

Guide Dog Tales

The latest news from Guide Dogs Victoria

Autumn Issue 2018

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Taking the lead since 1957!



WELCOME

A message from Karen & Willow

Welcome to the first edition of Guide Dog Tales for 2018.

January and February were very busy months out in the community for us. We were proud to participate in the Midsumma Carnival and privileged to be a part of Lunar New Year festivities.

March through to May are always packed with activity. This year we are taking to the dog walk at the Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival, with our Diamond Dogs show, which will be fabulous! Once again we are reved up to be the official charity partner of the F1 Rolex Australian Grand Prix in March for the second year in a row. I'd like to thank all the volunteers who have already put their hand up to participate again.

We have our first Puppy Pals event in March, where our regular donors will meet the eight-week-old V litter and check the progress of the G litter.

If you are not a Puppy Pals supporter yet, it's not too late – sign up now for regular giving and join us on the journey to helping these puppies becoming Guide Dogs!


Once again, Guide Dogs Victoria will have a significant presence at the Dog Lovers Show, which will be held at the Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton from 4–6 May.

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



January saw the very sad passing of Alan Kenneth (Ken) Rechter. An amazing gentleman and a founding member of Guide Dogs Victoria, serving on the Committee of Management for 28 years. A man of influence and vision, he remained a generous supporter of Guide Dogs Victoria for over 60 years. You can read more about Ken's incredible contribution to Guide Dogs Victoria on page 5.

Once again, many thanks for your continued support and, until next time, I wish you well.

Karen Hayes 

Karen Hayes
Chief Executive Officer & Ambassador Dog Willow



Become a Puppy Pal today



FROM JUST \$30 A MONTH - ONLY \$1 A DAY!

It costs more than \$50,000 to breed, raise and train each Guide Dog.

Puppy Pals help fund the training that prepares our adorable Guide Dog puppies to support someone with low vision or blindness. You will help name litters, follow the litter's amazing journey with regular Pupdates, and be invited to attend our Meet the Pups events.

So what are you waiting for?

Your supPAWt will change lives forever.

Call 1800 988 626 or visit guidedogsvictoria.com.au

Follow Mac and all his wonderful adventures on Instagram



[instagram.com/mac_and_mates](https://www.instagram.com/mac_and_mates)
[facebook.com/MacAndMates](https://www.facebook.com/MacAndMates)

Mac and Mates

We are excited to announce our very own Ambassador dog, Mac's, new Instagram and Facebook pages.

"Mac and Mates" launched last month at the Midsumma Carnival. Follow Mac's adventures around campus and at forthcoming events like the Virgin Australian Melbourne Fashion Festival and Grand Prix.

Mac's friendships with other Guide Dogs Victoria dogs will be shared so you can keep up to date with what it takes for a puppy

Hello I'm Mac,

Guide Dogs Victoria Ambassador dog. I am a pretty chilled out dog with a cheeky side and have a lot of fun with my mates. I also help mentor and guide the little puppies to become Guide Dogs. It's a cool job, someone has to do it.

I'm one lucky dog. As an official ambassador for Guide Dogs Victoria I'm a bit of a dog about town. I get invited to some pretty high profile events and get to shake paws with some household names along the way. But it's my unofficial role that gives me most satisfaction. In my past life, I was a Guide Dog in training and I know the ropes. Now it's also my job to help guide and mentor the young pups out there through their journey to become a Guide Dog. Follow me and my mates on our journey.

to make that journey to become a Guide Dog. You can follow Mac's adventures on the below links.

Instagram: [instagram.com/mac_and_mates](https://www.instagram.com/mac_and_mates)

Facebook: [facebook.com/MacAndMates](https://www.facebook.com/MacAndMates) 🐾

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Bella the dog welcoming bus will chauffeur you and your dog to the great wine regions of Victoria. All you have to do is sit back, pop your paws up and relax. Visit the great wine regions of Victoria – Mornington Peninsula, the Yarra Valley or the Dandenong Ranges. Each tour is handcrafted by a talented team who will look after you from beginning to end. Whether you are coming on your own or with a group of friends, the team will take care of everything you need, from pampering the dogs with massages to holding a lead while you sip your wine. Sorry humans, pooches get the window seat!

To celebrate our exciting new partnership with Gourmet Pawprints, we are offering a complimentary snuggle blanket for the first 10 bookings who mention “GDVblanket” in the booking field titled ‘Other Information’ Limited to one per booking.

We thank Gourmet Pawprints for donating a portion of each dog ticket sold for any of their tours to Guide Dogs Victoria.

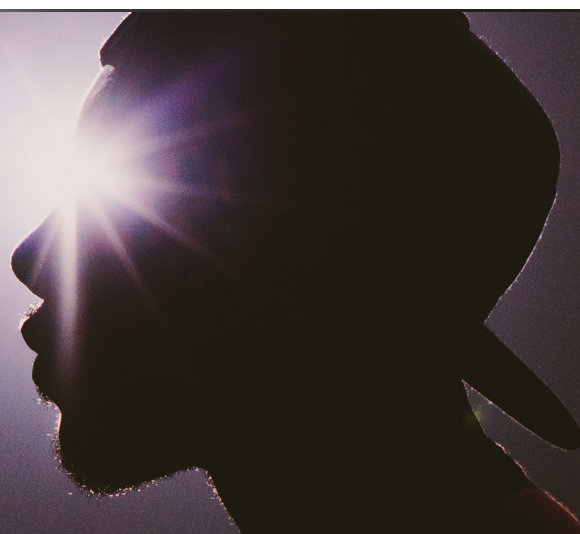
Book now at gourmetpawprints.com.au 🐾

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Vale Alan Kenneth (Ken) Rechter

23.9.1923 - 8.1.2018

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ken Rechter.

Ken was a founding member of Guide Dogs Victoria serving on the Committee of Management for 28 years. A man of influence and vision, he remained a generous supporter of Guide Dogs Victoria for over 60 years.

Ken was resolute about the importance of supporting people with low vision and blindness achieve their goals in life.

Ken was recently interviewed about his lifetime involvement with Guide Dogs Victoria. His words are testament to his genuine and enduringly generous nature.

"In the 60 years I have been associated with Guide Dogs Victoria, what stands out to me is how Guide Dogs have contributed to the happiness, independence and freedom of the vision impaired people in their care.

Sometimes I close my eyes and think about what it would be like not having my vision. I think about what the companionship and trust in a dog would mean to me.

This level of trust would not be possible without our Guide Dog trainers. There's nothing better in the world than what we have at Guide Dogs Victoria," (Ken Rechter).

Ken's meaningful commitment to Guide Dogs Victoria is not a standalone in the Rechter family. Ken's late wife, Holly Rechter OAM, was also a committed patron and supporter of Guide Dogs Victoria. Together they instilled the importance of community service both in their children and those in their circle of friends.

For those who knew Ken Rechter personally, on behalf of the Board, Karen and the Senior Leadership Team, please accept our sincere condolences.

Guide Dogs Victoria will always be indebted to Ken Rechter and his family for their significant contribution, foresight and vision.

Vale Ken Rechter. May you rest in peace. 🐾



Alan Kenneth (Ken) Rechter

Hello I'm Amanda

I'm almost 10 months of age and already I'm leading a very busy life.

I work full time, Monday to Friday in offices. I'm shared between my mum Puppy Raiser's office and my dad Puppy Raiser's office. At my dad's office, I have my own security ID with my title "Wellness Manager" printed on it. I'm proud of my role as Wellness Manager; it comes with a lot of responsibility. I need to make everyone smile and I must wag my tail a lot. My human colleagues are very impressed with my skills and fulfilment of my duties, don't tell them that it's actually not that difficult!

Both my mum and dad Puppy Raisers work for charity organisations, so I'm aware more than most how just important these organisations are that exist to help others. Some days I'm a little impatient and cause a bit of a ruckus in the office, but mostly I'm a good pup at work. I'm very lucky that both of my places of work support raising Guide Dog puppies.

Last weekend, I went to visit my uncle who lives in a disability facility in Healesville. The humans enjoyed a BBQ lunch while I devoured my lunchtime Advance Puppy Growth food (much better than that human stuff). Strangely enough, my business skills also worked at my uncle's facility, as the humans laughed and smiled as I explored and wagged my tail. At times, my tail gets so fast, my mum says it may fall off my bottom! I don't think it will ...

On Friday I will see my siblings again at the 16 week puppy class. I'm very excited, even though my humans expect me to behave, be well-mannered and do as I'm told.

My ambition in life is to provide assistance to my lifelong handler who I will love as much as they love me. To do this, I need to grow big and strong and be a keen learner. Please wish me luck as I work toward my goals. 🐾

Guide Dog puppy Amanda at 6 months



Guide Dog Profile

GUIDE DOG:	Amanda
SIRE:	Zannis
DAM:	Raven
DOB:	26/04/2017
PUPPY RAISER:	Joy King



DIAMOND DOGS

virgin australia
MELBOURNE FASHION FESTIVAL 01 18
MARCH 2018

Diamond Dogs, is presented by Guide Dogs Australia as part of VAMFF and will be held at the Park Hyatt Ballroom on Sunday 18th March 2018. We will be showcasing one-of-a-kind custom made dog coats by 13 premium Australian Designers alongside the hero outfits from their spring collections. These coats will then be auctioned off on eBay.



Book your ticket to attend this premier event at
www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au/vamff

SUNDAY 18 MARCH, 2018 | Park Hyatt Ballroom



Meet Marina

Marina is a wonderful supporter of Guide Dogs Victoria and is now the proud sponsor of Guide Dog Puppy, Rex. When we asked Marina why she chose to sponsor a puppy her response was:

"I felt an incredible loss when my pet dog, Rex, recently passed away and I wasn't ready to have another dog. I decided as someone who has a love of dogs, why not support Guide Dogs Victoria and sponsor a puppy through its Guide Dog training. I was able to honour my dog Rex by naming a pup after him."

It costs \$50,000 for each pup that we breed, train and match with a client.

Marina has also left a gift in her will to Guide Dogs Victoria. She feels it is important to support people who have low vision or blindness, even if you don't know them.

We are forever grateful to Marina for her generosity and commitment to the work Guide Dogs Victoria is accomplishing. If you would like to follow in her footsteps please contact Tracy Purcell - Major Donor Relationship Manager, Fundraising on 9854 4435. 🐾

GDV pups take on new roles in the community

At Guide Dogs Victoria we have a very high set of standards in place that our pups need to meet in order to become a Guide Dog.

As a result, some puppies just aren't suited to the full Guide Dog training process.

Although some pups may not go into the Guide Dog program, they can still take on all sorts of jobs and bring happiness to people in many different ways. Puppies can work in our Pets as Therapy program, become Companion Dogs, and so much more.

Retired Guide Dogs and Stud Dogs can also take on new roles in the community. We'd like to introduce you to Daymon, one of our beautiful Stud Dogs who participates in a program in his spare time, in which children read aloud to dogs to build their confidence and improve their literacy.

At Guide Dogs Victoria we make every effort to match our pups and dogs who are seeking a career change, with environments that best suit their individual temperaments. You can find out more about the different career paths our pups at guidedogsvictoria.com.au/resources/about-our-dogs/reclassified-dogs 🐾

Marina with Guide Dog puppy Rex



Reclassified Dog Daymon

Lead the Way and Change a Life

Join our sensory Trek through the plantations of India

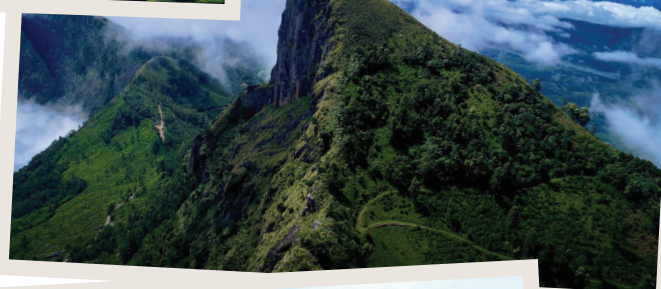
Change a life and experience the adventure of a lifetime. Support our puppies to become life changing Guide Dogs while challenging your senses as you trek through the tea and coffee trails of the unique and fascinating South India.

This experience will not only change your life, but your support will change the lives of Victorians living with low vision or blindness. Full travel and fundraising support is provided so you can enjoy the experience and have fun! If you would like more info please contact Caroline Pearce - Community Fundraising Coordinator 9854 4497 or email carolinep@guidedogsvictoria.com.au.

Make this the year that you travel, get fit and change a life! 🐾



The stunning and tranquil landscapes of the plantations of India



What's On

10 March 2018

Exclusive Puppy Pal event

18 March 2018

Diamond Dogs, Virgin Australia
Melbourne Fashion Festival

22-25 March 2018

F1 Rolex Australian Grand Prix

25 April 2018

International Guide Dogs Day

4-6 May 2018

Dog Lovers Show



Acknowledgements

Guide Dogs Australia Partners



Guide Dogs Victoria Sponsors



Guide Dogs Victoria Supporters
Strathmore Community Bank

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Social Media

