

MACEDON RANGES

# Burnout takes toll

### Rescuers need rescuing as challenges grow, volunteer numbers dwindle

Barry Kennedy

A GENERATIONAL change is needed among the ranks of volunteer wildlife rescuers.

That's the view of leading Macedon Ranges rescuer Manfred Zabinkas, 57, who is seeing burnout take its toll on rescuers.

The thankless task of putting down injured animals such as kangaroos at roadsides, usually by gun shot, is carried out by only a handful of volunteers.

"Not only do we have a yearly reduction in our volunteer numbers from burnout, but many of our committed ones are just getting older," Mr Zabinkas said.

"Regardless of the barriers we face, we are not going to give up on our animals." Training is available for

those who would like to help as either a rescuer, licensed foster carer or shelter volunteer, he said.

Last week, road strikes data released by insurance agency AAMI revealed Sunbury as the worst postcode in Victoria for claims involving animals being hit. Gisborne was fifth.

"All we believe as rescuers is no animal deserves to suffer," Mr Zabinkas said. "The public have an expectation rescuers are going to retrieve a joey out of a pouch and put an animal out of their misery and we have wide support in this part of the world."

Macedon Ranges Wildlife Network attended 1660 animal incidents in 2017.

For volunteering information and to support Macedon Ranges Wildlife Network, visit [mrwn.org.au](http://mrwn.org.au)



Brody gets into the spirit of dental health. Picture: ROB LEESON

## CARING FOR YOUNG PEARLY WHITES

SUNBURY Community Health is encouraging families to get their children's teeth checked.

The call comes as the service battles misconceptions and misunderstandings about dental check-ups.

According to Royal

Children's Hospital statistics, only 32 per cent of preschoolers have visited a dentist, while 33 per cent of children do not clean their teeth twice a day.

To combat the high rates of children taking inadequate care of their teeth, the health

service will make flying visits to several childcare and early learning centres in coming weeks.

All children up until age 12 can access community dental care at Sunbury Community Health and it's free for families with a health care card.

Non-cardholders will pay \$33 for a course of care and the cost per family will not be more than \$132.

Sunbury Community Health Dental Service operates 8.30am to 4pm Monday to Friday. Details: 9744 4455.



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