

The official newsletter for Guide Dogs SA/NT

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Message from Kate

The year is flying by - and in eight short months, thanks to **your** support, the team at Guide Dogs has already achieved so much.

As I listen to the team excitedly describing the achievements of our clients and reporting on results, I never fail to reflect on your part in this process.

Without your support, the team could not achieve what they do. Without you, our volunteers, we could not care for and train our dogs. Without your donations, hundreds of South Australians and Territorians would still be trapped at home, isolated and alone.

Thank you. I am so grateful for your support.

You'll find this newsletter a little different to previous editions. In the past a separate newsletter has been produced for SA (Paw Prints) and NT (The Guide) supporters. Production and distribution of two newsletters is costly. As a result, the newsletter, which reports back on the wonderful achievements made possible by you, can only be distributed to a small number of supporters.

It is important that your investment is directed first and foremost to our clients through services. I know you understand and value this decision. However, I also want to communicate the important work that is only possible with your support. And, it is important that I share our collective successes with as many of you as possible.

So, after a budget review, we have made a few changes.

- 1) Only one newsletter will be produced, with information tailored to SA and NT;
- 2) The length of the newsletter has increased which means I can share more information with you; and
- 3) The circulation has increased meaning more of you will receive updates about the outcomes made possible by you.

Making more use of digital campaigns also means a lower cost, opening up more funds for the new and improved Paw Prints newsletter.

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I've so enjoyed reading through the wonderful stories in this new edition. It is a joy to check in on young **Riley and his Autism Assistance Dog, Blake**. We report back on the **overwhelming support for Alisha and our search for her perfect dog**. Plus, you'll meet four of **Guide Dogs' trusted volunteers**.

I hope you enjoy reading your new and improved newsletter. Please let me know your thoughts – I'd love to hear from you.

Kate Thiele
CEO, Guide Dogs SA/NT

Meet your team - *Sensory Services SA*

Find out more about the faces behind the Guide Dogs name; how you help them support the community and the best parts of the job.

Who are the faces within the Sensory Team?

We are a team of eight Case Managers (in photo from L to R) Vanessa, Justin, Tanysha, Yasmine, Mayanthi, Anne, Lilbel, Karyn and Simon. Each of the team has a tertiary qualification in social work, disability studies, psychology or counselling/ psychotherapy.

What is the overall role of the Sensory team?

Our role is to support individuals who have a vision or hearing loss and complex needs, to develop independence and involvement within their community. We provide services to assist with independent living, including case management, information and referrals, support plans, advocacy and practical assistance. We also support families and carers and provide community development and education. In addition, we run a variety of support groups for clients and their carers.

What is the best part of the job within the Sensory team?

Our case management is often long term and we love to see the outcomes that our clients achieve along the way. Achieving their goals can be life changing and is so rewarding and inspiring for us to witness.

What do you love about working at Guide Dogs?

The Guide Dogs staff members are amazing – dedicated, knowledgeable and great to work with. It is wonderful to be part of an organisation continually recognised as Australia's Most Trusted Charity. Everyone at Guide Dogs has their own positive story about how they got here and why which creates a great culture. And, getting to meet the puppies is of course a huge bonus!

What is something that supporters may not already know about the Sensory team?

That we are here! Perhaps because of our organisation name, a lot of people don't realise that we are **'more than dogs'**. We take a holistic view - for us, it's not just about hearing or vision, it's about helping people in the best way we can with the variety of needs they have. We work across all ages and aspects of a person's life for as long as the need is there. The team also run

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support groups. These assist in providing an opportunity for people to participate in the community and improve skills, as well as providing support to the carers of people living with disability.

How does the Sensory team fit into the rest of the organisation?

We often work with the same clients as other services. For example, someone receiving assistance with advocacy or a support group may also have a Guide Dog or work with an Occupational Therapist (OT).

We are in constant consultation with other teams to provide the best possible service for our client. This may mean having a piece of equipment prescribed by an OT or getting help applying for a grant.

Describe the Sensory team in a nutshell.....

We are a close, supportive team who are passionate about helping people living with disability to achieve their goals and aspirations and lead the life that they want.

If you or someone you know would benefit from the services provided by the Sensory Team, please call 08 8203 8333 or email yoursupport@guidedogs.org.au.

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A tribute to Malcolm and Rosemary Penn

Just one generous family whose efforts helped make Guide Dogs what it is today.

Our beautiful head office in Morphett Street is the result of many years of hard work by many people. As part of its construction, we have honoured some of the people whose efforts helped make Guide Dogs what it is today. One of our special rooms is named after the late Mr Malcolm Penn, a long-time supporter as a donor, Life Member and advocate.

In a special interview, we spoke to Malcolm's wife, Rosemary, about her husband's dedication to Guide Dogs SA/NT, as well as her own.

Please tell us a little about your husband and how he lost his sight.

Malcolm lost his sight as a child. He and his parents lived at a settlement on the Indian Pacific railway line, just over the WA, as Malcolm's father was a Fetter (worker) on the line. Families along the line would get together at the weekend to socialise and during one of these gatherings; an accident caused Malcolm to lose the sight in one eye. Due to the distance from medical assistance, Malcolm experienced a condition called Sympathetic Ophthalmia and tragically lost sight in both eyes. Malcolm spent many months in the Adelaide Children's Hospital while his mother found various jobs in order to support them.

How did you meet Malcolm?

I was a '£10 pom' when in 1966 I came here from the UK to visit my cousin. I'd planned to visit for two years then return home. Malcolm had completed his Law degree at Adelaide University and was doing some further external study. A team of readers was, at the time, assisting Malcolm by reading his textbooks to him as he finished his studies. One of these readers was my cousin's husband, Ron, and I would assist by reading to Malcolm when Ron was not available. We were married in 1969 and had two sons during our 39 year marriage.

How did Malcolm form his strong connection to Guide Dogs?

Malcolm became involved with Guide Dogs through his membership with Apex. He was given his first Guide Dog in the late 60s and eventually had four wonderful Guide Dogs over 40 years.

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In 1983, the University Radio Station set up an hour long Radio Reading Service for the Print Handicapped. The service aired every lunch time from a little house at Mile End, run by a small army of volunteers.

When the service became unviable for the University, Malcolm brought together several South Australian organisations assisting vision impaired people, and suggested that they should be supporting such a service. As a result of this meeting, Guide Dogs offered assistance and 5RPH moved into the Guide Dogs building in Morphett Street, until they moved to their current home, again at Mile End.

Malcolm was responsible for several other significant advances for vision-impaired and disabled people in South Australia. Could you tell us about them?

As a lawyer, Malcolm was passionate about rights for the vision impaired. He worked with Don Dunstan to draft the legislation that today allows access rights to Guide Dogs in South Australia. It was a big step forward and something I am very proud of.

He didn't stop there though. Malcolm had other ideas about helping people living with disability. He worked to establish the **Sir Charles Bright Scholarship** in 1985. Sir Charles Bright was a former judge of the Supreme Court who did a lot of work in both his public and private life for the disabled and disadvantaged.

You're still a big advocate for the vision impaired also, Rosemary – what volunteer work do you do now?

I'm a Life Member of Guide Dogs and proud to be a supporter. I'm also still involved with 5RPH 1197 – it's been 33 years now. Once a week with my 'foodie' colleague, I present a cooking program with various guests and items of interest from the 'Source SA' section of the Advertiser. I also present a Hymn Program on a Sunday evening.

You too can get involved with Guide Dogs. Call **08 8115 6050** or email HR.Volunteer@guidedogs.org.au for more information on volunteering and supporting Guide Dogs.

More information about the Sir Charles Bright Scholarship

Scholarships are awarded to disabled persons undertaking post-secondary education at University, TAFE or other recognised post-secondary

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educational institutions. Scholarships of \$1,500 are presented annually in February/March. The scholarship has assisted students to the tune of \$360,000. One of our own staff members, Simon Wong, was awarded the scholarship in 1987 while studying at Flinders University. For more information visit rphadelaide.org.au/scholarship.htm.

The Malcolm Penn room

The Malcolm Penn room, which is used for our Autism Assistance Dog (AAD) program, was named for Malcolm in 2010 to recognise his innovative spirit. At the time, the AAD program was very new and innovative in Australia and felt this was an appropriate way to honour an innovator such as Malcolm.

Our Guide Dog Services team uses this room to work with families of children living with autism. The team meet with parents to explain the AAD program and undertake distraction training with dogs and children. It's also a safe place to introduce children to dogs.

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Changing lives - Alisha's waiting game will have a perfect ending

We recently wrote to tell you about Alisha's story of challenge and hope. You might also have watched her story via video. It was so very heartbreaking.

Since the age of nine, Alisha has been battling adversity. This was when her first brain tumour was discovered. It was found to be benign and Alisha recovered.

But 10 years later, at the age of 19, came a tragic blow. Alisha discovered that her mum's birth family had a history of brain tumours. A pre-cautionary check-up MRI revealed new tumours on the nerves used for balance leading to her inner ears. She was diagnosed with Neurofibromatosis type 2 (NF2), **an incurable condition.**

Now, Alisha has vision and hearing difficulties and problems with balance. Even her vocal cords have been affected.

With the complexities of her condition, Alisha became isolated – until she found Guide Dogs, and **her life changed forever.**

Your outpouring of support and messages of love in response to this campaign were so generous – thank you. It means so much to Alisha, and to us.

“I am overwhelmed by the response to my story,” said Alisha. “I don't consider myself that special; I just get on with my life, because this is the way it is. But hearing the messages from donors was a surprise.

“I think the best thing is how much people want me to have a dog. People who made a donation said they think that I deserve to have more freedom and independence. I want this too – quite desperately.”

Every donation, no matter the amount, from generous supporters like you, brings freedom and independence one step closer for people like Alisha. “If I had a Guide Dog, I could do things that appear so simple to sighted people, like walking upstairs without tripping and falling or walking in a shadowed area.

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“But I also know that I need a very special dog. Belynda has told me that my dog is out there. Guide Dogs just have to keep looking and testing and training.”

“Every dog in our program is special and each one is different. **We are now looking out for the right dog for Alisha,**” said Belynda, Guide Dog Mobility Instructor.

“For example, we must look at the pace of a dog. We have many vision impaired clients who love to stride out and enjoy a fast pace so a dog with a quick pace is perfect. But this is not what we need for Alisha.

“The chosen dog must be compatible with Alisha’s pace and also sense her need for balance. The dog may need to stop frequently when Alisha needs to regain her balance and she may even need to lean against the dog for a short period while she regains her balance.

“The dog must be very calm and compliant, have good focus with a sound temperament. It will require a good level of voice responsiveness. Alisha may not always be able to use physical cues as much as voice cues so the dog will need to tune in to her voice. We’re also looking for high willingness – to love, please and perform for Alisha, building a strong attachment.”

Your support is vital in finding the right dog for Alisha. Thank you so much for your generosity. Guide Dogs will be right by Alisha’s side, supporting her as she waits – and we’ll make sure you are one of the first to know when we call to say ‘we’ve found your perfect match’.

Have you been following Alisha’s progress through our appeal and online? Alisha would love to hear from you. **Use the enclosed postcard to send your note of support back to Guide Dogs and we’ll be sure to pass it onto Alisha.**

Help us provide safety, independence and inclusion. Please donate at guidedogs.org.au/donate or call **(08) 8116 6060**.

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Where are they now? New life and new hope, thanks to a wonderful dog - and you.

Seven years ago, we met Riley. Diagnosed with severe autism, five-year-old Riley was non-communicative and unpredictable.

Leaving the house was a major challenge for his family. A simple walk to the park or the shops was out of the question.

“We would have to strap Riley into his stroller or hold him. We had to be 100 per cent aware at all times of what he was doing, for fear that he would bolt away into danger,” said Riley’s mum, Nicole.

Riley had also just started school. “When he realised he had to go every day, he just wouldn’t go. **It was taking me an hour to coax him to leave the house,**” she said.

“He was also extremely afraid of dogs. The idea of an Autism Assistance Dog (AAD) seemed out of the question – I couldn’t imagine how it would work. **I was in despair for my little boy, and my family.**

“But then we met the Guide Dogs team. They were just amazing. We were on the AAD pilot program – one of the very first matches. I was afraid and excited, all at once.

They gently and skilfully introduced Riley to our wonderful Blake – and overnight, life changed for the better.”

Nicole says the change she has seen over the years from a non-communicative, shy, afraid little boy, to a settled, happy young man is phenomenal.

The difference after Blake arrived was extraordinary. Riley would happily connect to Blake, walk calmly next to him and play with him. He started saying a few words and his social skills improved.

“Riley became calm and content around Blake. I clearly remember the day I looked out the window and saw them playing in the yard and Riley was laughing like mad. It was so wonderful. I had never seen anything like it before.

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“I remember the first time I decided to use Blake to help us get Riley out the door to school. I connected him and we ‘went for a walk’, without protest. My husband met us down the road with the car; we got in and went to school. We never had a problem again,” she said.

“Most importantly, there was no more fear. We could leave the house without any stress or fear of danger. It was such a relief to know he was safe, and that life was actually going to get better,” says Nicole.

Over the years, Riley’s relationship with Blake, his social skills and his personality have blossomed.

Nicole feels so much more relaxed and confident these days. Originally, her biggest concern was Riley’s safety. But over the years, he developed such a special connection with Blake that he understood that he needed to stay with him and did not run away. It was an understanding that didn’t really exist between him and his parents.

“For several years he was totally reliant upon Blake. Now, when they are in a safe environment like the nearby park, Riley is somewhat self-sufficient when walking. Riley is obviously bigger now so he isn’t ‘attached’ to Blake to stop him from running away. However, their close bond means that Riley is more confident and knows to stay beside Blake which in a way gives him a little more independence.”

Riley still only says a few words, but is very good at taking direction. He’s a young man of 12 now and his life is very different. He loves playing Minecraft on his iPad; he loves swimming, riding his scooter and his bike. He goes to school every day, is doing well with his letters and numbers and loves to sing! He likes to help in his Grandpa’s workshop and Nicole hopes that one day he’ll be able to participate in hands-on work like this.

Life is just normal now. Nicole and her family cannot imagine what life would be like today without the gift of Blake.

“Being matched with an Autism Assistance Dog was the first step in changing not only Riley’s life, but our whole family’s life.”

These are the stories we love to tell. Riley’s life has changed forever and it was made possible through your donations and your support. **Thank you.**

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This joy should be available to all families living with autism. Families who are trapped at home, isolated and living in fear. Diagnosis of autism is increasing and there are so many more children who need our help. An Autism Assistance Dog, just like Blake, would be life changing. **Will you please continue your generous support so more families can live a life without fear?**

Please consider a donation to the Guide Dog program today. Your generosity will provide safety and independence for a young person, just like Riley. Donate online at guidedogs.org.au or call **(08) 8115 6060**.

Behind the scenes - A day in the life of a dog-in-training.

Get a dogs-eye-view of how your support plays an invaluable part in the development of a Guide Dog's life.

From the day a new litter is born in our Puppy Development Centre, to the day he or she graduates, your role as a *Puppy Sponsor*, donor or volunteer is essential. In fact, it's your support that changes lives.

And, rain, hail or shine our Guide Dog Services team work hard to turn our beautiful puppies into a Guide Dog, Autism Assistance Dog or Pets As Therapy Dog.

Along with Guide Dog Mobility Instructor, Belynda, Guide Dog-in-training, Pez, explains his typical day.

“Woof! Hi, my name is Pez. I am one of eight from the P Litter, born in 2014 and am now coming to the end of my formal training. I've been focusing on destination walks with my trainer, Belynda. Belynda and I practice various routes over and over so I can learn them by heart and become comfortable with the distractions I might see while working.

The other day, we practised going from a quiet residential area to a busy train station and through the city to the Guide Dogs office. It was so much fun!

Doing it over and over again consolidates my learning and gives me confidence so I have a smooth transition from my training to become a working Guide Dog.

We started in a nice quiet street near a park. It was raining and miserable but I don't mind...this is my job, rain hail or shine! I wear a harness and a gentle leader, which helps me focus on my work. It can also help my handler moderate my walking speed.

We crossed streets and navigated around bus stops and sign posts, taking special notice of low hanging branches. I didn't see the first couple of branches so we tried it a few more times and I became better and better at it.

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I learned to find the cross-walk button for my handler to cross safely. When the train arrived I guided Belynda safely on board.

It's my job to find an empty seat so I went for one right near the door. I went straight up and lay my chin on it so Belynda could find it easily and then I lay down and tucked my paws in so no one would step on them!

When we arrived, Belynda gave me the command to guide her safely onto the platform and out of the station. Walking through a crowded station was tough! I navigated the crowd and steps like a pro though!

Having made it safely to the Guide Dogs office I got lots of praise and pats for doing such a good job. **I can't wait to be matched, meet my new handler and become his or her eyes. Belynda tells me that I am going to change someone's life! I can't wait!**

Would you like to help puppies like Pez grow up to change someone's life? Become a *Puppy Sponsor* today. Sign up online at guidedogs.org.au/donate/puppy-sponsorship or call (08) 8115 6060.

Hearing Services in the community

As a valued supporter of Guide Dogs, you probably know that while our name is 'Guide Dogs SA/NT', the range of services we offer is vast.

The Guide Dogs team provide a comprehensive range of services in addition to training and placing our extraordinary dogs. Below are just a few of these services:

- Mobility training
- Case Management for people with sensory and hearing loss
- Empowering young people living with disability
- Counselling
- Working with My Aged Care.

Hearing Services provide assistance and support to any adult who has a hearing impairment or who has both a vision and hearing loss. They can also educate family members and other interested people about hearing loss, the effects, and services available in the community, and at Guide Dogs.

Our team of qualified, professional and experienced staff members design individual programs for adults with hearing loss to suit their lifestyle and goals.

“One of the most rewarding aspects of our work is being able to get out into the community and share our knowledge and expertise,” said Helen Whitworth, Audiometrist and Principal Hearing Rehabilitation Coordinator. **The Hearing Services team make regular visits to Port Augusta, Riverland, the Iron Triangle and Mount Gambier as well as Fleurieu Peninsula, Gawler and the Barossa, Murray Bridge and Adelaide Hills.** These visits are planned to meet defined needs in the community.

In August 2015 Hearing Services received a grant which enabled the team to visit Port Augusta and the Wami Kata Old Folks Home. This was extremely valuable as it enabled Guide Dogs to work personally with residents and staff at the centre, discovering specific needs in the local community.

“In particular, there are a high number of people with significant hearing loss in Aboriginal communities. Our team wanted to see if there were any services we could offer to help,” she said.

On their trip, the team arranged personal appointments and demonstrations of equipment such as TV devices, phones, personal communication devices and smoke alarms. They reached out to members of the community in their own homes who were less mobile and presented to several key community groups.

“We can also help connect people with hearing loss with the right services and explain about funding eligibility,” said Helen.

“It was wonderful to have such a positive response from the community. **Our service is all about education.** We work with people to establish what they may have at home, what they need and demonstrate how new technology and devices can enhance their lifestyle.

Are you or someone you know, concerned about your hearing? Call the Hearing Services team on **1800 757 738** today for a free hearing assessment.

At Guide Dogs, we simply could not operate without volunteers. Their value to our organisation is priceless.

Carol has been volunteering with Guide Dogs for the past four years. As a short-term boarder and admin volunteer, Carol loves every minute.

“I have been a *Puppy Sponsor* for many years and always had my own dogs. But when the time comes to say goodbye to my own, I find it so hard. As a volunteer, I get to love and care for dogs all the time – and I don’t have to say goodbye forever!” said Carol.

“As an admin volunteer, there’s always something different to do. I make phone calls to thank new donors, update the database or work on reception. I also send out receipts and clean the collection dogs.

“As a short-term boarder, my husband and I have just hosted our 29th dog! We help to socialise the dogs, take them for walks and go to the shops, restaurants or the movies. We need to maintain consistency with training rules, but when their coat comes off they are not working anymore and they can play. **My favourite part of being a home boarder is watching the dog enjoy life.**

“Everyone wants the dogs to succeed and I think it is very important that we all do the right thing by them to give them the best possible chance. **It is special to see them transition into a working dog and know that they are changing someone’s life.**

“If you are thinking about volunteering, there is something to suit everyone. It is so rewarding; the staff and other volunteers are lovely. This country would fall apart without volunteers!”

Volunteering is a family affair for Carol. Her husband Graham has recently been engaged as a bus driver for our new community bus.

Breaking down isolation is critical to Guide Dogs. Empowering people to connect with their community is vital, whether through providing independence through a Guide Dog or mobility training, or making personal visits to people who need our services.

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To help extend our reach into the community, Guide Dogs have introduced a community bus, thanks to a grant from the Department of Communities and Social Inclusion. Amongst other things, the bus help break down isolation by taking clients on social visits. Graham recently drove the first group to visit TAFE Salisbury to learn Auslan.

“I have seen how much enjoyment Carol gains from her volunteer work with Guide Dogs and decided to join in too!” said Graham.

We’re so grateful to Carol, Graham and all of our wonderful volunteers. Without you, Guide Dogs could not provide safety, independence and inclusion to the community. Thank you.

Volunteers needed for the following positions in South Australia!

Bus drivers for 11 seater. Normal driver’s license required, training provided. Must be comfortable interacting with clients.

Events – Run during work hours, after hours and on weekends. No experience required. Must be comfortable interacting with the public.

URGENT - Puppy Raisers - Take a puppy into your heart and home for a min of 1 year. Must meet strict criteria - available at guidedogs.org.au/puppy-raising.

Phone Human Resources on **08 8115 6050** or email HR.Volunteer@guidedogs.org.au for more information or to apply.

Guide Dogs NT - Volunteers – the life blood of our organisation

At Guide Dogs, we simply could not operate without volunteers. We are so grateful for the time and effort that we see every week from our volunteers. Their value to our organisation is priceless.

In the Northern Territory, many of our volunteers cover hundreds of miles every week to collect donations. Janice and Garry are just two of the generous people we rely on every week.

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“I hadn’t done any volunteer work before I came to Guide Dogs”, said Janice. “I had retired from my work with the Commonwealth Bank and was looking for something to do when I saw an ad in the window of the Guide Dogs office.”

That was eight years ago, and Janice has spent every Tuesday since then at the Guide Dogs office. **Her role involves assisting with collecting and counting donations from our iconic Collection Dogs placed with retailers and pubs in the community.**

“Having worked in a bank, I felt the role was a good match. I enjoy the social side of the work too and meeting people both out in the community and in the office, like Garry, who I work with every week,” she said.

“I’ve enjoyed learning more about the services that Guide Dogs provide for the community. I really didn’t know the full range of services that are offered and the impact this organisation has for people with vision impairment.

“We don’t see a Guide Dog ‘in person’ very often so it was such a treat when we recently had Hudson in the office. He brought a smile to everyone’s face!”

“For me, if it’s Tuesday, it’s time to go to Guide Dogs,” said Garry. “I was looking for something to do when I retired and working at Guide Dogs now happily fills my Tuesdays!

“I saw an ad in the paper and enquired. **I like the fact that my volunteer work gives my week some structure, as well as the fact that I am helping out a worthy cause.**

“Janice and I are kept busy every Tuesday, driving about collecting dogs and replacing them, then counting the proceeds. We cover hundreds of kilometres altogether!

“For a small place, I think it is unbelievable the amount of money that is raised here. The community really is so generous. I really admire what Guide Dogs achieve in the community and the work they do to help people in need.”

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Would you like to become a volunteer? There are a range of different roles available and tasks range from a few hours to a whole day. To find out more, phone Catherine on **08 8995 2222**.

Community - The Early Years at Seymour's egg-cellent effort.

It's so special to see a community come together to make a difference. That's exactly what The Early Years at Seymour College community did back in April.

Three-year-old Fletcher is a student of The Early Years at Seymour. He has Optic Nerve Hypoplasia which means he has underdeveloped optic nerves.

Fletcher is too young to yet fully communicate what he can and can't see. Orientation and Mobility Instructor, Melissa Holland, has been working with Fletcher for the past seven months to assist him with his mobility and understand what he can and can't see.

Fletcher doesn't see obstacles that are near to the floor which means he bumps into things or trip on stairs. For someone with a vision loss as young as Fletcher an inquisitive nature can be fraught with danger and uncertainty. Beginning at his pre-school brought a new environment with potential new hazards.

Melissa and Fletcher work together one day a week at school, supported by his educators, to develop skills aimed at helping Fletcher compensate for his vision loss.

"From when we started at The Early Years at Seymour, we felt welcomed and part of a progressive team willing to help in any way. This was something as a family we had not previously encountered at day-care centres - Fletcher always fell in the 'too hard basket'. His educators have been exceptional in supporting Fletcher by their willingness to learn from Melissa", said Kellie, Fletcher's Mum.

Inspired by the work of Melissa and Fletcher, the community of The Early Years at Seymour College donated this year's Easter raffle proceeds to Guide Dogs, so that more people like Fletcher can benefit from services like Orientation and Mobility.

Donations of chocolate eggs and Easter themed gifts made up 17 baskets which were then raffled within the community.

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Thanks to the generosity of The Early Years at Seymour, Guide Dogs were gifted with \$820 toward enhancing the life of people like Fletcher who live with vision impairment.

To show our thanks, Guide Dogs sent along Richard and Ambassador Tango to meet Fletcher's class, who were lucky enough to have a pat once Tango's working jacket came off.

Thank you to everyone at The Early Years at Seymour College who got involved with the raffle. Your generosity makes it possible for Guide Dogs to provide safety, independence and inclusion to people living with vision and/or hearing loss.

Does your child have a vision loss? Call **Your Support Line** today on **1800 757 738** to find out how Guide Dogs can help.

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Thank you for suPAWting our events in South Australia!

Thanks to you, the Guide Dogs events continue to attract a PAWsome turnout!

It began this year when volunteers, clients, staff and supporters proudly paraded as one for International Guide Dog Day in April.

In one of the biggest parades, the celebration stopped traffic, office workers and shoppers as it wound its way through the city to Government House.

The sea of orange t-shirts and balloons even attracted attention from high-rise office buildings with their occupants smiling and waving at the 300 strong parade.

Chief Executive of Guide Dogs, Kate Thiele, said it was an amazing symbol of how everyone comes together to help change the lives of people living with disability.

The parade was again led by the SA Police Band – who couldn't resist the tune *Talk to the Animals*. Also **Taking the Lead** was our Patron, the Governor of South Australia, His Excellency, The Honourable Hieu Van Le and Mrs Le along with Guide Dog Xane.

At Government House graduating dog teams were welcomed and retired dogs honoured for their work. A variety of businesses were nominated to receive special recognition of their commitment to providing access to assistance dogs. It was a pleasure to praise these businesses for going above and beyond.

The day was also complemented by our biggest '**Badge Day**' so far in Rundle Mall with volunteers taking to the streets with our iconic Collection Dogs. **Thanks to the public's generosity, we raised over \$4,000!**

Following this success, you helped reach a record result for the annual Quiz Night!

Yet another sell out for our Quiz Night, the crowd contributed to raising **more than \$26,000** to sup pawt people living with disability.

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Footy Legend and Triple M radio personality Andrew 'Jars' Jarman pumped up the crowd as MC for the night. You see, we have a special connection with Jars. Andrew and his family are volunteers for Guide Dogs and look after adorable brood mother, Polo as well as recently also becoming Puppy Raisers to gorgeous little Ruby.

As always, the fun night had a serious purpose as a fundraiser for Guide Dogs. Marie Ryan, alongside her Guide Dog Ebony, was interviewed by Jars and shared her touching story of just how Guide Dogs has enabled her.

A big thank you to our generous sponsors, Longview Wines, RACV Salary Solutions and Copyworld who helped make our Quiz Night possible. Also, to everyone who got their smarts on and dug deep on the night. Last but certainly not least, thanks to all the businesses and individuals who donated goods for our wine wall, silent auction and prizes.

Thank you for suPAWting our events in Northern Territory!

Thanks to you, the Guide Dogs events continue to attract a PAWsome turnout!

Q. Why do golfers always carry two pairs of trousers with them?

A. Just in case they get a hole in one!

There were plenty vying for that hole in one at the Palmerston Golf and Country Club when the **Palmerston Regional Business Association (PRBA) Charity Golf Day** was held in June.

Thanks to the generous supporters who turned out, **Guide Dogs raised over \$4,500** during the course of the day - pun intended!

In usual NT style, the crowd was keen to join in on the chipping contest, purchase raffle tickets and generally make it a terrific day of sportsmanship. A huge shout-out to the following sponsors for the day; Country Classics, Darwin Turf Club, Deckchair Cinema, Eco Air, Helen Summers, In Focus, Inside Out Fitness, Mantra Pandanus, Palmerston Regional Business Association, Palmerston Golf Club and Caddies, Sage Resorts, SkyCity and Southern Cross Television.

Paw Prints

A range of terrific prizes were donated by our sponsors for the raffle and all prize recipients were overjoyed with their winnings.

We can't wait to see you all along again next year!

As the main provider of Vision Rehabilitation Services in the Northern Territory, Guide Dogs provides training and assistance to people with vision loss wherever they live.

With our team always on the road to help the community, seminars and events are another excellent way to show what support is available for people living with disability.

In May, Occupational Therapist, Zinna, held an information stall at the **Macular Disease Foundation Seminar** at the Tracy Village Sports and Social Club.

“Guide Dogs offers services to enable people of all ages living with vision impairment to increase their safety and independence in their daily living activities,” said Zinna. “The seminar was a great opportunity to share information with the local community and to also demonstrate a selection of vision aids that Guide Dogs have available at our Fannie Bay office”.

“We had a wide range of vision aids on display including talking watches and clocks, liquid level indicators, coin holders, magnifiers, lamps and signature guides. I was also able to advise people about our referral process, specifically that people can self-refer to our service.”

If you know of an event coming up that would benefit from having Guide Dogs attend, please call Catherine on **(08) 8995 2222** or email at **catherine@guidedogs.org.au** with more information.

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What's coming up in South Australia?

Discover more at Guide Dogs

Are you looking for **things to do** during the **October school holidays**? Check out our award-winning **Discovery Centre**. Play basketball with glasses simulating a vision loss, learn Braille to crack a code, use a white cane, plus meet one of our special dogs in training! Contact Reception on **8203 8333** to make a booking.

Jog 4 a Dog in September!

Join Guide Dogs for the City to Bay on Sunday 18 September and help raise much needed funds for people living with disability. Call **8203 8302** or email fundraising@guidedogs.org.au to register your interest.

That's a wrap!

Have all of your wrapping needs attended at once by the Guide Dogs team and volunteers at Harbour Town. Come on down between **1st - 22nd December**, make a **gold coin donation** (or the folding stuff!) and we'll take care of everything. Check out our exciting new range of Christmas presents while you're there!

Boss's Blind Date

Could you work one day in darkness to bring light into someone's life? Joint the Boss's Blind Date challenge this October.

For more details call 8203 8312.

60th anniversary

2017 is our 60th anniversary. Watch this space for exciting information to follow!

What's coming up in Northern Territory?

Dinner and a movie

Take a moment to mark this date in your diary! On **October 6**, Guide Dogs will be hosting a fundraiser film night at Darwin's iconic **Deckchair Cinema**. We will be screening the family-friendly 'Finding Dory' - raising funds through ticket sales, dinner and a raffle with great prizes! Fun activities and face painting for the kids as well as information about Guide Dogs' services will be available.

Paw Prints

Come along early to catch the gorgeous sunset over Darwin Harbour and supawt Guide Dogs. **Gates open at 6pm** – tickets are available for purchase at www.deckchaircinema.com

The gift that keeps giving.

Yes, we're starting to plan for Christmas! Guide Dogs has something to suit everyone in our **exciting new range of products!** With the new range due to be unveiled in **October**, keep an eye on the website at guidedogs.org.au/shop or call **08 8115 6060** to ensure you're included in our mail out.

Entertainment Books

If you haven't already purchased your **16/17 Entertainment™ Book**, don't despair, you still have time! Crammed full of savings for accommodation, restaurants, activities and more, now is the time to prepare for the school holidays. **Purchase online at guidedogs.org.au/entertainment-books**, phone our office on **(08) 8995 2222** or call in at **4/5 Keith Lane, Fannie Bay**. Heading interstate for the holidays? Books also available for other states and cities.

Thank you

There are always many people who make it possible for Guide Dogs to support the community.

Once again, the **People's Choice Lottery** has been a huge success. Thanks to **everyone who volunteered** their time to help sell tickets. We're looking forward to announcing the winners again! Keep an eye on Facebook for the next lottery for your chance to win!

Paw Prints

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Sponsors, Community Partners and Service Partners

Thank you to Copyworld who are sponsoring Pixie and to Salmon Studio who are sponsoring Polar. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

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S A: His Excellency the Honourable Hew Van Le, AO, Governor of South Australia.

N T: His Honour the Honourable John Hardy, OAM, Administrator for the Northern Territory.

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