a hobby farmer with 20 head of cattle to 'keep the grass down.' Once their house was built to lock-up stage he finished it. The house is full of his carpentry, as he enjoys making 'useful' pieces of furniture.

His main interest is in landscaping the property. 'I want to build a parkland around us,' Don explained. Even though he knows he won't live long enough to see it reach its potential it hasn't stopped him planting nearly one thousand trees.

'The strange thing about getting old is I still feel I relate to younger people. I may have more experience and knowledge except where we have different skills. I've never felt like a boss. Younger people seem to like me, I feel on the same plane with them. What I feel, is regardless of age.'

Don McGregor will be leaving a legacy not only with his parkland, but with his attitude.



John Petschauer Taradale Riding

John Petschauer is a person who likes to take control of a situation. He has strong leadership ability and feels very accountable in his position at work and in the community.

At 36 years of age John is a Prison Officer at the Castlemaine Gaol. His community involvement seems endless.

John migrated with his family from Austria to South Australia in 1956. He moved to Melbourne in 1971 and completed his trade as an electroplater. After spending two years in the Citizens Military Forces he joined the National Service where he worked as a Medical Orderly.

A resume of his work experience includes, Hotel/Motel Management, time at the Queensland Sugar Mills, on trains, in construction work (building a reinforced concrete chimney to 350' high). John has done core sampling on a coal drilling rig, has been an area manager for a painting company in Mackay and on and off has worked for his father, a baker.

Cont. P.4

Produced by -
KES CREATIONS
Main Rd., Chewton
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John Petschauer was a Prison Officer at Pentridge for seven years. He has been a Senior Officer at Castlemaine for two years.

'It's a good job with a variety of work', he explained. John is responsible for organising and overseeing the general daily running of the gaol. How does he feel about looking after 95 prisoners?

'They'll try you out every which way. It's an experience.'

John's interest in Council began as the treasurer for the Residents and Ratepayers Association. Through this involvement he learnt of the problems in the Shire. He is sympathetic to residents' complaints.

John moved to Taradale three years ago and built his own house. He was married one year ago. He won the Council election last year in which he defeated John Wilkinson.

The Planning Scheme was his main concern then. Now he is interested in being available for general matters in his riding. He would like to see the upgrading of the Taradale Mineral Springs and the development of a community area.

'I know more about my individual riding but I care about the betterment of the whole Shire. I don't like to see waste of ratepayers money. I am on Council to ensure ratepayers money is spent wisely and to assist in the development of the Shire.'

John Petschauer is on the Committee of Management for the Cobaw Community Health Centre. He is the Secretary of the Metcalfe Bicentennial Committee. He recently became the Senior Vice President of the Malmesbury-Taradale Lions Club. John is also Union President of the Victorian Public Service Association Prison Officers Sub Group.

And if that isn't enough, he is currently studying for a Diploma in Builders Design and Plan Drawing and a Certificate in Supervision.

John even has interests on top of all this! He plays the piano accordion and organ. When he was 16 years old he studied at the Lou Toppino School of Music and achieved a bronze medallion. He has performed for the Austrian Folk Dance group in Melbourne.

As a hobby he builds furniture and he has a general interest in the Bendigo Speedway.

There is a saying that definitely applies to John Petschauer, 'If you want something done, go to someone who's busy.'

HISTORY FOR SALE

The Council has for sale copies of "Pastoral Settlement in Northern Victoria, Volume 2: The Campaspe District", by J.O. Randall.

The book records the initial occupation of over thirty runs on or adjacent to the Campaspe River, the struggles between pastoralists and aborigines, establishment of the public houses and village settlements which existed before the discovery of gold, and the bitter fight to "unlock the lands" so that small settlers could take up blocks. The book of 602 pages is excellent value at only \$17.

CONTACT WITH COUNCIL

Ratepayers and other persons having business with the Council are reminded that the Shire Office telephone numbers are: (054) 23 2202; 23 2302.

The postal address of the Council is Shire Office, Metcalfe 3448.

The Shire Office is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and 1.15 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The lost, injured and homeless —

No rest for Animal Aid

'Drinking when we are not thirsty and making love at all seasons: that is all there is to distinguish us from other animals.'

— Pierre-Augustin de Beaumarchais.

Unfortunately much of the human race believes there is something more which separates us from other animals. That 'something' being the tragedy of the natural world.

The less we identify ourselves with other animals - the less we care about ourselves; the more we separate ourselves from our natural environment with all its living creatures, its earth and its plants, the less we have to live for.

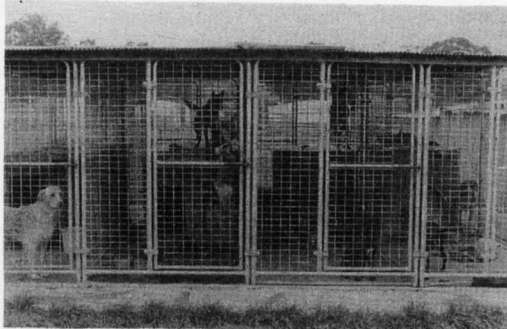
According to Castlemaine Animal Aid Secretary, Ann Quinton, the disrespect some people have for other animals is not through intentional cruelty, it is sadly, a tremendous amount of thoughtlessness.

'It's not that they don't care, they don't think!'

If this is true, how can we claim as humans, that above all other animals, we can be proud of being rational?

Animal Aid is a group of about fifty local volunteer workers who care about the plight of animals. The lost, injured and homeless animals come from Castlemaine, Metcalfe, Newstead, Maldon, Malmesbury, and even as far as Kyneton and Maryborough.

Most of the dogs come from the Shire of Metcalfe. Last year it cost Animal Aid \$15,000 to help the 400 animals placed in their care.



The treasurer of Animal Aid, Sue Atkinson, looks after the dogs at her kennels in Golden Point, Chewton. Ann Quinton houses the cats and puppies on her property in the Chewton Bushlands.

The morning I interviewed Ann Quinton, twelve cats were brought to her, with another four to come. Ann and Sue don't have any days off.

'You can't let up. There's no rest with animal care. Its constant, just like a farm,' said Ann.

Just like a family, I thought. Which is what people should think about considerably, before deciding to take care of an animal.

Animal Aid can't let up on fund raising either.

'You've got to have money to help the animals,' said Ann.

Last year Animal Aid raised \$1,000 per month from their Opportunity Shop in Castlemaine, garage sales, stalls, raffles and donations. They have a trust account, an inheritance from an animal lover, which helps when months are bad. Castlemaine Council and businesses also contribute funds.

'Castlemaine people are very supportive,' said Ann.

The Opportunity Shop has a morning and afternoon shift and this is where the volunteers can really help.

'The ladies make up their own prices for items, so the incentive is there to see how much one can make during a shift. No one should be cold this winter, with babies clothes from ten cents up,' said Ann.

People can always help by donating to the shop. Bric-a-Brac is what is needed most. Clothing, books - anything at all is gratefully received.

Apart from the cost of food and veterinary care, Animal Aid want to improve some of the cages. The puppy runs and cat cages need concrete floors. Ann is paying for the concrete because the housing is on her land but Animal Aid volunteers will carry out the work. It is hoped that Metcalfe Shire Council will donate the sand required.

The amount of animals placed in the care of Animal Aid is increasing. Ann has, on average, twenty cats all the time. On average, three per week are put down.

'Personally, I'd like to keep all the animals until they had a home, to take them off the books and keep them myself for awhile. I don't like to see any of them go (put down). Damn it, I hate it!' said Ann, stroking one of the many dogs on her bed.

Animals are put down if they have an infectious disease or virus. Last year, sixteen abandoned pups were found in Metcalfe with the dreaded Parvo virus and had to be destroyed.

Feral cats are also destroyed. Feral cats are a huge problem because they kill so much native wildlife. They are generally diseased and need to be put down.

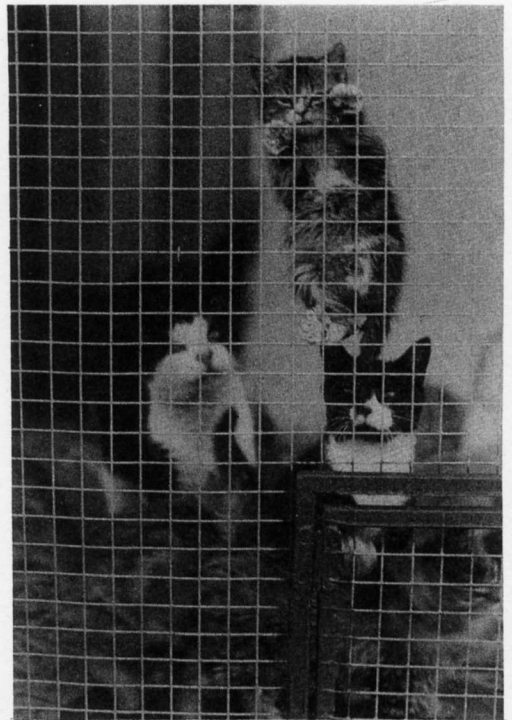
When cats are dumped they either die of starvation or turn feral (wild). Their young are bred much larger and more ferocious than the domestic cat in order to survive.

'If you don't want an animal, for God's sake bring it to us,' urged Ann. 'If you are aware of feral cats on or near your property don't shoot them. The risk of only injuring them is too great. They are difficult to catch unless you use a possum trap.'

Possum traps are cages, unlike rabbit traps which harm the animal, they only capture. Animal Aid has a possum trap which they loan out.

Wandering dogs are also a major problem, although the unsuspecting owner its often not considered. However, it is a natural instinct for a dog to hunt, especially in packs, and unless your dog is locked up at night, you cannot guarantee it isn't killing sheep and therefore whether it will return by morning alive or uninjured.

Most farmers will shoot a dog which is roaming on the property. Some lay poisoned bait. There is little or no chance of saving your dog once it has eaten the bait. Poisoned bait should not be used because it is a non-selective killer. Native animals, domestic pets, even a child could fall victim.



Animal Aid has applied for a permit to keep wild native animals on Ann's property.

Occasionally they receive injured possums and foxes. Unfortunately they've died. There are more bird success stories. Healesville Sanctuary advises Animal Aid on the care of wild and native animals.

Any animal which is hurt or lost needs quiet attention. A seriously injured animal should either be taken directly to a Vet or phone a Vet and stay with the animal until help has arrived. A good Vet will come to the scene of an accident, but it is unfair to expect the Vet to go to a vague location and search the bush at 2a.m. for a kangaroo with broken legs.

Wild animals which are mishandled afterwards become shocked and traumatised and this leads to their death more than the injury itself.

The animal should be kept warm and its head hidden until it receives care. The minimum of handling is important. Birds particularly, should be kept in darkness when injured.

If you find a lost or injured animal, ring Animal Aid. Animal Aid keep animals for at least one month [kittens are kept longer]. 70% of cats are placed with new owners, while 85% of dogs receive a new home.

If you no longer want an animal, you are asked to advertise the pet before coming to Animal Aid. Dogs are more likely to sell than cats. When Animal Aid takes an unwanted pet from you, you will, understandably be asked for a donation.

Anyone wishing to obtain a pet from Animal Aid must pay \$25 for a dog. Puppies will be given their first immunization shots. To follow up the immunization and have the dog spayed, show the Animal Aid receipt to the Vet and you will receive a reduction in cost for these services. Return the Vet's receipt to Animal Aid and they will reimburse you \$15, which reduces the cost of your new dog to \$10. The initial purchase cost of a cat is \$15.

In the past, Ann Quinton has given talks about animal care in schools. She aims to teach children that animals feel the same way as we do.

'I tell them, if you prick your finger it hurts, it hurts an animal too. If you're all cramped up in one spot, you're not happy. Neither is the animal.'

Children can relate to hunger and thirst and other discomforts. Fortunately not many children experience being really unwanted, unloved, lost in the bush, hit by a car.

We can only imagine.

Junior Animal Aid has 150 members. Junior Aides (under 16) receive a membership certificate and 'Animalation', a quarterly newsletter, sponsored by local businesses.

Junior Aides are encouraged to contribute entries into 'Animalation' by receiving merit stars for their letters, poems, short stories and illustrations. The Junior with the most merit stars at the end of the year receives a \$10 toy voucher.

Animal Aid began ten years ago. In that time they have seen a lot of distressed animals in varying degrees of pain and anxiety.

Holiday periods are the busiest times for Animal Aid. Animals that are left, with all the owners' good intentions of leaving out food and water, often find that another animal has taken their food. They are also lonely. Each one can become a stray.

Ann says, dogs treated well, can live for a long time. An aging dog shouldn't be put down unless it is suffering a great deal of pain. What many people don't realize is that animals can usually be treated for the pain.

Animal care comes down to basic knowledge. We don't always need a vet for our pets, but we need to recognize when one is needed. People who suffer from particular ailments or loneliness need animals too. The recovery rate of patients due to the company and touch of an animal is remarkable.

Animal Aid hope to find a suitable dog for Alexander Home and Hospital for the Aged. Of all our senses, the sense of touch is often disregarded for its importance to our well being. Stroking a cat or dog is not just a pleasurable sensation. It can reduce high blood pressure and aid general good health. It also gives us an outlet for a very important psychological need, the primary bond, to love.

Animal Aid cannot enforce any law on people seemingly being cruel to other animals. Deciding what is cruel has a fine line.

Do people who leave their dogs on a chain all day, or in a car on a hot day, or let them wander the streets act cruelly, uncaringly or just without thought?

The best way any of us can help Animal Aid is helping the animals directly. Keep your eyes open.

'Animals are such agreeable friends - they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms.' - George Elliott.