

April 7, 2009

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## International Guide Dog Day – Wednesday, April 29

### Adelaide International Guide Dog Day celebrations will include a puppy display in Rundle Mall, followed by a graduation ceremony for guide dogs.

Guests will travel en masse with their guide dogs on a shuttle tram from Rundle Mall at **2:40pm** to the ceremony at the SKYCITY North Restaurant.

This will highlight this year's theme, "**Guide Dogs Can Go Anywhere**," focusing on continuing to educate the community about the role of guide dogs, and also the access issues that sometimes face guide dog users.

Tracey Jones, of Guide Dogs SA.NT, says the organisation has been working hard to promote guide dog accessibility, educating individuals and businesses about the legal rights of clients and their guide dogs.

"We actually have many reports of how businesses have gone out of their way to make our clients with their guide dogs more than welcome."

"However, some of our clients still face occasional problems with access issues.

"The community can help support the work we do by remembering that guide dogs, including guide dogs in training and assistance dogs, have open access throughout the community, including public transport."

**Anthony Clarke**, who has guide dog Hawke, says a guide dog is the ultimate mobility aid for someone who is blind or vision impaired.

He says the independence and freedom he has experienced since receiving his first guide dog was truly amazing.

Since losing his sight at age 18 due to a serious car accident, Mr Clarke has become a renowned judo exponent, winning a gold medal at the Atlanta Paralympics. He earns money as a musician and masseur and works on the public speaking circuit. He has achieved all this, while having a guide dog at this side.

**Guide Dogs SA.NT will celebrate International Guide Dog Day in Adelaide on April 29 with:**

Guide Dogs Association of SA and NT Inc | Full member of the International Guide Dog Federation

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- GUIDE DOG SERVICES
- ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SERVICES
- SENSORY DIRECTIONS
- HEARING SOLUTIONS

- **10am-2.30pm** - A display in Rundle Mall, educating the public about International Guide Dog Day and introducing them to guide dog puppies, dogs in training and new graduates from 10am to 2:30pm.
- **2:40pm** - Guide dog clients with their dogs and staff will all board a shuttle tram together to travel to the SKYCITY North Restaurant for afternoon tea and awards ceremony. Awards presented will include: Open access awards, graduation awards for guide dogs, presentation of certificates for retiring guide dogs.

**For media inquiries please contact:** Guide Dogs SA.NT Media and Communications Officer  
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