

Paws

For a moment



Seeing Eye Dogs
Vision Australia

Issue 1 - 2017

Update

**It's another
puppy boom!**

Inside:

Our exciting new look

John and Hero – no boundaries

Meet our new graduates

Official publication of Seeing Eye Dogs
a division of Vision Australia





Hello

CEO Ron Hooton with Seeing Eye Dog trainee puppy Luke.

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

It's a very exciting time at Seeing Eye Dogs. In one month alone, four special mums gave birth to 40 precious pups who just can't wait to become Seeing Eye Dogs and transform

the lives of more Australians who are blind or have low vision.

Of course, it's you we have to thank for making this possible. As you will read in these pages, your support means we were able to train more puppies and match more clients just like John and his Seeing Eye Dog Hero.

Because of your generosity, dedicated staff members like Veterinary Services Supervisor Nicola Cotton – whose interview you will find in this newsletter – are able to provide the best care available for these incredible dogs as they embark on their journey to become life-changing Seeing Eye Dogs.

Thank you again for your amazing support and I hope you'll enjoy your newsletter!

Ron Hooton, CEO

John and Hero – no boundaries

Thanks to your support John was matched with his Seeing Eye Dog Hero, a five-year-old golden retriever, in February last year. The two have since become a great team and Hero has helped John regain his independence.

After losing his left eye in 1988, John continued to work as an executive chef all over the world until macular degeneration, cataracts and glaucoma in the remaining eye left him with minimal light perception in one corner of his vision.

A number of factors went in to matching John and Hero: the pair had the same walking speed and Hero had previously worked with handlers in country areas. The two also had a similar temperament, making them ideal partners.

For John, a Seeing Eye Dog was the ideal fit to assist him with navigating the streets of Wangaratta, Victoria.

"The freedom you have with a dog is invaluable. There are just no boundaries," he said.

We would not have been able to train and match Hero with John without your wonderful support. Thank you for helping people who are blind or have low vision to live an independent life!



John and his best mate Hero going for a walk

Our puppy boom continues!



Puppies and more puppies

Over the past months, we have been experiencing another puppy boom.

In one month alone, four mums gave birth to 40 puppies! We now have over 50 puppies who just can't wait to become Seeing Eye Dogs.

It takes a lot to train one puppy

When the puppies are born, they need to be vaccinated, micro-chipped and given the right care. Then it can take up to 500 specialised training sessions and over two years to unleash their potential. The cost really adds up, totalling around \$50,000 for just one puppy.



Will you sponsor a puppy today?

Help change the lives of people who are blind or have low vision. Please call 1800 42 20 07 or visit our website www.seda.visionaustralia.org/sponsor. Thank you!

Litter Box

We welcomed over 50 puppies into the world over the past few months! Meet some of the adorable pups who have been named below:

Wanda, Winnie, Wilkie, Willard, Wallis, Woodrow, Winston, Wade – Golden Retriever cross Labrador
Dam*: Chilli; Sire**: Spencer; DOB: 12/07/2016.

Yasmin, Yetta, Yenta, Yilla, Youbi, Yoli, Yoshi – Labrador; Dam: Katy; Sire: Ajay; DOB: 14/07/2016.

Zak, Zeno, Zanto – Labrador
Dam: Ruby; Sire: Manny; DOB: 18/07/2016.

Agnes, Aimee, Audrey, Abbi, Adam, Addy, Alvin, Apollo, Albert, Alec – Labrador cross Golden Retriever
Dam: Flick; Sire: Dexter; DOB: 09/08/2016.

Bonnie, Becs, Bertha, Bindi, Baya, Beatrix, Badger, Boss, Boris – Labrador
Dam: Zella; Sire: Lenny; DOB: 15/08/2016.



Jenna and her squad of puppies!

Connie, Chester, Cara, Carmel, Candy, Cherry, Chloe – Labrador; Dam: Zanna; Sire: Frankie; DOB: 27/08/2016.

Dodi, Dorrie, Dixie, Demi, Dido, D Kent, Denver, Diesel, Darrell, Danny, Dash, Dewey – Labrador cross Golden Retriever; Dam: Jenna; Sire: Scottie; DOB: 06/09/2016.

Gordon, Gilly, George, Gigi, Gracie, Gertie, Gemmy, Gretel, Gina, Ginger, Garry – Labrador cross Golden Retriever; Dam: Hayley; Sire: Wesley; DOB: 26/09/16

*Dam = Mum **Sire = Dad

Where are they now? Mitch & Fergal

Mitch and Fergal have been super busy! Since our last newsletter when they were newly matched, their inseparable bond continues to grow. Mitch has grown in confidence and has now gone back to study. He is currently completing a Certificate in General Education for Adults at TAFE.

On top of his busy schedule Mitchell also plays Goalball, a Paralympian sport designed especially for blind athletes. He even flew to Sydney and Melbourne to compete, with Fergal by his side as always.

Mitch has plans to study business management and wants to become an accredited remedial masseur. Down the track, he'd love to move out of home and open up a small business.

None of this would have been possible without your incredible support and Mitchell's highly trained Seeing Eye Dog, Fergal. Thank you.



Mitch and Fergal on the go

Moving with the times

We're really excited to share with you our new look and feel! We have refreshed our brand, including our logo, to better represent our connection to you.

Our new logo consists of three interlocking links and symbolises the connection we have to our clients, staff and volunteers, and to our donors and the broader community.

The new brand tells the story of how we put our clients at the centre of everything we do and demonstrates our commitment to working with them to provide the services and support they need. It also expresses our gratitude to our donors who help to fund programs that make a measurable difference in the lives of people with vision loss.

Seeing Eye Dogs has been historically referred to as a 'division of Vision Australia', but in order to increase awareness that we are the one organisation, we have brought our brands closer together. In line with this, our CEO Ron Hooton will also become the voice of both brands, making us more cohesive and present in the community.

Our commitment to you and to our clients hasn't changed - together we will continue to work as a team to support and make a difference to the lives of people who are blind or have low vision.

We thank you for joining us on this journey and for helping make this happen!

For more information, please call **1300 84 74 66**.



New Graduates

Congratulations to all our 2016 Seeing Eye Dog graduates and carers

We're so proud of you!



Below is a list of newly graduated Seeing Eye Dogs who have been matched with clients.

Client	State	Dog Name	Breed	Sex	Puppy carer
Damien	QLD	Ebony	LR	F	Sue McNamara/Paul Mackaness
Greg	VIC	Fenton	LR	M	Lisa Snelling/Ron McGrath
Rhonda	VIC	Carson	LR	M	Kim Rulach
John	NSW	Hero	GR	M	Peter Granger
John	NSW	Emma	GR	F	Sarah Fountain
Glen	NSW	Thomas	LR	M	Monica McAllister/Helen Anderton/ Rod Innes
Carol	QLD	Bailey	LR	M	Arthur Lowry
Luis	VIC	Hope	LR	F	Phil Taylor
Michelle	SA	Ellis	LR	M	Catherine Thorburn
Lucia	NSW	Aura	LR	F	Steph Gordon/Sandra Fisher
Mitzi	NSW	Gabby	LR	F	Lynn Thompson
Ash	VIC	Quinny	LR	M	Barbara Martin/Kristian Matthews
Neil	QLD	Yvie	LR	F	Annatjie Hunter
Paul	WA	Hercules	GR	M	Julie Scott
Michael	WA	Anika	LR	F	Suzanne Hopkins/Belinda Robertson
Lany	NSW	Bronte	LR	F	Susan Rafferty
Shane	NSW	Ellen	LR	F	Margaret Cuce
Des	WA	Champ	LR	M	Emma Watt
Debbie	QLD	Elsa	LR	F	Andrea Williams/Hope Caggiano
Sarah	VIC	Jarrah	LR x GR	F	Rebecca Holland
Glory	VIC	Greta	LR	F	Patrick Sawyer
Robert	VIC	Gaspard	LR	M	Mary Scacco
Kevin	VIC	Janis	LR	F	Max Wright
Shie	VIC	Angela	LR	F	Natasha Parkin
Carol	VIC	Jonty	LR	M	Camara Mealy/Jeni Conquest
Cathy	VIC	Archy	LR	M	Ad Lighthart
Alison	VIC	Isla	LR	F	Sue Battye
Lee-Ann	WA	Viva	LR	F	Debbie Stevens
Micaela	VIC	Jamie	LR	F	Kate Turner/Paul Mackaness

GR (Golden Retriever) LR (Labrador) LRxGR (Labrador & Golden Retriever)



We love our job!

Meet Nicola Cotton, Supervisor of Veterinary Services, Kennels and Puppy Centre

Q: What is a typical day for you?

Nicola: Every day is different, which is one of the reasons I love this job! From keeping an eye on the health of all the dogs living at our training centre, attending to any dogs with injuries or illnesses, assisting our breeding females to give birth, to assisting clients if they require veterinary advice for their working dog.

Q: Do you get attached to puppies?

Nicola: Of course, our Labradors' enthusiasm for life is infectious so it's impossible not to get a bit attached.

Q: What happens after people are matched with their Seeing Eye Dog?

Nicola: The instructor who trained the client with their Seeing Eye Dog remains in close contact with the working team (the client and working dog), and is always available to provide ongoing training support.

Thank you to our sponsor Petbarn!

Petbarn and Seeing Eye Dogs are in their third exciting year of partnership. Each year since 2014 Petbarn have run a fundraising campaign in all of their stores nationally, with all proceeds being donated to fund the training of much needed Seeing Eye Dogs.

Staff in each Petbarn shop promote and support the campaign by requesting a donation from their customers in stores.

The figures for 2016 are now in and we are ecstatic to announce that Petbarn, along with Greencross Veterinary clinics and City Farmers, raised enough to support the training of 14 Seeing Eye Dogs.

Over the past three years donations from this campaign have exceeded \$1.3 million with a total of 28 pups sponsored.

The Petbarn store that raises the most money is rewarded with an exclusive tour of our state of the art Seeing Eye Dogs facility in Kensington, Victoria.



Petbarn staff with some of the puppies they helped sponsor.



The most incredible journey

In November 2016, Seeing Eye Dogs celebrated our 10 year anniversary with our much-valued nutrition partner ROYAL CANIN®.

Over the past decade, over **200,000 tonnes of dog food** has been kindly donated to feed and care for the nutritional requirements of over a thousand Seeing Eye Dogs – that's enough kibble to fill more than 200 Olympic swimming pools!

As a global leader in pet health nutrition, ROYAL CANIN® has provided precise and individualised nutrition for every dog in the Seeing Eye Dogs program over the last 10 years, ensuring these remarkable dogs stay healthy and happy to help them continue their important work.



Meet Maxi

The first Seeing Eye Dog sponsored by ROYAL CANIN®

Maxi was named after the ROYAL CANIN® MAXI size health nutrition range. A decade later, he is still going strong, working with one of our clients in Maribyrnong in Victoria. Maxi is still the beautiful, quiet, laid back dog he was when he graduated from SEDA and has no plans to retire anytime soon!

As proud partners, ROYAL CANIN® is the official supplier of precision nutrition for every Seeing Eye Dogs dog.



Win fabulous prizes

Call our Seeing Eye Dogs Lottery hotline on **1800 670 917** to buy tickets and help with my puppy training





First Prize: **\$25,000 Mitsubishi Lancer** and **\$20,000** in Cash.





Ways you can make a difference

\$ Give a donation – your gift will make a real difference towards providing 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 and raise funds while helping provide support to Seeing Eye Dogs Australia.

 **Become a Puppy Carer** – care for a puppy in your home from the age of 8 weeks, until they are around 12-15 months of age, a very rewarding experience!



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