

## Support service now safer thanks to donation

By David Lee

THE GOULBURN Valley Pregnancy and Family Support Service (GVFSS) now has a safer premises following the completion of security upgrades made possible by a donation of \$15,000 by the Community Fund Goulburn Valley.

With the service having experienced a lot of vandalism and safety issues in the past and recent times, the donation has seen the facility undergo several upgrades. The upgrades include new locks to the entry, client office and volunteer storeroom doors that require lock tags to open, the installation of security cameras and a duress button system as well as a custom built fire door at the rear of the building with crime proof security mesh.

GVFSS: Caroline Chisholm Society lead practitioner, Maree Chin said, "These upgrades are about helping our staff and those who use our service to feel more safe and secure."

"Most of the works carried out were done by locals and we are very happy with how things are at the facility now."

"We just feel so much safer and are just so thankful to the



**SECURITY UPGRADES COMPLETE...** From left, Goulburn Valley Pregnancy and Family Support Service: Caroline Chisholm Society lead practitioner, Maree Chin and Community Fund Goulburn Valley CEO, Andrea McNabb wearing the new duress buttons and wrist lock tags in front of the new security fire exit door, which was part of the security upgrades that were purchased thanks to funding donated by the community fund. Photo: Katelyn Morse.

community fund for their generous support."

Community Fund Goulburn Valley CEO, Andrea McNabb said, "We have been a long time supporter to the GVPSS."

"The safety of the volunteers, staff and community who utilise the service is paramount and we are proud to have been able to help with that."

## Barking mad at senseless vandalism

By David Lee

USERS of the purpose made dog park on Paterson Road and their pooches were barking mad when the Ducat Reserve park was closed recently, following the vandalism of a shade sail and theft of fencing panels at the popular park.

The damage, which is estimated to cost \$5,000 to repair, was believed to have taken place between Monday, January 28 and Wednesday, January 30, with council officers noticing the damage on Wednesday morning.

Greater Shepparton City Council Manager Parks Sport and Recreation, Tim Zak said, "It looks as though somebody has pulled a bin up to the shade sail and climbed on top, using it as a trampoline, which is so dangerous. People have died doing things like this."

"We need to work out whether insurance



**DAMAGE TO PARK...**

Greater Shepparton City Council Manager Parks Sport and Recreation, Tim Zak at the Ducat Reserve dog park on Paterson Road, which was recently vandalised. Photo: Katelyn Morse.

will cover the damages caused but either way the cost of repair will be borne by ratepayers.

"This is going to put things back for this projects and those who use the dog park are quite unhappy."

"Somebody would have seen something... the vandals even left their pliers at the scene."

Greater Shepparton City Council Director of Infrastructure, Phil Hoare said, "This behaviour by individuals shows little or no regard for our community and is extremely disappointing."

"We have already undertaken works to repair the fence so that the facility can be used however the replacement of the shade sail will take some time."

## What do you think about the railway overpass concept?

THERE are just 12 days left to have your say on the Shepparton Railway Station Pedestrian Overpass Concept Plan and the Shepparton Railway Station Shared Pathway Linkages Concept Plan, with residents urged to have their opinions heard.

Submissions can be made by post to Greater Shepparton City Council, Locked Bag 1000, Shepparton VIC 3632, by emailing council@shepparton.vic.gov.au, or via the online form on council's website.

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