

Community Speakers Register – Victoria

Contact Name	Contact details	Location	Profile	Preferred Audience
Colleen Knowles	E: primrose28@outlook.com T: 0417225017	Colleen is based in the Geelong region but is happy to travel to Melbourne.	Colleen has been a Guide Dog user for over 20 years. She has 16 years experience of speaking for Guide Dogs and is comfortable in any requested topic from her vision loss to experience with her Guide Dog.	Colleen is very comfortable speaking with any sized audience and has presented at speaking engagements up to 1000 people. Colleen doesn't have a preferred age group and has spoken to audiences from Kindergarten age through to aged care groups.
Ali Pearce	E: alipearce1@hotmail.co.uk T: 0416988609	Any Metro Melbourne, open to traveling.	Ali has been a Guide Dog user for almost 7 years. She was a Dialogue in the Dark employee for Guide Dogs Australia and has also previously also been a speaker for Vision Australia.	Ali is comfortable speaking with any age groups from Kindergarten age through to the elderly. Ali Regularly speaks for the Probus and Lions clubs and is comfortable with presenting to any sized group.
Dorothy Docherty	E: dorothydoc@hotmail.com T: 0401887149	Happy to travel anywhere	Dorothy went blind overnight after an aquired brain injury. She had to learn to walk and talk again after her ABI. Dorothy has had two dogs from Guide Dogs. Dorothy loves, garden, cook and public speak in her spare time.	Dorothy is comfortable speaking to audiences of any size but prefers not to speak to aged care facilities or very young children (kindergarten age and younger).
Pam Haigh	E: pamhaigh@hotmail.com T: 0414406449	Happy to travel anywhere for community education.	Pam Haigh has had 3 Guide Dogs with GDV who she has travelled both domestically and internationally! Pam is very active and enjoys bike riding and knitting. Pam is happy to cover any topic that is requested for her speaking arrangement.	Pam is very comfortable with any speaking arrangements and all locations. Pam has no preferred audience size and has spoken to audiences from just a couple to a few hundred.
Amir Abdi	E: amirquest.00@gmail.com	All of Melbourne and happy to travel interstate if required.	Amir is both a Guide Dog and cane user who has previously been an employee for Dialogue in the Dark. Amir speaks several languages and is a keen sportsman playing in both blind soccer and Goalball. Amir is a student at Deakin Uni as well as an educator.	Amir is comfortable speaking with any audience size or age group. Please note, Abdi is a professional speaker, fees apply for services.
Maribel Steel	E: maribel@springstudio.com.au T: 0417755413	Maribel is based in South Eastern Melbourne but is happy to venture into the CBD or into the outer east.	Maribel is a freelance writer, author, international speaker and educator who is also a Guide Dog user. Legally blind and the mother of 4 children, Maribel loves to travel and help people see beyond an obstacle to embrace it as their next stepping stone to success.	Maribel is comfortable speaking to any age group with a variety of interests or groups.
Kadek Artayana	E: artayanak@gmail.com T: 0414 242 223	Happy to travel anywhere	Kadek is a 30 year old male and a first time Guide Dog Handler. He was matched with Guide Dog Livinia in 2020 during Stage 4 lockdown. Kadek lost sight in one eye in tragic accident as a young boy and then in a separate unrelated incident lost most vision in his other eye. Kadek has struggled with mental health but with the help of Guide Dogs has turned his life around and found a new level of confidence and independence.	Kadek is happy to speak with any size audience and is passionate about inspiring others to not lose hope and to reach out for support. Kadek has recently rode a tandem bike from Melbourne to Sydney to raise awareness for Guide Dogs.

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