

Guide Dog Tales

The latest news from Guide Dogs Victoria

Autumn Issue 2016

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Dogs Unite

Join us for a fun family event on April 17

Dog Tale

Meet puppy in training, Imelda

Meet Emily

And Guide Dog hero, Zoran

See our
brand new
Kennels!



A message from Karen & Willow

Welcome to the first edition of Guide Dog Tales for 2016. I trust that you all had an enjoyable summer and you are as excited as I am for the amazing year ahead.

April will be a very busy month for us at Guide Dogs Victoria. We'll be kicking off a month of celebrating Guide Dogs with Dogs Unite and I'd like to extend a warm invitation to you all to join us for this great event on April 17. The flagship event will be hosted at Kew and for the first time events will also be held at Geelong, Ballarat and Gisborne. Read page 6 for more information.

For International Guide Dogs Day (April 27) this year, we are holding a fantastic exhibition at the State Library titled *ReCollections*. Contemporary artists and schools in Melbourne will be contributing to this inspirational exhibition, creating works of art based on our iconic collection dogs. The exhibition will be held from April 27 until May 11. Free entry.

This year, Guide Dogs Victoria will have a presence at the Dog Lovers Show, held at the Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton from April 29 until May 1. Come and visit our stand where you can learn more about Guide Dogs and see a demonstration from our talented trainers and Guide Dogs.

As you can see, we have a new look for Guide Dog Tales. I hope you enjoy it.

In this issue, you'll meet Guide Dog puppy in training Imelda and hear about 14-year old Emily



whose courageous journey will leave you inspired.

We also take the opportunity on page eight to farewell our President, Russell Walker and introduce you to our new President, Charles Thompson and Vice President, Iain Edwards

As you read through your copy of Guide Dog Tales we hope you feel part of the Guide Dogs Community. You truly play a vital role in enriching lives – we simply could not do our work without you.

Warmly,



Karen Hayes

Chief Executive Officer & Ambassador Dog Willow



Spot the Dog Quilt Cover Sale

Our new quilt covers are adorably adorned by puppies and paw prints!

Made from 100% Soft Touch Polyester.

Single Bed – \$65.00 + postage

Double Bed – \$85.00 + postage

Queen Bed – \$95.00 + postage

King Bed – \$105.00 + postage

Order yours today online at

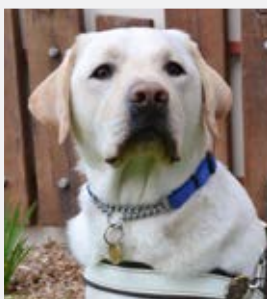
guidedogsvictoria.com.au



Congratulations to our latest Graduates!



Chime 



Devon 



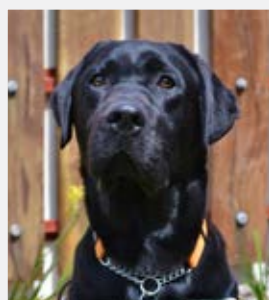
Domino 



Harlem 



Heather 



Julian 



Tessa 



**YOUR PET.
YOUR BEST FRIEND.
YOUR HERO.**

DOGS UNITE FOR GUIDE DOGS VICTORIA.

Sunday 17th April 2016
Kew, Gisborne, Bendigo,
Ballarat and Geelong.

dogsunite.raisely.com

Guide
Dogs
VICTORIA



Proudly sponsored by:



Dog Tale Imelda



Imelda

Hi, Imelda here. I'm representing the L Litter – my sisters and I are now six months old, and believe it or not, we have been really busy – especially me!

Not only am I a Guide Dog in training, but I've also been going to work everyday. My Puppy Raiser's colleagues have become my extended family and being part of their team gets me all the perks! I get to greet people at the door, go to client meetings, and visit the park every lunchtime. But my absolute favourite thing to do all day long is have a good snooze next to my Puppy Raiser's feet at work.

I visit a lot of cafés and offices during the week and everyone is always happy to see me. I always hear my name mentioned as I sit quietly under the table, and I

can hear all the good things they say about me. It makes me so proud when I hear my name followed by "Guide Dog in training".

But just between you and me...even though I love my job as an office dog, I'm looking forward to becoming a Guide Dog much more. My sisters and I take Puppy Class very seriously and we always practice what we've learnt at home. We've just started to take our training out of the classroom, going to busier places like pharmacies, newsagents and libraries. Becoming a Guide Dog is important business and we're all determined to get there.

Oh! Is that the time? I'd better be off to my next meeting. Before I go, I want to thank our Puppy Pals – their friendship and support means the world to us and someday soon I hope I'll be leading someone to their next meeting; confidently, safely and independently.

**Become a Puppy Pal today
From just \$25 a month!**

**Every Guide Dog we breed, raise and
train costs over \$35,000.**

Puppy Pals help fund the training that prepares our adorable Guide Dog puppies to support someone living with vision loss or blindness. You will help name litters, follow their amazing journey through regular **Pupdates** and attend **Meet the Pups** events.

So what are you waiting for?

Your suppwant will change lives forever.

Call 9854 4444 or visit

guidedogsvictoria.com.au



The L Litter – 2014 Puppy Pals Litter



Emily with Zoran

Stepping towards independence

Emily never dreamt of living every day the same way as sighted children would. She could not have been more wrong.

“Before Guide Dogs Victoria started giving me orientation and mobility training, there were many things I would never have thought of doing by myself. Today, I can lead an almost ‘normal’ life with my vision impairment.”

Thanks to all the support and training from Guide Dogs Victoria, fourteen-year-old Emily does not live life as a ‘blind person’. She lives her life as a person who happens to be blind.

Emily was diagnosed with Retinitus Pigmentosa, commonly known as ‘tunnel vision’, when she was nine months old, a hereditary disease she has had since birth. She sees things as if through a straw. “My vision is 3/30. Doctors tell me that in about ten years it will either stabilise or get much worse. Either that or they’ll find a cure for it...”

Paula with Emily



Emily is now ready to face the biggest challenge so far in her young life: to begin her training with a Guide Dog, so she can eventually enjoy the freedom, safety and independence she will require to build a future for herself. It is probably her biggest challenge so far and she’s feeling a little uncertain and frightened:

“I’ve been working with Guide Dog Zoran for a couple of weeks. It’s hard right now because I have to get used to Zoran’s pace. I have to learn how to handle the harness and give him all these commands.”

Emily has a great deal to get used to – this is a big assignment. Amongst other tasks, she has to learn how to:

- **Use the right tone of voice to give a command or praise for good work**
- **Feed, groom and toilet a dog everyday**
- **Learn all the commands to travel and cross roads safely – that comes with a lot of practice.**

And Zoran is a master instructor! Together with Guide Dog Mobility Instructor Paula, Zoran is gradually building Emily’s confidence. He can steer her around obstacles she does not even know are there.

It’s a big challenge for young people who are blind or vision-impaired to train with a Guide Dog, and your donation will help them succeed. Call 1800 988 626 to support young people like Emily. Thank you.

Calling all super dogs!



Uniting all super dogs

We are excited to announce that after the success of last year's Dogs Unite, it's back on Sunday April 17 2016!

By attending Dogs Unite, your dog will become the hero of the day, helping to raise much needed funds for their canine friends – the Guide Dog – who are the everyday heroes for people who are blind or vision impaired. Our fundraising target this year is \$35,000. This will cover the cost to breed, raise and train a puppy into a fully trained Guide Dog.

The main event is taking place at Hays Paddock in Kew where John Burgess will be our wonderful MC. There

will be doggy demos, competitions, jumping castles, face painting and much more. This year there will also be Dogs Unite walking events taking place regionally in Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Gisborne. It will be a great day for all your family, friends and of course your dog. It's easy to take part and it's only \$10 to register!

For more information and to start fundraising go to **dogsunite.raisely.com**

This event is generously supported by:



Introducing Clark!

We have a new addition to our Dogs Unite team...Clark, the Guide Dog super hero puppy! Clark will be recruiting his canine friends from around the world, just in time for Dogs Unite on Sunday April 17.

Follow his journey on Facebook and the Progress Leader.



Kennel opening

Our new Kennels and Training Facilities were officially opened by Josh Frydenberg MP on Monday March 7. Thanks to the support of the Federal Government and the generosity of some private trusts and individuals, we have been able to build fantastic new facilities for our future Guide Dogs.

The new facilities now have the capacity to accommodate up to 90 training dogs and puppies on site at any time. The most significant improvement has been the installation of a major roof structure to cover the entire kennel complex. This not only provides

protection from inclement weather to our dogs and staff, but also facilitates the collection of rain water which is recycled to sanitise the facility. A new state of the art pool has also been installed, where our dogs have the opportunity to complete their rehabilitation programs.

The new facilities have been divided up into wings, and named after the individuals who so generously supported the upgrade. They are The Amsden Wing, The Hennessy Wing and The Gabor Wing.

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



Meet John Burgess

You may know John Burgess from Wheel of Fortune and Catchphrase. We are excited to announce that John Burgess will be the MC for this year's Dogs Unite. He is an amazing Ambassador for Guide Dogs Victoria and we are so pleased that he will be present at our event to help us celebrate our canine heroes. John Burgess has also kindly donated his velvety smooth voice to read out our on hold message

Meet our Board

Goodbye and best wishes



As we welcome our new President, Charles Thompson and Vice President, Iain Edwards, we bid a fond

farewell to previous President, Russell Walker and Vice President, John Rayner. We'd like to extend our thanks to Russell for his dedication and commitment to Guide Dogs Victoria over the last 18 years, of which five years was served as President. We also extend our thanks to John Rayner, for his commitment as a board member and Vice President for the past five years.

Charles Thompson



President

Tell me about yourself?

I trained as a lawyer and economist, working in law

and management consulting. I joined Toll Holdings as their Group General Manager of Strategy and Mergers & Acquisitions for eight years before joining Australia Post and am currently the Head of the International Parcels and ECommerce Business.

Why did you choose Guide Dogs Victoria?

I have always been involved in community based not-for-profits, in the arts and broader community services. It is one of the ways I like to contribute. GDV is an iconic and trusted brand and my family have always been supporters of it. It has an exciting future ahead and I was inspired to be part of that future.

What is your favourite football team?

I am a Collingwood supporter and as a kid naively relied on Rene Kink (Collingwood player in the 70-80s) to cut my hair. My son is also a Pies fan but my daughter followed my partner, regrettably, as a Hawk.

Iain Edwards



Vice President

Tell me about yourself?

Iain Edwards
B.App.Sci
(Physiotherapy),
MBA.

I am a physiotherapist by profession and am the Director of Integrated Care & Dental at Peninsula Health, responsible for the delivery of dental services for all ages, allied health and nursing services for adults and older people living in the community.

Introduce your family members

I commenced my association with Guide Dogs Victoria in 1993 and was partnered with my first Guide Dog Sancho in 1995. Since then I have trained and partnered with three other Guide Dogs and have recently been partnered with Olympia who has settled into the family and my lifestyle extremely well. I am married to Karen Edwards and have two children who are currently completing VCE.

Why did you choose Guide Dogs Victoria?

Guide Dogs Victoria is an iconic brand and has a strong reputation for providing high quality responsive services for people who are blind or vision impaired. This has only been confirmed throughout my long term association with GDV.

What's On

April 17 2016:
Dogs Unite

April 27 2016:
International
Guide Dogs
Day

**April 29 –
May 1 2016:**
Dog Lovers
Show



Acknowledgements

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