

HUME

# Stats show cases of pet cruelty

## RSPCA RELEASES NUMBERS

Natalie Savino

MORE than 300 cases of animal cruelty were reported in Hume throughout 2014-15.

According to the RSPCA, 326 complaints of mistreatment were made across the municipality – just three less than the year before.

Last year, two dogs were rehomed following alleged cruelty in Coolaroo.

According to the council, the owner pleaded guilty to 16 charges, including failing to provide sufficient water, food and shelter to a male doberman in his care.

RSPCA Victoria's 2014-15 annual report reveals 10,740 complaints of animal cruelty and 19,461 offences were responded to statewide.

RSPCA Victoria senior inspector Simon Primrose said the large number of reports around lack of suf-

ficient food, water and shelter were due to a range of factors, including socio-economic and environmental issues such as drought.

"If the issues are not managed by the owners or person in charge, effectively the situation can turn quite nasty," Mr Primrose said. "There is no excuse for animal cruelty."

Individuals proven to have committed an act of animal cruelty can face fines of up to \$37,310 or 12 months' imprisonment.

Offences that result in the death or serious disablement of an animal can incur fines up to \$74,620 or two years' imprisonment.

The RSPCA can also apply for a 10-year ban against offenders owning animals.

To report cases of animal cruelty, phone 9224 2222 or visit [rspcavic.org](http://rspcavic.org)

BROADMEADOWS



Doris Xerri, front left, with members of the senior social club.

Picture: PAUL LOUGHNAN

## Senior club's activities to lift energy

BOCCE, beach days and community harvests are some of the options being rolled out for Hume seniors.

The Mature Active Persons Social Club has kicked off in Broadmeadows to get

ageing citizens more active. Secretary Doris Xerri said she wanted to introduce some extra activities for over 55s, including bocce, computer lessons and "old fashioned day trips".

"I'm trying to offer them friendship," Ms Xerri said. The group has signed up about 50 members and hopes to be granted extra hours to run activities. Details: 9309 9001 or 0423 527 618

BROADMEADOWS

## GP clinic open for more hours

PATIENTS will soon benefit from extended opening hours at the Dianella GP Super Clinic, which is preparing to celebrate its one-year anniversary.

The clinic turns one mid-next month but will open its doors seven days a week, starting February 1.

It will be open Monday to Friday from 8am-10pm; Saturday, 9am-5pm; and Sunday, 10am-5pm.

New GPs and nurses have joined the team, with more languages spoken by medical staff.

TULLAMARINE

## Airport figures take right off

MORE than 8.7 million international travellers passed through Melbourne Airport in 2015, a 9 per cent rise on the previous year.

Latest figures show an extra 719,031 international passengers flew in and out of Melbourne across the year, with North Asia leading the growth.

China was the standout market, recording a 26 per cent jump in passengers compared to 2014.

Domestic passengers rose 3 per cent to 24.2 million.

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