

# Goulburn Post

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## All creatures great and small walk the walk

THERE was plenty of bark and bite at Victoria Park yesterday, as hundreds of dogs and their owners took park in the Million Paws Walk and BBQ.

Among those helping to raise funds for the local branch of the RSPCA was Connor Lang and his friendly Border Collie-cross shorthair, Paddy (both pictured).

At least 200 dogs - two goats, a miniature pony and a Dorper-cross lamb called Spot - took part in the walk around the Victoria Park.

Their owners then tucked into a tasty BBQ lunch complete with refreshments.

"It's staggering," RSPCA Goulburn president Marilyn Manfred said of the number of pets involved this year.

"This is one of the biggest turn-outs I've seen."

All the money raised will be invested in local RSPCA projects, she said.

"Today would not have been possible without the support of local business houses, our many volunteers, the local media and, of course, everyone who came here today," Mrs Manfred said.

■ More photos Wednesday

# Feds fight for workers

By LOUISE THROWER

FEDERAL politicians Senator Ursula Stephens and Hume MP Alby Schultz have taken up the cause of former Mass Steel workers and suppliers.

The north Goulburn steel business closed down on May 9, leaving 15 workers redundant.

Some employees claimed the operation, which traded under Mass Australia Pty Ltd, hadn't paid their superannuation.

Several suppliers have also alleged unpaid invoices.

Senator Stephens said she'd referred the workers' claims to Minister for Industrial Relations

## Politicians step in after Mass Steel closure

and Superannuation Bill Shorten, whose office was investigating the matter.

"I am currently in the process of organising a meeting between the employees and a representative from the Australian Workers Union (AWU), who have the power to enter premises and scrutinise records pertaining to employees' payment history," Senator Stephens said.

Former workshop foreman Chris Anable, who was retrenched last November, previously told the Post his superannua-

tion payments of \$276 a fortnight appeared on his payslips.

Yet upon checking with the superannuation company, he said he discovered Mass Steel hadn't paid any money over the nine months he was employed.

He's pursuing \$5000 in allegedly unpaid super through a protracted Australian Taxation office (ATO)

Former quality assurance officer, Mario Beltrame claimed the company owed him \$34,000 in superannuation and long service leave.

He too is chasing the money through the ATO and the NSW Fair Work Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman's office has confirmed the investigation, but a spokesperson said it was inappropriate to comment until it was complete.

Mass Steel managing director Rohan Arnold said the company paid superannuation quarterly, not weekly. Consequently, some was naturally outstanding.

"But I believe some are owed super beyond that and the ATO are involved," he said.

He previously told the Post he hoped to resolve the problem by June 30 and undertook to pay any ATO penalties. Mr Arnold disputes Mr Beltrame's claims.

In regard to other workers, Senator Stephens said it appeared the company had incorrectly completed employee/employer separation forms, which could delay Centrelink assistance.

Mr Arnold said if this was the case, it could easily be corrected.

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