

perceptions



Guide
Dogs
VICTORIA

spring 2014 / issue 22

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the 22nd edition of Perceptions.

In this issue, we feature client case study on Garry Oakes, living with an ABI and having completed Orientation and Mobility training with us at GDV. We also take a look at what's on for the rest of 2014; ways to get involved and learn more about what we do. Lastly, don't forget to check out the latest in smartphone apps for those with living with a vision impairment.

As we've now moved into our new electronic format, we

About Us

The Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) and Adult Mobility Services provide specialised assessment and training programs for people who have a vision loss (ocular or as a result of a brain injury), which in turn affects their ability to mobilise safely and independently. Our programs aim to optimise the use of remaining vision, and in conjunction with other senses and cognitive skills, aim to regain safe and independent mobility.

Along with educating each client, their family and rehabilitation professionals about the nature and impact of the vision impairment; each client undergoes an initial assessment which aims to determine:

- Extent of vision loss and impact on independent travel skills
- Ability to move freely and safely through a range of environments
- Ability to route plan, orientate and problem solve
- Impact of other impairments on mobility (for e.g. memory, balance, attention and concentration)

hope you find the new design easy to navigate and the content resourceful and informative.

For our regular readers, and for those receiving Perceptions for the first time, we always welcome your feedback, comments and contributions. You can contact Rachel Abdulla at rachel.a@guidedogsvictoria.com.au

Regards,

Rachel and the AMS Team

- Ability to use public transport
- Need for a mobility aid

Guide Dogs Victoria can assist Victorians living in metropolitan and regional areas. Training can be provided within the client's home, work, school, local environment, in our residential training facility (Arnold Cook House in Kew), or a combination of both. The training environment is reflective of the person's mobility goals and needs.

Referring a Client to the ABI Mobility Service

We welcome referrals from individuals, family members and all health professionals.

Referrals can be made via our website at:
<https://www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au/our-services/referral-main/>

Or contact Client Services Administration on (03) 9854 4467 or via email at referrals@guidedogsvictoria.com.au



2-6 Chandler Highway Kew Victoria 3101
Telephone 03 9854 4444
Facsimile 03 9854 4466

Email info@guidedogsvictoria.com.au
www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au
ABN 68 004 621 461

What's On

1. ABI Professional Days

Information workshop for health professionals wishing to know more about the ABI Mobility Service. The two hour workshop is held on campus at GDV and provides information on: who is appropriate to refer, how to refer, assessment process, training and case studies. Information is also provided on other services offered by GDV including Children's Mobility and Guide Dog Mobility. Our last workshop for 2014 is: Thursday 16 October.

2. ABI Client Days

Information workshop for clients (and their carers) living with an ABI and Vision Impairment. The workshop takes a holistic approach to ABI and the impact it can have on mobility, cognition, mood and everyday living. The day runs from 10am to 3pm, with lunch provided, on campus at GDV.

Our last workshop for 2014 is: Thursday 30 October.

3. New office in Geelong

The official launch of our new office took place on 8 August. Sharing the space with Yooralla and Pacific Vision, we are now based locally to better deliver comprehensive services to our Geelong based vision impaired community.



**THERE'S A
NEW DOG
IN TOWN**
GROUND FLOOR, 199 MOORABOOL ST.
GEELONG
(03) 5202 1800

Address: Ground Floor, 199 Moorabool Street, Geelong VIC 3220

Phone Number: (03) 5202 1800

4. GDV celebrates International White Cane Day on 15 October

Some clients who have a vision loss post ABI benefit from using a white cane, which may be a long cane or an Identification cane. GDV provides training in the use of white canes which assist a person to regain their independence. We will be celebrating with a walk in the cultural precinct in Melbourne's CBD. Click here for more information.

5. Group Programs

Our last program for 2014 is Live Safe Travel Smart. This three-day program will provide a safe and fun environment from which to learn and develop public transport and personal safety skills in a supportive team environment.

Program focus:

- Personal Safety seminar/workshop
- Safety and mobility skills when accessing Public Transport
- Planning Skills
- Self-Advocacy in the wider community



Applications are open to adults with a vision impairment.

6. Opaque Ball

Guide Dogs Victoria presents The Opaque Ball, a grand gala event to raise much needed funds for the broad range of adult and children's orientation and mobility services they deliver to over 1,500 Victorians each year. Tickets are on sale now, head to our website for more details.



7. Enquiries

If you have any queries regarding referring to events or information listed on our noticeboard, please contact Client Services Administration on (03) 9854 4467



2-6 Chandler Highway Kew Victoria 3101
Telephone 03 9854 4444
Facsimile 03 9854 4466

Email info@guidedogsvictoria.com.au
www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au
ABN 68 004 621 461

Case Study

Garry Oates - 56 Y/O husband, grandfather and business owner.



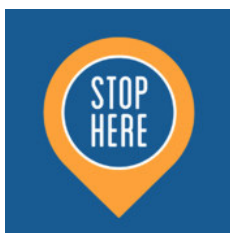
Garry experienced an aneurysm resulting in a left homonymous hemianopia and left visual neglect back in 2012. He was later referred to the ABI mobility service for Orientation and Mobility training. Garry wrote a journalistic account of his experience and in particular, of his training at Guide Dogs Victoria. Read his story via the link below and catch a glimpse of just one of the varying training programs we provide to someone with a vision impairment.

Read more about Garry's story here: <http://www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au/my-abi-mobility-training-experience/>

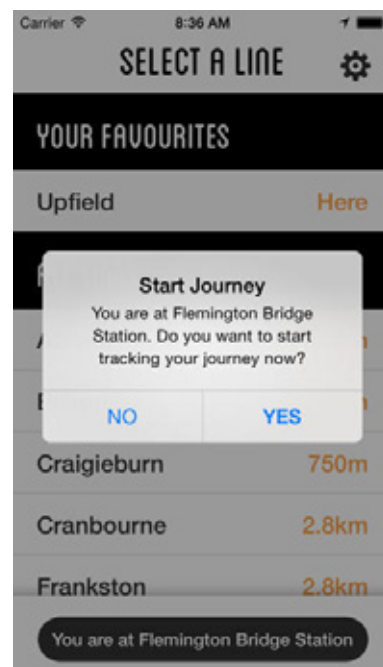
Keep App!

In keeping up with the latest and greatest in the prolifically expanding world of smartphone/tablet applications, here's one we have found useful for consumers with a Vision Impairment.

Stop Here – by Metro Trains Melbourne



'Stop Here' is a train tracking app that uses the location of your smart device to provide push alerts to let you know when your stop is approaching. It has a "where am I now?" feature as well as the ability to save favourites. You can also opt to receive alerts a stop or two before your final destination. Stop Here will also let you know if your location signal has dropped out. It has been developed specifically to assist vision and hearing impaired commuters and is endorsed by the Australasian Railway Association.



2-6 Chandler Highway Kew Victoria 3101
Telephone 03 9854 4444
Facsimile 03 9854 4466

Email info@guidedogsvictoria.com.au
www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au
ABN 68 004 621 461