

OAKLEIGH SOUTH

Brutal animal attack

POSSUM SURVIVES BASHING

Tim Michell

A BABY possum left for dead after being beaten in a heartless attack is on the mend.

The brushtail possum was left bloodied after being bashed in the head several times during the attack, which is believed to have taken place on Wednesday June, 6.

The animal was then placed in a plastic bag and dumped in Huntingdale Primary School, where shocked pupils discovered the possum at recess the next day.

The male possum has been recovering at Oakleigh South Wildlife Shelter.

Carer Michelle Phillips said the possum was lucky to be alive.

"It's another absolutely horrific attack," Ms Phillips said.

RSPCA inspector Simon Primrose said he was appalled by the incident.

POSSUM POINTS

IF you find an injured animal:

- **Don't** attempt to move it. Animals can get a sudden adrenaline rush, which could cause them to strike
- **Try** to keep the animal warm and safe to ensure it stays calm
- **Don't** feed it. In most cases, animals have special dietary requirements and could already be sick
- **Contact** your nearest wildlife shelter. Oakleigh South Wildlife Shelter can be reached on 0411 600 591

The attack comes after two possums had their throats slit and tails chopped off in Chadstone's Batesford Reserve last month.

Is enough being done to stop animal attacks?
waverleyleader.com.au



Michelle Phillips has been caring for a baby brushtail possum since it was left for dead earlier this month.

Picture: EUGENE HYLAND N51WG209

fast lane

Road deaths

FEWER people are dying on Monash's roads compared with previous years, the latest TAC statistics show. In the 12 months to April this year, there had been three fatalities on the roads, compared with five deaths in the previous 12-month period, and seven in the 12 months before April 2010. TAC claims involving acute hospital admission remained steady, with 160 cases in the 12 months to October last year and the same number the year before.

Health donation

ATTENDEES at a Ladies' Night Out held in Mulgrave earlier this month raised more than \$700 for the Ovarian Cancer Foundation. Businesses Mineralogie and Tan Solutions held the event on June 5, where comedian Ben Price performed to a sell-out crowd of 120. Raffle tickets and 10 per cent of product sales went to the charity, with \$701.80 raised.

take a number 94.2

THE percentage of trains that arrived on time on the Glen Waverley line during May. The figure was a 2.5 per cent improvement on May 2011. There were also significant punctuality and reliability improvements on the Cranbourne and Pakenham lines.

CLAYTON

Views diverge on footpath trading

TRADERS are split over a footpath trading policy.

Monash Council will extend the policy to the Clayton and Mt Waverley shopping precincts, along with Pinewood, from July 1.

The policy, which already

applies in Glen Waverley and Oakleigh, separates footpaths into three sections — a kerb zone, trading zone and pedestrian zone.

Clayton Traders Association president Bill Pontikis said traders believed the

policy would have long-term benefits for business.

But Mt Waverley business owner Ian Rusch, who operates Waverley Vision Care, said traders near his business saw it as their right to trade on the footpath.



Clayton trader Bill Pontikis

LINKS SHOPPING CENTRE

\$55m retail hub opens

ABOUT 400 retail jobs will be on offer at the new The Links retail centre, which opens in Oakleigh South this week. The Warrigal Rd centre will boast a Masters Home Improvement stores, a venture between-

Woolworths and US home improvement chain Lowe's. It will also include a Woolworths, food outlets, Australia Post, newsagent, gift store and hairdresser. The \$55 million development covers 62,100sq m.

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