



Seeing Eye Dogs  
Vision Australia

# Paws

For a moment

Issue 1 – 2023

Thank you  
for helping  
to care for and train  
more pups!



# Thank you

Thank you for everything you do to help train Seeing Eye Dogs for people who are blind or have low vision!

We are so grateful to you for giving Karen and Cheryl the chance to live with confidence and independence.

Working as a teacher's aide, Karen helps young children and educates the community about the importance of Seeing Eye Dogs, with Queenie by her side. And after an incredible 25-year career transcribing printed material into braille, Cheryl is now enjoying retirement with her 'golden girl', Seeing Eye Dog Sherry.

There's news to share about our innovative Youth Camp, and 15 new matches bringing joy to so many people.

Your commitment to support people who are blind or have low vision means so much. Thank you.



Ron Hooton  
Chief Executive Officer



Welcome to the world of puppies!

With your support  
these puppies are heading for big things.

**These are all the  
puppies born between  
March 2022 and  
July 2022.**

**Basil, Bazza, Buggy,  
Bosco, Bluey, Betty, Bridget,  
Bessie, Bonnie, Bunty**  
DOB: 25/4/22 Breed: L  
Mum: Magda Dad: Redmond

**Shaylah, Spencer, Slattery,  
Sage, Scully, Sandler, Sasha**  
DOB: 5/3/22 Breed: L  
Mum: Wilma Dad: Murray

**Connie, Crosby,  
Cecil, Chester**  
DOB: 9/5/22 Breed: L  
Mum: Cara Dad: Jethro

**Tambo, Tom, Tex, Tessa,  
Tanner, Treasure, Tucker, Tibby**  
DOB: 8/3/22 Breed: GR  
Mum: Honshu Dad: Bart

**Delilah, Darcy, Diesel, Diego,  
Dash, Dobby, Dougal, Dakota**  
DOB: 11/5/22 Breed: L  
Mum: Keisha Dad: Grillson

**Vixen, Vivian, Vern,  
Violet, Vinnie, Vijay,  
Venus, Virgil, Vai**  
DOB: 24/3/22 Breed: L x GR  
Mum: India Dad: Yuma

**Etta, Buruma – E, Sissy – E,  
Erin, Emily, Galnya – E, Ezra,  
Essie, Bula – E, Mil – E**  
DOB: 27/5/22 Breed: L  
Mum: Vivi Dad: Dennis

**Winnie, Widget, Waldo,  
Winona, Wynn, Winston,  
Wilkie, Warren, Wayne**  
DOB: 25/3/22 Breed: L x GR  
Mum: Helen Dad: Yoli

**Floyd, Francois,  
Fitz, Fisher,  
Fenella, Finbar**  
DOB: 9/6/22 Breed: L  
Mum: Quilla X Dad: Fitch

**Yoda, Yeats, Yori,  
Yana, Yazzy, Yola**  
DOB: 2/4/22 Breed: L  
Mum: Carmel Dad: Ozzy

**Gary, Gustav, Gwilym,  
Gilby, Gomer**  
DOB: 10/6/22 Breed: GR  
Mum: Kelly Dad: Deuce

**Zoe, Zorba, Zappa, Zsa Zsa,  
Zed, Zero, Zakki**  
DOB: 17/4/22 Breed: L  
Mum: Keitha Dad: Igor

**Hans, Hawkie, Harold,  
Haiku, Hallam, Cherry – H**  
DOB: 29/6/22 Breed: L  
Mum: Ocean Dad: Clancy

**Andre, Aggie, Audrey,  
Action, Avanti, Alvin**  
DOB: 21/4/22 Breed: L  
Mum: Quaver Dad: Vincent

**Ivory, Iron, Isabel, Ithaca,  
Idol, Ingrid, Imran, Inge, Ian**  
DOB: 5/7/22 Breed: L x GR  
Mum: Elsie Dad: Kamahl

L = Labrador, GR = Golden Retriever





## Cheryl and Sherry – a golden future together

Cheryl has spent a large part of her life focusing on others – devoted to ensuring books could be enjoyed by people who are blind or have low vision, like herself.

Living with blindness since she was seven due to an accident, Cheryl went on to carve out a highly successful career for herself as a professional transcriber. She has spent an incredible 25 years transcribing print material into braille!

Cheryl's devotion to her career was one that came naturally, and she has loved working hard to empower people who are blind or have low vision, making reading material more accessible.

Since the age of 17, Cheryl has been matched with six Seeing Eye Dogs – and as her sixth, Sherry has a special place in her heart. Sherry is her 'golden girl', helping Cheryl navigate a new and exciting chapter: retirement.

Cheryl loves Sherry's willingness to help her navigate her newly found freedom with independence.

***'With Sherry by my side, I can do things myself. I don't have to rely on anyone else.'***  
- Cheryl

The tight-knit pair are inseparable in this new stage of life, out and about, entertaining, or back home, snuggled up on the couch.

'She's a very cuddly dog,' Cheryl adds, eager to point out that Sherry is equal parts comforting as she is competent. 'I love the fact that when I'm sitting down, she'll come around and lie across my feet.'

Sherry also loves to socialise! 'If people come to visit, the first thing Sherry does is get her toy llama and parade it about for everyone to see,' Cheryl laughs.

**Thank you for helping match Cheryl with her precious 'golden girl', bringing her comfort and independence!**

# From little things, big things grow

Maltese-born Twanny is a wheelchair-warrior of note. Born with a giving heart, a positive outlook on life along with problematic low vision and serious health challenges, legally-blind Twanny has been a client and loyal supporter of Vision Australia – formerly the Royal Victorian Institute of the Blind – since 1966! With the help of a volunteer, he achieved his degree and worked as a welfare officer for the Retinitis Pigmentosa Society.

Through his enduring relationship with Laura of Vision Australia's Gifts in Will team, Twanny heard of Vision Australia's ground-breaking Wheelchair Project in 2022. Much to our excitement, Twanny generously gave \$50K to successfully launch the venture!

The project aims to equip advanced Seeing Eye Dogs to undergo specialised training to effectively guide people who are blind or have low vision who use electric wheelchairs. A remarkable, wheelchair-reliant young woman once shared her dream of being independently mobile with our CEO, Ron Hooton; her wish accelerated the program's development.

Twanny and his dog guide Annabella have started wheelchair mobility training and a further gift of \$5K from Twanny has improved our canine X-ray capabilities.



*Twanny and Paul*



*Annabella*

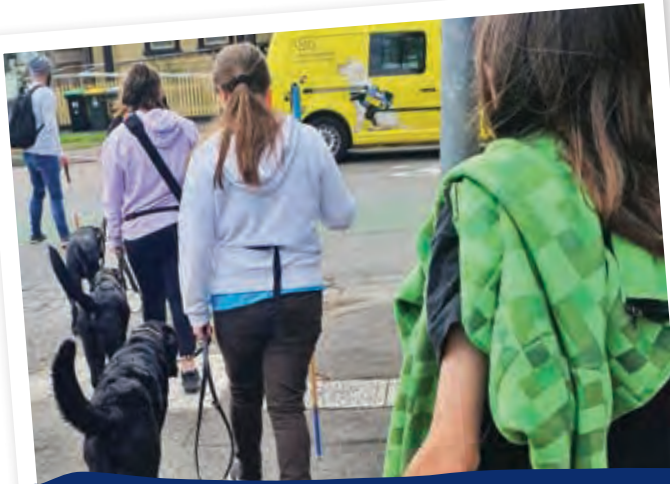
As we go to print, Twanny, along with his family, friends and medical team, will cheerfully celebrate the 51st anniversary of his kidney transplant! As Australia's second longest living renal transplant survivor, he and his family wholeheartedly support the positive impact of 'giving back' for the greater good. For Twanny, a donation of any size is important and he lives by his motto of 'from little things, BIG things grow'.

To this end, Twanny generously bequeathed a substantial portion of his investment portfolio proceeds to Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs to provide for the naming and training of eight Seeing Eye Dogs! In accordance with Twanny's wishes, the dogs will be named in memory of Frances (mother), Vincent (father), Joe (brother), Valli (first dog guide), Annabella (current dog guide), Kirsten (goddaughter), Jessica (niece) and Twanny.

Included in this substantial gift is a Trust in Perpetuity to ensure his legacy lives on.

**We're hugely grateful for every Gift in Will gesture. And if you'd like to know more about how you too could include a gift to Vision Australia in your Will, we would love to hear from you. Please contact our team by phone on 1800 422 077, or email [giw@visionaustralia.org](mailto:giw@visionaustralia.org)**





## Innovative Youth Camp breaking barriers

Being matched with a Seeing Eye Dog is a dream for many people who are blind or have low vision. Most young people have to wait until they are older to be matched, but now, a unique youth program is giving them a chance to understand what working with a Seeing Eye Dog is really like.

Thanks to the compassion of kind supporters like you, an innovative new program has been specially designed to help young participants understand what is required to work with a Seeing Eye Dog and see if this is the best fit for their needs. The program will also help improve independence, orientation and mobility skills.

Seeing Eye Dogs instructor Brooke, and Darren, orientation and mobility specialist, led our first Youth Camp for six young people aged 12-18 with low vision last September, a core part of new Seeing Eye Dogs youth program.

Each young person was matched with a paw-some pal of their own to experience working with a dog guide and improve their mobility skills. Over a week, they learnt how to work with their new companion, including how to groom, feed and maintain a Seeing Eye Dog's training.

***'Watching our participants build friendships was lovely to see. One young person said it was the best camp she had ever been on. Being with other people who are blind or have low vision, made her feel accepted and that we understand her low vision, something she hadn't experienced before.'*** - Brooke

The youth program is going from strength to strength and the next Youth Camp has been scheduled for early 2023.

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**If you know a young person who is blind or has low vision and would like to experience the freedom and joy of working with a Seeing Eye Dog, you can submit an expression of interest for the youth program to [SEDClients@visionaustralia.org](mailto:SEDClients@visionaustralia.org)**

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# Congratulations new Graduates!

What *paw-fect* matches we've made in the last six months!  
Fifteen new teams are striding out with confidence, and it's all because of you.

Thank you for giving 15 people who are blind or have low vision  
their new best friend, a Seeing Eye Dog. We think you're *paw-some*!

SEEING EYE DOG *Gilbert* MATCHED WITH *Arthur*

SEEING EYE DOG *Inca* MATCHED WITH *Patricia*

SEEING EYE DOG *Jango* MATCHED WITH *Theresa*

SEEING EYE DOG *Jude* MATCHED WITH *Charmaine*

SEEING EYE DOG *Kona* MATCHED WITH *Casey*

SEEING EYE DOG *Nancy* MATCHED WITH *Susan*

SEEING EYE DOG *Oslo* MATCHED WITH *Warwick*

SEEING EYE DOG *Quarry* MATCHED WITH *Sidney*

SEEING EYE DOG *Quartz* MATCHED WITH *Rhonda*

SEEING EYE DOG *Roger* MATCHED WITH *Jason*

SEEING EYE DOG *Sandy* MATCHED WITH *Hung*

SEEING EYE DOG *Uli* MATCHED WITH *Samantha*

SEEING EYE DOG *Union (Zebbie)* MATCHED WITH *Jennifer*

SEEING EYE DOG *Viola* MATCHED WITH *Anne*

SEEING EYE DOG *Zumba* MATCHED WITH *Edward*



**Queenie  
– the ultimate  
'teacher's pet'**

Karen lives with retinitis pigmentosa and leads a busy life as a teacher's aide. Having a Seeing Eye Dog by her side gives her the freedom to do her job. Recently Karen's first Seeing Eye Dog, Josie, reached retirement, and Karen was eager to find her new best friend.

Matched earlier this year, Karen and Queenie are perfect for each other! Everywhere they go together, Queenie encourages conversations about Seeing Eye Dogs.

'I often hear parents start a conversation about Queenie with their children,' Karen says. 'They say Queenie is working, helping me as I can't see very well.'

While Seeing Eye Dog Josie is now enjoying a well-deserved rest, Queenie is energetic, enthusiastic and ready to go!

'She's a joy to work with,' Karen smiles. Queenie is exactly the confident, charismatic dog Karen needed to help her enjoy continued independence, pursue her career in helping young children succeed in school and increase community understanding about blindness and low vision.





## Petbarn Foundation

– supporting Australians who are blind or have low vision

For people in our community who are blind or have low vision, Seeing Eye Dogs are vital – providing 24/7 companionship that can genuinely change lives.

Now thanks to the efforts of Petbarn customers, teams and Royal Canin, the Petbarn Foundation's 9th Annual Seeing Eye Dogs Appeal will fund 23 additional puppies trained-up as Seeing Eye Dogs.

With a total of \$1,169,890 raised in 2022, this donation will have a very practical application: **transforming cute puppies into steadfast companions.**

Since 2014, the Petbarn Foundation has donated \$6.169m to help train 125 Seeing Eye Dogs.

To support the Petbarn Foundation, and to learn more about how we help pets and the people who love and care for them, visit [www.petbarn.com.au/foundation](http://www.petbarn.com.au/foundation)

Meanwhile, our Greencross teams nationally continue to provide discounted veterinary care and support for Vision Australia clients, to help ensure their four-legged companions stay healthy, happy and ready to help.



**Petbarn Foundation**  
Established in 2012



## Your puppy's nutritional timeline

Puppies go through intense growth and development. Their diet plays a key role in supporting this and is crucial in influencing how strong and healthy your puppy is as an adult dog.

### One month old

At one month, a puppy can start to be gradually weaned from its mother's milk onto solid food. They need nutrients to build their natural defences and promote good bacteria in their delicate digestive system. At this stage, the focus is on supporting the development of your puppy's skeletal structure with carefully regulated amounts of calcium, phosphorus and Vitamin D.

### Four to seven months

Your puppy's starting to build its body mass at this age and needs plenty of high-quality protein that's easy to digest.

### 10 months +

As puppies approach adulthood, they still need extra nutritional support for their joints, especially larger breeds as their muscles are filling out and putting pressure on their skeleton.



*'Our puppies love the Royal Canin food and it's great to know it is nutritionally complete and gives them everything they need as they grow and train to become Seeing Eye Dogs.'*

– Kim Rulach, Senior Puppy Development Trainer, Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs

Learn more about the puppy growth stages and looking after your puppy at <https://www.royalcanin.com/au/dogs/puppy>





## Bay of Fires Adventure

Last November, Seeing Eye Dogs offered an adventure of a lifetime to experience 50km of the rugged and untouched coast lines of the beautiful Bay of Fires on Tasmania's North East coast.

Our intrepid travelling party comprised a wonderful array of people including Vision Australia clients, staff and donors, as well as representatives from our partner, Petbarn – while not forgetting two of our inspiring Seeing Eye Dogs.

We'd love to thank the amazing group of participants who took part, as well as everyone who supported them with a donation to raise vital funds for Seeing Eye Dogs to help care for and train pups to become Seeing Eye Dogs. The Bay of Fires Adventure was a truly meaningful once-in-a-lifetime experience.



If you're interested in joining Vision Australia on our next adventure, we are heading to New Zealand in March 2024! Please email [fundraising.events@visionaustralia.org](mailto:fundraising.events@visionaustralia.org)

**WIN!**

Turn a \$2.50 ticket  
into a Mitsubishi  
Eclipse Cross (incl. on-road costs)  
or \$30,000 in cash



Your support of our Lucky Puppy Lotteries  
is helping to transform gorgeous  
Seeing Eye Dog pups into life-changing,  
loyal companions.

**Lucky Puppy  
LOTTERY**



Lottery Hotline: 1300 391 317  
<https://luckypuppylottery.org.au>