

Paws

For a moment



Seeing Eye Dogs
Vision Australia

Issue 2 - 2017

Update

**Kate & Clayton
together
at last**

Inside:

Taking giant steps

Peggy and her blue coat

Top dogs meet their perfect matches

Official publication of Seeing Eye Dogs
a division of Vision Australia





Hello and welcome to the second edition of Paws for 2017.

Thank you so much for your support this year. Through your generosity, we have been able to breed and train so many more puppies to become Seeing Eye Dogs.

Since our last newsletter over 60 puppies have been born. One day they may go on

to transform the lives of those living with blindness or low vision, and we would not be able to raise these pups without your support.

I want to congratulate our 16 pups who graduated and have been matched with their perfect partners, fulfilling our clients' dreams of independence and opportunity.

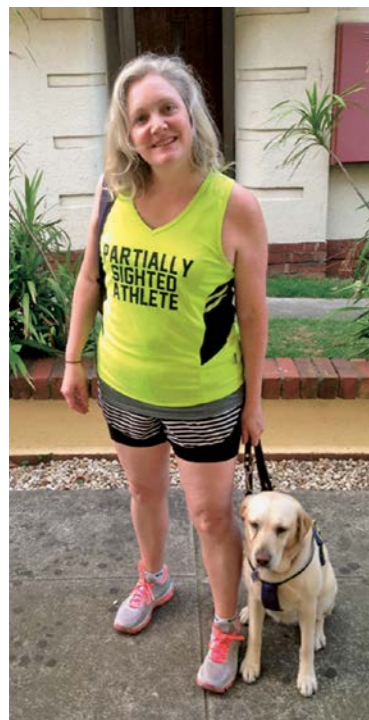
Like Seeing Eye Dogs Yarra and Aura, they went from being eager pups to successful graduates and are now much-loved companions making a life-changing difference every day because of you.

I hope you enjoy reading your newsletter – the stories inside are only possible thanks to you and your amazing support!

Thank you

Ron Hooton
CEO, Vision Australia

Taking giant steps



Sophie and Yarra out for some training

You may remember Sophie and her Seeing Eye Dog Yarra from our Christmas appeal. Through her story and thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, we were able to raise enough money to help care for and train another eight puppies on their journey to become Seeing Eye Dogs. That means that eight Australians just like Sophie will have their lives changed because of you.

Sophie recently took on the challenging task of running her very first half-marathon, supported by her friend and as a result raised nearly \$7,000 for Seeing Eye Dogs. What an amazing achievement! We're so proud of her.

Sophie said the run was hard, but well worth it. Not only was she able to reach a personal goal, she also raised much-needed funds for Seeing Eye Dogs.

"Yarra has given me back my independence," she said. "I really wanted to contribute so that other people who are blind or have low vision can get their lives back just as I did."

Sophie is just one of the many people your kind donations have helped. We would not have been able to match Sophie with her best friend Yarra without your wonderful support.

Thank you for helping people who are blind or have low vision enjoy a confident, independent life!



Help sponsor Peggy today!

Meet Peggy, our latest puppy recruit

"Hello! My name is Peggy and I'm a beautiful yellow female Labrador cross Retriever. I come from a litter of 11 puppies – six boys and five girls. Will you help me?"

"Mum said that we are all extra special and that I have to try my very best now that I have started my training to become a Seeing Eye Dog. I am so excited and I can't wait to wear my very own special blue puppy coat that tells everyone I have a very important job to do."

It takes a lot to train one puppy

When puppies like Peggy are born they need to be vaccinated, micro-chipped and given the right care. It can then take up to 500 specialised training sessions and over two years to unleash Peggy's potential to become a Seeing Eye Dog. The costs really add up, totalling around \$50,000 for Peggy's care and training over her lifetime.

By becoming Peggy's sponsor and making a regular gift you can help with her training and care as she starts her journey to become a Seeing Eye Dog.

As Peggy's sponsor, you'll receive regular letters and photos from Peggy, a cute puppy photo frame for Peggy's photos, and the PAWS newsletter. We will also send you an annual tax receipt.



We need your help to turn Peggy into a fully trained and professional Seeing Eye Dog!

Will you help a puppy like Peggy today? Please call 1800 42 20 07, complete the coupon attached or visit our website seda.visionaustralia.org/sponsor. Thank you!



Skyla and her adorable pups!

We recently welcomed over 60 puppies into the world! Meet some of the adorable pups who have been named below:

Hazel, Herbie, Hector, Hugo, Harlow, Doris, Hamish, Harpo, Hattie, Hansel (QLD), Hillary – Labrador
Dam: Dana, Sire: Jack Flash, DOB: 09/11/2016

Igor, Imogen, Mocca, Irving, India, Isabel, Ingrid, Irma, Ivory – Labrador
Dam: Skyla, Sire: Ajay, DOB: 21/11/2016

Jessie, Jilly, Johnny, Jetson, Jedda, Joni – Labrador
Dam: April, Sire: Maverick, DOB: 09/12/2016

Murray, Marin, Magda, Monty, Major, Miller, Mimi – Labrador
Dam: Gypsy, Sire: Dempsey, DOB: 21/01/2017

Paris, Peggy, Penny, Pippa, Patty, Pauly, Pancho, Perry, Pepper, Pluto and Panda – Labrador cross Golden Retriever
Dam: Pinky, Sire: Enzo, DOB: 23/02/2017

Quisha, Quigley, Quaid, Quercy and Quillon – Golden Retriever cross Labrador
Dam: Sofie, Sire: Dempsey, DOB: 27/02/2017

Tiger, Tonka, Tex, Tommy, Truman, Taylor, Tina, Trixie and Tisha – Labrador
Dam: Lily, Sire: Isaac, DOB 20/03/2017.

Dam = Mum Sire = Dad

Lucia and her guiding light

Since being matched with Aura in April 2016, Lucia says having a Seeing Eye Dog has made such a big difference to her life, helping her regain her confidence and independence once again.

“With Aura, I can get out and do everything I want to,” Lucia says. “I can go places by myself again, like shopping or the hairdressers, and I can easily get to work by myself too. I could never do that before. Plus there’s that feeling of security especially when I’m crossing roads in traffic and catching trains.”

Lucia is a remedial massage therapist who lives in Sydney with her husband and daughter. She was born with low vision caused by retinal dystrophy, cataracts and a condition called nystagmus which causes rapid involuntary movements of the eyes.

Lucia loved walking but slowly started to feel less confident and was going out less and less. This was having a big impact on her life and her ability to get around so she decided to apply for a Seeing Eye Dog. She was matched with her beautiful companion Aura.

“There have been times when I’ve been walking one way and Aura has pulled me the other way and I’ve thought, ‘Thank God she’s here.’”

Because of your support, we are able to train and match people like Lucia with a life-changing Seeing Eye Dog like Aura. Thank you!



Lucia and Aura hard at work



Rosie was excited to finally meet Luke

Rosie Batty meets Luke, a heartfelt legacy

Luke the pup may one day change someone’s world and recently he had a visit from someone very special who is already changing lives – 2015 Australian of the Year, Rosie Batty.

Luke the pup was named in honour of Rosie’s late son. Now 12 months old he is about to begin his intensive, full-time training to become a Seeing Eye Dog.

Luke has spent most of his time as a puppy with his foster family in the Seeing Eye Dogs Puppy Caring program. If he succeeds in his training, he will be carefully matched to a person who is blind or has low vision, giving them the gift of companionship and independence.

Rosie first saw a picture of Luke as a tiny puppy. Recently she was able to meet a much bigger, more mature Luke at the Seeing Eye Dogs headquarters in Melbourne where he begins his specialised training.

For more information on how to become a puppy carer or how you can help dogs like Luke make a life-changing difference to a person who is blind or has low vision, please visit seda.visionaustralia.org

Kate and Clayton are a perfect match



Meet the new graduates

Congratulations to all our 2017 Seeing Eye Dog graduates, clients, supporters and carers. We’re so proud of you!

Client	State	Dog Name	Breed	Sex	Puppy carer
Kerry	QLD	Rinka	GR	F	Kate
Graeme	VIC	Barrett	LR	M	Barry
Edie	VIC	Melvin	LR	M	Janette
Margaret	NSW	Aengus (formerly Arthur)	LR	M	Anne & Felicity
Kim	QLD	Georgie	LR	F	Michelle
David	WA	Coral	LR	F	Christine & Ian
Kate	VIC	Clayton	LR	M	Carlia & Anthony
Katrina	VIC	Allie	LR	F	Linda
Jermin	VIC	Dalton	LR	M	Catherine
Robert	WA	Waldo	LR	M	Rose
Errol	QLD	Darby	LR	M	Michelle
Stephen	QLD	Colby	LR	M	Geoff
Joyce	VIC	Venus	LR	F	Lisa & Kris
Michael	VIC	Basil	LR	M	Kim & Sue
Kerin	VIC	Piper	LR	M	Maree
Jenny	VIC	Parry	LR	M	Mark

GR (Golden Retriever) LR (Labrador)



For the love of Dogs

Mark with one of our playful pups in training!

Our staff love their jobs – and our pups!

Mark Jackman, Senior Puppy Development Trainer – Client Services

Q: Why did you want to become a puppy trainer?

Mark: I was always interested in animals and had a zoology background so it seemed like a good fit. I started out working with the training dogs in the kennels before I moved into Puppy Development.

Q: What do you look for when training puppies to become Seeing Eye Dogs?

Mark: We want the pups to be relaxed and well-behaved at home. They should be confident in a variety of environments and situations, but not too distracted or excited by things around them.

Q: What is a typical day like?

Mark: I work with pups and their carers and other puppy development staff. We assess how the pups are progressing with their training and provide support and guidance to their carers. I also go out to visit carers to observe and assess how the pup behaves at home and when they are out walking.

Petbarn staff raise the bar!

Another amazing Petbarn campaign has wrapped up in support of Seeing Eye Dogs, with staff at Petbarn stores across the country working together to raise enough funds to support 13 pups on their journey to become Seeing Eye Dogs.

For the fourth year in a row, Petbarn staff have raised awareness and funds in their local community on behalf of Seeing Eye Dogs – with a slice of healthy competition to add to the fun. All the stores participating raised funds by asking their customers directly to make a small donation.

The staff from the winning store were rewarded with a visit to the Seeing Eye Dogs puppy centre, to cuddle some puppies and to see how the money they raised was being used to care for and train Seeing Eye Dogs.

This year's winners are the staff of Petbarn's Belconnen store in the ACT.

We're so grateful to Petbarn and their customers who raised such an incredible amount, potentially giving 13 Australians who are blind or have low vision an opportunity to receive a life-changing companion.



Petbarn staff in Belconnen store, ACT



PROUDLY SUPPORTING SEEING EYE DOGS FOR OVER A DECADE



ROYAL CANIN® is the official provider of precise and tailored nutrition for every dog in the Seeing Eye Dogs program, helping to give these amazing dogs exactly what they need to do their essential job.

Please accept my life-changing gift of:

\$30
 \$50
 \$100
 \$200
 My choice \$.....
 – OR –
 I would like to give a monthly donation of \$..... (min \$12)

My payment method:

Please debit my credit card (details below)
 Card type: Visa MasterCard AMEX Diners
 Card No: _____
 Expiry: ___ / ___
 Name on card:
 Signature:
 – OR –

Please find enclosed my cheque/money order payable to Seeing Eye Dogs

My Details:

Title:
 First name:
 Surname:
 Phone:
 Email:
 Address:
 Suburb:
 State: Postcode:
 Supporter number (if known):

Please complete this coupon and return to the below address.

Send to Reply Paid 9802 IN YOUR CAPITAL CITY, call 1800 42 20 07 or donate at www.seda.org.au/donate

Occasionally we allow like-minded organisations to contact our supporters. This helps us reach additional generous Australians to support our cause. If you do not wish to receive communications from other organisations, please cross this box

Please read our privacy statement overleaf. If you do not wish to receive further information about the work Seeing Eye Dogs does in the community, please call 1800 42 20 07.



Thank you for making a difference.
Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

Help raise a Seeing Eye Dog!

\$30 can help pay for a general veterinarian examination for puppies joining the program.

\$50 can help pay for the harness and leads needed for graduating dogs.

\$100 can help towards the cost of intensive training sessions with a Seeing Eye Dog and their new handler.

\$200 can help towards the cost of veterinarian supplies and equipment.

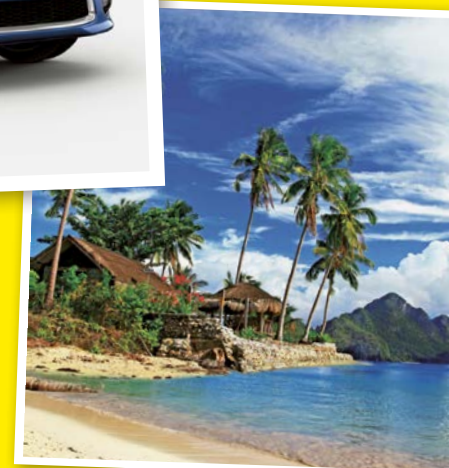
Win fabulous prizes in our Lucky Puppy Lottery!

Call our lottery hotline today on **1800 670 917**. Tickets are just \$2.50!

Through your support we will be able to transform gorgeous Seeing Eye Dog pups into professional working dogs.



First Prize: Mitsubishi Lancer and \$20,000 in cash.



Ways you can make a difference

\$ Give a donation – your gift will help provide training and medical care for our newest litter of puppies who are destined to become someone’s much-loved Seeing Eye Dog.

Sponsor a Seeing Eye Dog – make a regular gift towards the care and training of puppies so that they can make a life-changing difference to people who are blind or have low vision.

Leave a Gift in your Will – create a powerful legacy that will continue to positively impact and change the lives of many people beyond your lifetime.

Volunteer – make friends and have fun while enjoying the sense of achievement that comes from helping others.

Fundraise – run your own event, hold a cake stall, enter a race, have fun while raising funds which will help provide support for Seeing Eye Dogs.

Become a Puppy Carer – care for a puppy in your home from the age of eight weeks until they are around 12–15 months of age, a very rewarding experience!



PRIVACY STATEMENT:

Seeing Eye Dogs respects your privacy and embraces the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs). We obtained your personal information from you directly. When you return this form to us, we collect your personal information so we can process your donation and contact you again with information about us and our related entities, our services, our fundraising campaigns, and how you can support us again in the future.

We may contact you by email, mail or telephone, and you can opt-out at any time. You don't have to provide us with your personal information; however without it we are limited in how we interact with you.

Our Privacy Policy is available at www.seda.visionaustralia.org/privacy and contains important information about i) how we collect and handle your personal information, (ii) how you can access and correct your personal information, and (iii) how you can make a privacy complaint. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact our privacy officer by email at info@visionaustralia.org, or call us on 1800 42 20 07.

For more information call 1800 42 20 07 or visit seda.visionaustralia.org/how-you-can-help