

Guide Dog Tales

The latest news from Guide Dogs Victoria

Winter Issue 2018

IN THIS EDITION

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Guide Dog Puppy
in Training

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Best job in the world

International
Guide Dog Day
Changing lives

Australia's
Most Trusted
Charity Brand
2013-2018



WELCOME

A message from Karen & Willow

What an amazingly busy couple of months we've had!

March started with our Diamond Dogs show at the 2018 Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival, which was just fabulous. We have received the most overwhelmingly positive feedback about the show. A highlight for our Clients was the behind the scenes, pre-show tour with our sighted guides. They felt the different fabrics, textures and finishes on all the garments, while the guide described each piece.

We then moved onto the Grand Prix. What a fantastic event this turned out to be! We had about 500 volunteers and 50 staff working across the weekend with collection dogs, selling raffle tickets and running various activations at our marquee.

To top it all off we had our first Puppy Pals event for the year, which is undoubtedly one of my favourite events. Our regular donors (Puppy Pals) got to meet the eight-week-old V litter, and I had the pleasure of meeting some of you!

Finally, this year, as International Guide Dog Day fell on Anzac Day, we celebrated two days later at the Shrine of Remembrance. We recognised the independence and companionship Guide Dogs have provided for returned service people and civilian first responders since World War I. You can read more about our IGDD celebrations on page 8.

As you read through your copy of *Guide Dog Tales* we hope that 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.


It's your support that helps us train Guide Dog pups, like Haddie (page 3), who go on to make such a difference in our Clients' lives.



Karen and Willow wearing their matching Gorman rain coats. All profits from the coats are donated to Guide Dogs.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank our wonderful donors. Your generosity has not gone unnoticed. With the end of the tax year just around the corner, what better way to reduce your tax and give to a pawsome cause? We rely on the generosity and support of the community, and every little bit helps.

I hope you enjoy this winter edition of *Guide Dog Tales*. Thanks once again for all your wonderful support

Karen Hayes 

Karen Hayes

Chief Executive Officer & Ambassador Dog Willow

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Did you know...
A Guide Dog in training
learns to go to the toilet on
command, using a secret
word... do you know what
this word is?

See page 8 for the answer.

Haddie in her official
Guide Dog training coat
is progressing well

Guide Dog Profile

GUIDE DOG: Haddie
DOB: 27/10/2017
PUPPY RAISER: Joy King

Meet Haddie

Haddie is a Guide Dog puppy in training. At the tender age of 5 months she's already developing into a confident and well-mannered pup!

Every day, Haddie's dedicated Puppy Raisers take her out into the big, wide world and introduce her to new situations, like above when they took her on her first trip to a train station (during quiet times of course as she's still young!). Being a young puppy, Haddie can still get distracted by other dogs, but her puppy raisers are working hard using Positive Reinforcement Training and treats to move her attention from other dogs back to her Puppy Raiser. She is now

confident with sit, down and stand commands and can also release objects when asked.

Haddie is a trustworthy, quick learner who loves human company, but doesn't get overexcited with guests and new people. She loves the water and is a confident swimmer, showing signs of enjoying water since paddling in her water bowl as a young pup! We can't wait to see Haddie grow up and change someone's life. 🐾

Gypsy



Gypsy and Genamarie enjoy getting out and about together.

Hi my name's Gypsy and I love being a Guide Dog! I have such an interesting life. From eight weeks old I lived with my puppy raisers, Jenny and Peter until I embarked on my official Guide Dog training.

I found the training tough at the start, but the trainers at Guide Dogs Victoria gave me lots of breaks and there was plenty of play time with the other dogs in training. I soon began to love the training and the fact that I was being taught by professionals at Guide Dogs Victoria. I can tell you, the trainers there really know their stuff and are very encouraging and kind.

Once I finished my training I was matched with Genamarie. I am Genamarie's first Guide Dog, so we are learning a lot together. She needs lots of help with busy traffic and wide roads - I have to be so careful.

I particularly love it when we go to the dog park. I get to hang out with all the local dogs and catch up on their news. I am always very happy when I come back to Genamarie, because I know that I have a really interesting life.

You know, in many ways, I think being a Guide Dog is the best job in the world. I am needed every day and Genamarie depends on me. I love her and she loves me.

I often have a laugh to myself when Genamarie is stopped in the street by people who say, 'what a lovely, intelligent dog'. Or, 'I wish my dog could be as good as yours.'

My guess is that many of these people have no idea how much work is involved in becoming a qualified Guide Dog. I am so proud I passed the training.

Apart from the time and effort, there are huge costs involved. One day I heard some officials explaining that the cost to train a Guide Dog is now over \$50,000.

The best thing you can do for me, and all the other Guide Dogs like me, is to send a gift to Guide Dogs Victoria. And remember, the end of tax year (30 June) is fast approaching.

**With best wishes from the
doggie world.**

Gypsy 🐾

Sammy and Lucy's Sensory Experience

As new Guide Dogs Victoria ambassadors, Sammy and I were invited to the PAWsome Diamond Dogs fashion show organised by Guide Dogs Australia.

The day was filled with excitement and anticipation, for both Sammy and I. As we arrived we were greeted with sparkly lanyards and goodie bags that held some amazing dog treats (that my dog absolutely loved) and some other goodies for Sammy and I to enjoy.

Before the parade, we met our sighted guide, Claire, who helped us throughout the day. We headed backstage to have a tour of some of the amazing outfits that would be displayed on the runway later on. We got to get up close to the designs and to feel all of the different fabrics and tactile elements that had been thoroughly thought about by the designers. This was amazing as it gave us a chance to see the outfits fully, which would've been hard to do while watching the show.

We were lucky enough to be in the front row where we could see the models fairly well. The show was amazing, there were so many amazing designs by incredible brands. My favourites had to be the student designs.

It was incredible to see how much hard work the student designers put into creating these outfits to fit the brief. Claire did an amazing job of helping us throughout the day and reading all of the descriptions of the outfits during the parade. The event was incredible and Sammy and I would like to say a huge thank you to Guide Dogs Australia for making us truly feel like VIP's.

Lucy Carpenter 🐾



GDV clients Sammy and Lucy are bloggers who have written about their sensory experience at the Diamond Dogs Fashion Event. As well as experiencing the show from the front row, they also went backstage to feel the highly textured garments especially created for the show.



Mac & Mates Adventures

Hello friends,

What a great few months of fun. I've been everywhere and having a PAWSome time.

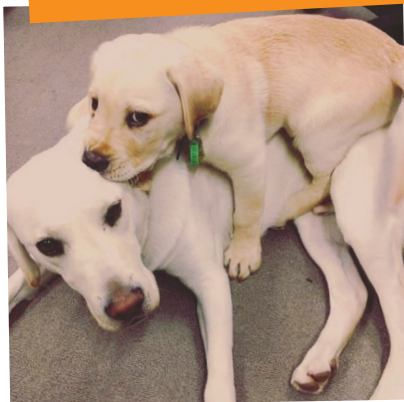
Mates, meet Mick! Mick is my newest mate on the block. We have lots of fun adventures planned, but some important ones too.

Follow my adventures on the below links. 🐾

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



Above: Mac and Linda modeling the latest collection of Gorman for Guide Dogs rain coats. Left: Mac and his mate Mick. Mac recognising our returned soliders for ANZAC day. Mick and Delilah at his new home.



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](https://www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au)**

Don't miss out on all the fun and puppy cuddles!



Become a Puppy Pal today for your chance to cuddle cute pups, like Voltez and Min (Left to Right), at our Meet the Pups event.

It only costs \$1 a day. Your generous donation will help change the lives of Victorian's living with low vision or blindness.

Births from Guide Dogs Victoria Headquarters March – April 🐾

Lottie and Sony's litter have arrived in April! 10 pups!

Four black males
Two yellow males
Two black females
Two Yellow females

Raven and Sony's litter has arrived over Easter. Nine pups born on Friday 30th March.

Two yellow males
one yellow female
Three black males
Three black females



Raven and some of her nine puppies.



Paying Tribute

In the spirit of Anzac Day, which incidentally fell on the same day as International Guide Dog Day this year, we recognised the independence and companionship Guide Dogs have provided for returned service people and civilian first responders, including those with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Did you know that Guide Dogs have provided independence and companionship for returned servicemen and women with vision loss since the origins of contemporary Guide Dogs in World War 1?

Our dogs play an important role in helping servicemen and women adjust back to civilian life. Our research has demonstrated the positive impact of Guide Dogs on independence but also participation, mental and physical well-being, and confidence to take on new challenges.

Now some of those with PTSD (both service people and civilian first responders) are benefitting through our partnership with the Integra K9 Support program, where we give some of our wonderful dogs not suited to Guiding, a role supporting these heroes.

On 27 April, we celebrated International Guide Dog Day with our Annual International Guide Dog Day Awards where we acknowledge individuals and organisations who have made a significant difference to our mission and/or to those in the community with low vision or blindness. 🐾



Liam's life changed dramatically. With only 2% vision left in his right eye, his world is one of shadows and light. Making the decision to get a Guide Dog made all the difference in Liam starting to rebuild his life.

Answer from page 2 is 'quick quicks'.

Acknowledgements

Guide Dogs Australia Partners



Guide Dogs Victoria Sponsors



Strathmore Community Bank

ABN 68 004 621 461
2-6 Chandler Highway
Kew Victoria 3101

Telephone 1800 988 626
info@guidedogsvictoria.com.au

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