

GuideDogTales



International Guide Dog Day
Wrap-Up!

A message from the CEO

Though the weather has been cooling down, things here at Guide Dogs Victoria have definitely been heating up! We've had a busy first few months with many wonderful activities and there's been a fantastic buzz here which I am sure will continue throughout the year.

Since our last issue, we have celebrated International Guide Dog Day, with Guide Dogs Victoria championing the "Access All Areas" message throughout the day. On this day, we also honoured the link between us and the ANZACs with a beautiful function held at the Shrine of Remembrance where we recognised the efforts of some of our most valued members from the Guide Dogs Victoria community. You can read more about the event on page 7.

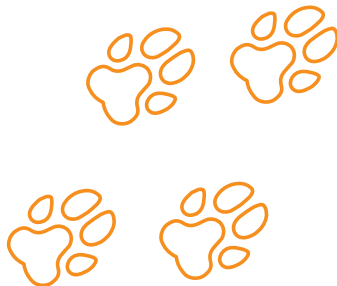
On Sunday 3rd May, we held our inaugural Dogs Unite walk at Hays Paddock. More than 150 walkers were up bright and early to take part in this dog walk with a difference and we couldn't have been more thrilled with the turn out for our first year. We're already looking forward to our next big event, which will be held in July. On Sunday 26th July, we will once again be participating in Run Melbourne. This year, we are raising the bar and aim to raise \$60,000 to help children with vision loss gain independence and confidence. Willow and I will be taking part so join us and Team GDV by getting your running/walking shoes on and registering today!

Finally, I encourage you to read the story about Jen and her Guide Dog Keelan on page 5. Keelan has made the world of difference to Jen, providing her with so much confidence and independence. It is these stories which inspire us to do what we do every day, and it is with your help that we can make it all possible.

Until next time, thank you for all your continued generosity and support.

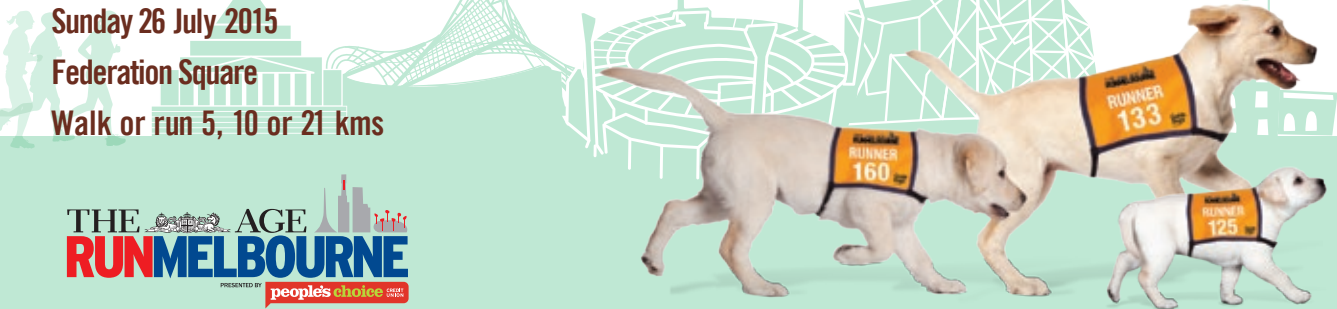
Warmly,

Karen Hayes
Chef Executive Officer



JOIN THE TEAM
RAISE \$60,000 TO HELP
KIDS WITH VISION LOSS
GAIN INDEPENDENCE

Sunday 26 July 2015
Federation Square
Walk or run 5, 10 or 21 kms



Guide Dogs
VICTORIA

Visit our Everyday Hero page and select Guide Dogs Victoria as your chosen charity:
<https://runmelbourne2015.everydayhero.com.au/team-guide-dogs-victoria>
For more information contact us on 9854 4444 or fundraising@guidedogsvictoria.com.au

CONGRATULATIONS to our latest graduates



GIDEON



HOLLY



INGRAM



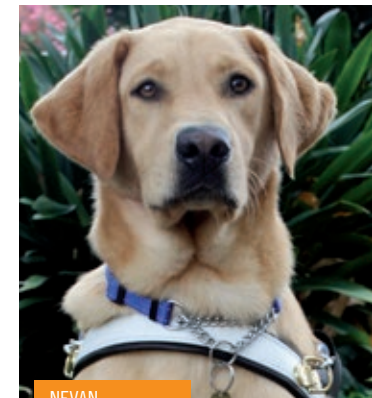
JAKE



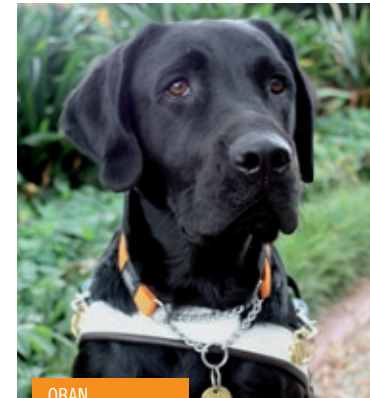
LARRY



NADINE



NEVAN



OBAN



OLGA



PIERCE

Caulfield Charity Race Day

Guide Dogs Victoria will be partnering with the Melbourne Racing Club for the annual Charity Race Day on **Saturday, 19th September, 2015** at Caulfield Racecourse!

We invite you, our dear friends, to join us on the day for live performances, competitions, family entertainment and more.

The annual Charity Race Day aims to raise much needed funds, with 80% of proceeds from ticket sales donated to your nominated charity. By nominating Guide Dogs Victoria, you will help breed, raise and train Guide Dogs for Victorians who are blind and vision impaired whilst celebrating an iconic sporting event in Melbourne.

Date: Saturday, 19th September, 2015
Location: Caulfield Racecourse entry via Gate 22.
Prices: Adult: \$25.00, Concession: \$10.00
Child (under 14): Free
Other hospitality packages available.

To purchase tickets and support Guide Dogs Victoria please visit:
<http://mrc.racing.com/calendar/2015-09-19/charity-race-day>



Dog tale Zaida

In this edition of Guide Dog Tales, we introduce you to Zaida, a Guide Dog with more than one important job.

Hello, my name is Zaida and I'm eight years old. I've been guiding my best friend Ann for four years so far. My name in Arabic means 'lucky' and that's how I feel every day that I am with Ann.

I was very excited when I first met Ann and happy that we bonded so quickly. I knew I was Ann's first Guide Dog, so I was determined to show her everything I had learnt through Guide Dog training and to do my very best for her.

I live in Bendigo with Ann, who always tells me how much I've helped her in her day-to-day life. I take her to the shops, the chemist, to the hairdressers and help her through the train station. Ann tells me that because of me, she was able to continue working after she lost her eyesight. She says I do a wonderful job for her, but I know her job was just as important.

I accompanied Ann to her workplace where she counselled people of all ages. Before heading into work, Ann would take my harness off at the front door. I knew I was still being a guide for Ann, but having my harness off allowed us to bend the rules a little so that Ann's clients could pat and stroke me when they were feeling upset. I didn't mind this at all, because I could immediately tell that it made her clients feel a lot better. That was when I knew I was more than Ann's guide – I became a source of comfort for her clients too, which made me feel really important and proud inside.

Ann has since retired due to health reasons, but my new role as a comforter hasn't gone away. When Ann goes into hospital for treatment, I am there by her side. We are regular visitors so the doctors, nurses and other patients in the hospital have also gotten to know me, and I've loved getting to know them too. They even made me a hospital tag which has the ID number "K-9" and my name as "Zaida Superdog"! It makes me feel really happy when I've been able to brighten people's day just by being there for them.

When I'm not working, I love having fun! I like to jump in the air and spin around when I'm happy. My favourite game is tug-of-war, and I let my opponent win...sometimes!

Ann is a great companion; she's always telling me that I am a sweet, sensitive and beautiful soul. I can say the same of her, and I'm so proud to be her companion, friend and Guide Dog.

For more information on how you can help puppies grow into future Guide Dogs, sign up to our Puppy Pals program



Guide Dog Zaida

BECOME A PUPPY PAL TODAY,
YOUR SUPPORT WILL CHANGE LIVES.
EVERY GUIDE DOG WE BREED, RAISE, MAINTAIN
AND TRAIN COSTS OVER **\$35,000**

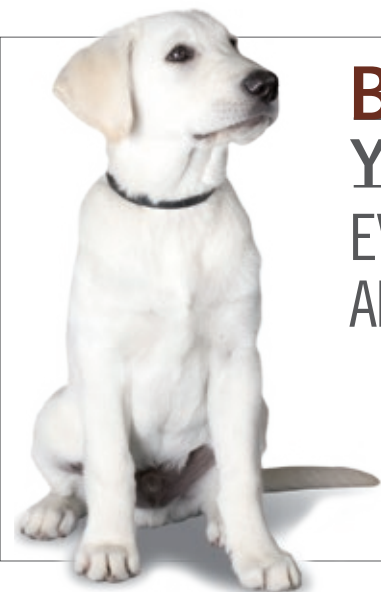
\$25
PER MONTH

By making a regular gift you will help fund the critical raising and training programs required to prepare puppies for a career as a skilled Guide Dog.

From as little as \$25 per month you can develop a relationship with some very special dogs. As a Puppy Pal you will be able to help name the litter, track their progress through regular **Pupdates** and attend **Meet the Pups** events.

Thank you for your kind support.
To find out more call us on 03 9854 4444.
www.guidedogs victoria.com.au

Guide Dogs
VICTORIA



Discovering a new perspective

Thirty-year-old Jen was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa, an inherited, degenerative eye disease when she was in her teens. Although she had been born with it, no one suspected she had the condition because it took years for her eyesight to deteriorate. When Jen found that she had to sit closer to the black board in class, everyone thought she just needed glasses.

"It was a shock when I was diagnosed with the condition. I felt fearful and anxious. The world became a much scarier place. I found out that my condition would only worsen and I couldn't help feeling really sad about the things I soon wouldn't be able to do anymore, like going to a bookshop and flicking through the pages of a book."

Since then, Jen's vision has become much worse. She now has no peripheral vision and her centre vision is very blurry. "I stopped doing lots of things as I felt more and more nervous going out by myself. I lost my freedom and my confidence."

At first Jen denied that her vision impairment had changed her life for ever. "I didn't want to be perceived as a person with a disability. I didn't want people to treat me differently, so I avoided using a cane. I'd fold it and hide it in my handbag."

Jen's opthalmologist referred her to Guide Dogs Victoria, saying: "A lot of people who are blind think that having a Guide Dog means you've reached the end of the road, but it will actually open up a world of freedom and independence for you."



Jen and Guide Dog Keelan graduating



Jen and Guide Dog Keelan

Those words made all the difference to Jen, and by 2013, Jen decided to get a Guide Dog. Her vision had again deteriorated and she no longer felt confident enough with a cane. When Keelan was identified as a suitable match for Jen, they trained together at Guide Dogs Victoria's headquarters in Kew for three weeks with Guide Dogs Mobility Instructor Mark.

"Those three weeks were priceless. Guide Dogs Victoria's staff and Mark made it a fun, caring and respectful environment, which is what I needed as I also had to deal with my own emotional ups and downs."

Keelan has proved to be the gateway to a new world of confidence, independence and happiness for Jen. "It's so different with a dog. People are fascinated by Guide Dogs and they don't even ask me about my vision impairment, which is great because I don't want to talk about my eyesight. We end up having really nice conversations about Keelan! It's a million times easier to get around the office buildings at work and I'm so much more confident."

Your generosity opens up worlds of opportunity and independence for people like Jen, who are part of our community. To help us give more happy endings to many more inspiring stories of people like Jen, please donate. Thank you.

For the love of animals

Guide Dogs Victoria is fortunate to have many supporters deserving of the highest recognition, so we were thrilled when our bequestor and volunteer, Viv Williams, was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her service to the welfare and protection of animals, and to the community.

As a child, Viv felt a special affinity with animals and this sense of mission led her to become involved with the Guide Dogs Victoria, Australian Animal Protection Society and a number of other animal welfare groups. "I support Guide Dogs Victoria because it includes two of my passions - dogs and helping people in need, especially those who are vision impaired."

One lucky day for Guide Dogs Victoria, Viv attended a function here with a friend and fellow supporter. As a former secondary school principal who had seen a number of vision impaired students struggle with their disability, she was well aware of the social isolation faced by these children.

Combined with her love of dogs it all made sense; soon after, Viv started volunteering in her typical hands on approach to life. Now a much loved and appreciated member of the volunteer team, Viv continues to use her talents as an educator to take new volunteers under her wing and show them the ropes.

While treasurer of a well-known animal protection group, Viv came to understand how difficult it is to raise sufficient funds to keep organisations functioning effectively.

After meeting the legendary stud dog Otus, Viv decided to join our bequest society, The Otus Fellowship. She became one of the very special group of people who have included a gift to Guide Dogs Victoria in their Wills.

She is keenly aware of the vital role that gifts in Wills play in allowing our important work to continue. "This gift will be sufficient to cover all costs for at least one guide dog, possibly two. My aim is to significantly change at least one person's life for the better," she said.

We are all enormously grateful that Viv and all our other supporters have chosen to be part of the Guide Dogs Victoria family. Her work and her generosity will ensure that our mission can be supported long into the future.

If you would like to find out how you can help ensure the future of our wonderful Guide Dogs by including a gift to Guide Dogs Victoria in your Will, please contact us on 9854 4444 or on bequests@guidedogsvictoria.com.au



Dogs Unite for Guide Dogs Victoria



At the start line: Karen our CEO alongside Guide Dogs Victoria Ambassadors Mitch Clark, Elliot Barbour and Jo Silvagni

On Sunday 3rd May we held the inaugural Dogs Unite walk at Hays Paddock Kew.

We were lucky to be blessed with beautiful weather on the day, and all our doggy participants looked amazing in their bright orange Hero Capes. We attracted more than 150 participants on the day and raised almost \$28,000 to go towards breeding, raising and training a Guide Dog.

Our top five fundraisers included our very own Willow and Sparky, among other long-term supporters.

Ambassadors Jo Silvagni, Mitch Clark and Elliot Barbour also joined us for the day, and we heard some fantastic stories from Dorothy Docherty and tunes from James Ruffet.

Advance, NAB, Coles, Canning's free range butchers and Bakers Delight all pitched in with both cash and in-kind donations.

Thank you again to all staff and volunteers and for your support in the lead up to the event.

If you would like to be notified about Dogs Unite 2016, please register with our Community Fundraising Coordinator at dogsunite@guidedogsvictoria.com.au

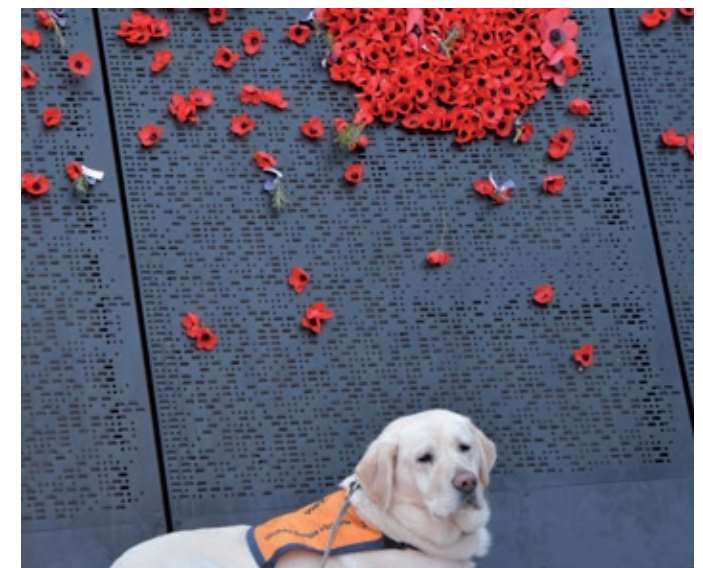
International Guide Dog Day 2015

We celebrated International Guide Dog Day on Wednesday 29th April 2015. This day was not only for acknowledging the wonderful work Guide Dogs do for the blind and vision impaired community, but a chance to champion the "Access All Areas" message. We recently conducted a survey which found that 64% of vision impaired Guide Dog handlers have been discriminated against by other people because of a vital mobility aid, their Guide Dog. We want to turn this statistic around.

On the day, Guide Dogs Victoria honoured the link between International Guide Dogs Day and the ANZACs at the Shrine of Remembrance with some inspirational presentations from returned soldiers, including our very own John Gosling OAM. The first Guide Dog training schools were established in Europe during World War I to help returning veterans who were blinded in combat.

We also took the opportunity to recognise the efforts of some of our most valued members from the Guide Dogs Victoria community. For the second year in a row, we awarded the Freedom, Inspiration and Independence Awards.

The Freedom Award recognises an individual or organisation that has provided an outstanding contribution through their commitment to servicing the vision impaired members of their local community. This year, it was awarded to **Norm and Carol Hastings**.



The Inspiration Award recognises a community or local government organisation that has proactively demonstrated leadership by engaging in activities that enhance independent outcomes for people who are blind and vision impaired. This year, it was awarded to **Metro Trains**.

The Independence Award recognises an employee and a volunteer who lives the values of Guide Dogs Victoria every day, providing exceptional service to all our stakeholders. The award went to **John Gosling OAM** and **Jeremy Feiglin from Keelins Lawyers** respectively.

We would once again like to congratulate all the recipients and thank them for their ongoing and outstanding contribution to Guide Dogs Victoria.

THROUGH YOUR BEQUEST, YOUR SUPPORT WILL CHANGE LIVES.

WITH NO GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR THE BREEDING, RAISING AND TRAINING OF OUR GUIDE DOGS, BEQUESTS HELP TO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE.

Over 30% of our Guide Dogs have been bred, raised and trained due to the generosity of donors who have left a gift in their will. Your Bequest will help to restore dignity, confidence, independence and mobility to blind and vision impaired Australians.

Thank you for your kind support.
To find out more call us on 03 9854 4444.
www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au



New Kennels officially open!

Over the past 12 months and with the support of the Federal government and the generosity of our sponsors and donors, the Guide Dogs Victoria kennel complex has received a major upgrade.

Stage one has recently been completed. This involves the main operational areas including laundry and storage shed as well as a large part of our training kennels. We now have the capacity to accommodate up to 50 training dogs on site at any time.

The most significant improvement has been the installation of a major roof structure to cover the entire kennel complex. Dogs also have air conditioned and heated accommodation providing a comfortable environment for them year round.

We are extremely proud of the new facilities and grateful that we can continue to provide first class care to our beautiful dogs.



acknowledgements

GUIDE DOGS AUSTRALIA PARTNERS



GUIDE DOGS VICTORIA SUPPORTERS



GUIDE DOG SPONSORS

Strathmore Community Bank

Winter warmers for you!

With Winter on its way, we have just the perfect thing to keep you warm on those chilly nights ahead. Our high quality flannelette sheets are available in many print designs, plain colours and kids designs too.

Each set includes:

- 1 x flat sheet
- 1 x fitted sheet
- Pillowcases

Available in sizes:

Single, King Single, Double, Queen and King.

Print designs, plain colours and kids designs available.



To place your order or for any other merchandise enquiries please call telemarketing on 1800 013 015 or head to our online store at www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au

Upcoming Activities

26th July

RUN MELBOURNE Join Team GDV - get your running/walking shoes on and register today!

22nd August

GRADUATION DAY Celebrating the class of 2015!

19th September

CAULFIELD CHARITY RACE DAY - Join us for a fun day out at the races whilst supporting Guide Dogs Victoria

contact

ABN 68 004 621 461
2-6 Chandler Highway
Kew Victoria 3101
Telephone 03 9854 4444
Facsimile 03 9854 4500

www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au

