

Guide Dog Tales

The latest news from Guide Dogs Victoria

Winter Issue 2017

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Wendy

The next generation
of Guide Dogs

Bob and Caleb

A generation of
support

International Guide Dog Day

Tribute to our
talented dogs

Taking the
lead since
1957!



A message from Karen & Willow

It's been such a busy year so far, and March to May have been no exception.

You may be aware that 2017 is our Diamond Jubilee Year, and we are so excited to be celebrating 60 years of providing world-leading orientation and mobility services to people who are blind or who have low vision.

Our celebrations commenced with International Guide Dog Day (IGDD) on 27 April with a reflection on what we have achieved since our inception. This provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our beautiful dogs, and the job they do to bring a new lease of life to their handlers.


You can read more about our IGDD celebrations on page 7.

Our celebrations will continue throughout the year when we will focus on the growth of specialised orientation and mobility (O&M) training – the core of what we do at Guide Dogs Victoria. You can read about how our O&M specialists have worked with our clients Caleb and Bob on page 5.

On a personal note, I must say that it was an absolute pleasure to meet some of you at our Puppy Pals event in April. I look forward to attending the second event later in the year! If you want to become a Puppy Pal, details are on page 4.



Finally, I must send a huge thank you to you, our amazing donors. Your generosity has enabled us to take the lead since 1957, and to become the sustainable organisation we are today. I look forward to a great future with you at Guide Dogs Victoria.

Karen Hayes 

Karen Hayes
Chief Executive Officer & Ambassador Dog Willow



High quality, classic leather collars and leads.

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AUSTRALIA

You can be sure your stylish purchase of Elk collars and leads will help our cause, with all proceeds going directly to Guide Dogs Australia enabling us to breed, raise and train more Guide Dogs.

These beautiful, high quality dog collars and leads are available to purchase from Elk's online shop, and boutiques nationwide.

*Please note, the Gorman x Guide Dogs Coats are sold out.

guidedogsvictoria.com.au/gorman-elk

Support the next generation of Guide Dogs!

Meet Wendy, a wonderful addition to our Fundraising Team! By night, Wendy lives with Emily, one of our Guide Dog Mobility Instructors, and by day works with the Fundraising Team.

Wendy is “paws on” when we have visitors on site to attend tours at our Kew headquarters. She provides pet therapy to Able Australia on their visits to Guide Dogs Victoria. She attends Team Meetings and most importantly she has successfully delivered her first litter of pups!

Wendy excelled in her Guide Dog training and it was obvious that she would be ideal to enter our breeding program. In this role, she plays a part in producing the next generation of Guide Dogs in Victoria!

Gifts in Wills

Did you know it costs Guide Dogs Victoria over \$50,000 to breed, raise and train a Guide Dog? And to meet current demands we are looking to breed 180 puppies in 2017!

By leaving a gift to Guide Dogs Victoria in your Will, you can help us to continue to grow our Guide Dog program and services that support Victorians who are blind or who have low vision to live full and independent lives.

Your support will help us breed dogs just like Wendy who's legacy will go on to make such a positive difference in the lives of people who are blind or have low vision.

For more information on leaving a gift in your Will please contact Angie Retallack, Key Relationships Manager – Bequests and Estates at Guide Dogs Victoria.

Please also follow us on Facebook for more updates on Wendy and our Gifts in Wills Program.



Guide Dogs Australia named 'Most Trusted Charity' for the fifth year in a row!

We are absolutely delighted that Guide Dogs Australia has been announced as Australia's Most Trusted Charity Brand as part of the annual Reader's Digest's Trusted Brands survey. This achievement highlights the significance of both the level of trust that our clients place in their amazing Guide Dogs, and the level of trust that the community places in us, to support Australians with low vision and blindness.

Trust is at the heart of everything we do, and it is a fantastic honour to be named most trusted charity for the fifth time!

ABOUT THE READER'S DIGEST SURVEY: The Reader's Digest Trusted Brands survey was independently conducted by Roy Morgan Research and included a cross-section of 2,450 Australian participants. The survey has been conducted annually for 18 years, with the charity category being included from 2013.



Dog Tale – Guide Dog Kerrie

My name is Kerrie and I am five months old. I have found out that I am my Puppy Raiser's fourth Puppy. I live in a household of three cats (who just adore me), and four people.

My day is pretty well structured, which I like – up around 7am, breakfast 8am, lunch 1pm, and dinner 6pm. In between, sometimes I am given a carrot or some more kibble as a reward for being good. I love playing with my feline friends and watching TV too.

I live in Geelong, and it is great as we live near beaches, plus shopping centers and lots of parks.

“I have already been to three puppy classes at Guide Dogs Victoria in Kew and really enjoyed seeing my siblings and learning so much.

Going out is lots of fun as I get to see many different things, such as birds flying from tree to tree, visiting people in their homes, meeting other dogs while out walking and trying very hard to be good and not chase butterflies and leaves!

One day I hope to grow up to be a strong dog who can help a person who is blind or who has low vision to 'see' again. This would be the best outcome, and it would be good to know I am being very helpful.

Travelling in the car was a little bit hard to get used to at the start, but with lots of encouragement from my Puppy Raiser, I am doing just great now. I like to run out into the garage to the car when it is time to go out and wait at the passenger side door. I am very good as I am so excited to be going out and I don't touch anything in the garage. I can now jump in and out of the car by myself – woohoo!

I have already been on a few long drives to Gippsland, Ballarat, and Melbourne, which gives me plenty of time to sleep. The Botanical Gardens in Ballarat are wonderful, so many things to see and smell and do (like lots of walking) plus sleeping on the lush grass in the sunshine – ZZZZZZZZZ.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about my adventures so far.

Love and puppy hugs from Kerrie. Woof Woof



Guide Dog in training, Kerrie

BECOME A PUPPY PAL TODAY FROM JUST \$30 A MONTH, ONLY \$1 PER DAY!

Every Guide Dog we breed, raise and train costs over \$50,000.

Puppy Pals help fund the training that prepares our adorable Guide Dog puppies to support someone living with low vision 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?

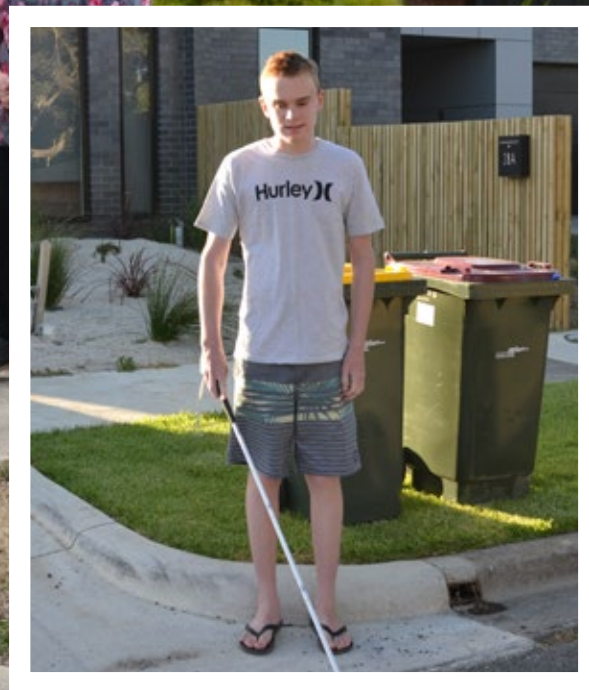
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The G Litter

"Guide Dogs Victoria do what they say they do. It doesn't matter who you are, you get treated well."



A tale of two generations

While Bob is looking back on a 53 year relationship with Guide Dogs Victoria, 14 year old Caleb is looking forward to building his future with the support of Guide Dogs Victoria.

The eldest of nine children, Bob was born prematurely and with vision loss.

"In those days a lot of what you learnt was through talking to people.

"Today there is much more accessibility to information, especially through technology and computers," Bob said.

Bob has been working with Guide Dogs Victoria since leaving school at fifteen, and has developed a close and supportive relationship.

"Guide Dogs Victoria do what they say they do. It doesn't matter who you are, you get treated well."

Over this time Bob has been partnered with seven Guide Dogs! His current Guide Dog, 'Fella', has such a caring and protective nature, that Bob's partner's cat even loves him!

Caleb lost his sight due to Retinoblastoma, a form of cancer that affects the retina, when he was just a year old. He has no memory of vision.

However, that did not stop Caleb from taking up the

Paralympic sport goalball, which is played using a ball with a bell inside. He has earned a key spot on the Victorian Junior Team and travelled the country to compete in various championships.

A staunch supporter of the Geelong Cats, Caleb met ex-player Cam Mooney - who now backs him in his dream to one-day represent Australia at the Paralympics.

“What Caleb has been able to achieve in the last 10 years is incredible and I'm unbelievably proud of him,” said Cam.

A Guide Dogs Victoria Instructor is working with Caleb to improve his orientation and mobility, and he hopes to learn to walk to high school by himself with his white cane.

When Fella retires, Bob will need a new Guide Dog to make the best of his own retirement years, and when Caleb is 16, we hope to have a Guide Dog ready to lead him on to a new chapter in his life. Your continued support of Guide Dogs Victoria helps us to support people like Bob and Caleb, to live independent and fulfilling lives and achieve their life goals. 🐾

How to remove fleas, mange and ticks from your dog

Fleas, mange and ticks are problems at this time of year. Our wonderful Puppy Development team have some great tips and advice for you and your dog.

FLEAS: Fleas are blood-sucking parasites that may spread disease and tapeworm. They cause the dog to scratch and bite itself. If the dog becomes allergic to flea saliva, they can become intensely itchy and cause significant damage through self-trauma.

Signs of flea infestation:

- fleas can often be seen running through the dog's coat
- the presence of flea dirt (black specks of dried blood)
- extensive hair loss
- reddening and thickening of the skin

Checking the rump, tail, neck and ear areas will help you to notice any of these signs. Flea prevention is managed very effectively by administering a topical or oral flea and tick treatment on the first of every month.



MANGE: There are two types of mange, caused by two different mites: Demodectic Mange and Sarcoptic Mange. Demodectic Mange is non-contagious and is

often seen in young dogs. It presents as small patches of hair loss, commonly around the eyes, muzzle or chin and sometimes the legs can also be affected. Demodex mites are present in the skin of all dogs and create no problem unless they multiply in vast numbers.

Sarcoptic Mange is highly contagious to both dogs and humans. It is generally contracted from other infected dogs or from native wildlife (or access to areas inhabited by native wildlife). It can affect any part of the dog's body but commonly affects the elbows and ears. The skin becomes flaky and crusty and often self-injury occurs from the intense itchiness.

If you notice patches of hair loss, flakiness of the skin or intense itchiness, consult your vet.

A skin scrape is used to diagnose the species of mite so that correct treatment can be instituted.

TICKS: Various tick species occur throughout Australia, mainly in coastal and rural areas. In Victoria, ticks are more commonly present in bushland around East Gippsland. Ticks attach to the skin and suck blood over several days. One species of tick (*Ixodes holocyclus*) produces a toxin that can cause 'tick paralysis' in the animal or person it feeds on.

If you are taking your dog into these areas please be aware of the risks of ticks and speak to your vet. You should also do a tick check daily – feeling all over your dog for lumps and bumps. If you find a tick on your dog, seek Veterinary advice immediately. DO NOT attempt to remove it yourself. Incorrect removal of a paralysis tick could cause more of the toxin to be released. 🐾

ADVANCE
ADVANCED PET NUTRITION™

So much depends on a Guide Dog's ability to be fit, healthy and happy to perform their duties. To ensure their health from puppy to adulthood, ADVANCE is used exclusively to feed and nourish Guide Dogs around Australia. ADVANCE is proud to support this life-changing service and has done so for many years.



President of the GDV Board Charles Thompson, with GDV CEO Karen Hayes, Ambassador Dog, Willow and The Hon. Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria and her namesake puppy 'Dessau'.



International Guide Dog Day

International Guide Dog Day (IGDD) was celebrated in a very big way this year with staff and 350 of our volunteers, supporters and partners attending a special event at Government House. Hosted by GDV Patron and Governor of Victoria, Linda Dessau, the event provided a great opportunity to celebrate the contribution all of our supporters have made to our success over the past 60 years, and also to present our IGDD Awards to the very worthy recipients. Our annual award recipients are:

- Independence Award - Paula Foote (Employee) and Merle Atherton (Volunteer)
- Freedom Award - Paul Wheelton AM
- Inspiration Award (Joint) - City of Boroondara and Travellers Aide
- Community Access Awards (New Category, nominations by clients) - Metro Trains (Malcolm Browning) and Achilles Running Club (Amanda Kwong)

At the event, we also took the opportunity to surprise the Governor when we let her know that we have named one of our pups after her and introduced her to Guide Dog puppy 'Dessau'. 🐾

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IN THE
DARK™**

 **NOW OPEN – TICKETS NOW ON SALE THROUGH *ticketmaster*®**

ARE YOU READY TO CHALLENGE DARKNESS?

Guide Dogs Australia is excited to bring the global sensation, Dialogue in the Dark™ to Australia, starting right here in Melbourne. The much awaited social enterprise and immersive experience opened to the public on 2 June at Harbour Town, Docklands.

Dialogue in the Dark™ is an experience in total darkness through which, led by guides who are blind, one learns to interact and communicate by relying on other senses.

This is a completely immersive exhibition where you don't see, but experience. Your journey in the dark will heighten your senses, and give them new meaning.

A reversal of roles is created: people who can see are taken out of their familiar environment. Guides who are blind provide them with orientation through every day experiences in a world without pictures.

After more than 25 years and 41 countries across the globe, Dialogue in the Dark™ is in Melbourne, partnered with Guide Dogs Australia, Australia's most trusted charity brand.



Strictly limited places available – book online at www.ticketmaster.com.au/dialogueinthedark

For group bookings, phone Ticketmaster Groups on 1300 889 278



The concept of "Dialogue in the Dark" and its related trademarks are the intellectual property of Dialogue Social Enterprise GmbH.

dialogueinthedark.com.au

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