

April 30, 2009

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## Bella visits Mount Gambier for Badge Day on May 1

Bella, the vivacious black Lab, might not have made the grade as a guide dog, but she's still a career girl.

Bella's outgoing and friendly personality ruled her out as a guide dog, but these very same personality traits have made her the perfect PR dog for Guide Dogs SA.NT.

She's been performing this role for the organisation for the past five years and is an important member of the Marketing team.

Bella will be working in Mount Gambier this Friday silently encouraging passers by to donate money for Guide Dogs SA.NT's badge day there. She will be visiting all badge day collection sites on the day.

Christina Angus, of Guide Dogs SA.NT, says Bella will also be visiting Mount Gambier High School in appreciation of the school's long-term involvement with badge day. Sixteen students from the school are involved in collecting again this year.

Bella will meet the staff of Kimberley-Clark on April 30 to thank them for their long-term support of Guide Dogs Australia. She'll also be going out for tea that evening with the Mount Gambier Auxiliary of Guide Dogs SA.NT. However, it will be a case of just sitting under the table quietly. Bella has to watch her figure and has a strict guide dog diet of dry food and water, with definitely no table scraps.

Mrs Angus says Guide Dogs SA.NT receives no government funding for Guide Dog Services, relying on community generosity to finance the vital program.

"A Guide Dog costs more than \$25,000 to train and they are provided free to blind and vision impaired people."

"We couldn't run our programs successfully without the support of communities like Mount Gambier."

People interested in developing a long-term relationship with a guide dog puppy can register as a Puppy Love sponsor for just \$10 a month. Contact Christina Angus on (08) 8203 8333 for more information.

**For media inquiries please contact:** Guide Dogs SA.NT Media and Communications Officer Amanda Nes on 8203 8343 or 0420 939 649.

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

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