

**BUDDY: (n.) a close friend; partner**



SUMMER 2012 **PUPPY  
LOVE**



ROYAL GUIDE DOGS  
TASMANIA

## Let's embark:

Welcome, and believe it or not, Merry Christmas!

It seems only weeks ago we published the Summer 2011 edition of Puppy Love. We've been through a great deal this year and we've been pleased to be able to share both the ups and downs with you all. At RGDT we think Puppy Love members like to know how the pups are doing, and with a very small team, we do our best to provide you with that information regularly, honestly and (when appropriate) with a sense of fun.

During 2012 we entered the world of social media with our Puppy Love - Royal Guide Dogs Tasmania Facebook page, we posted our first Puppy Love film on YouTube and we always tried to value-add to these newsletters for members who wanted 'more'. We continued to develop our relationship with photographer, Kirsty Pilkington, and remain in awe of her talent and grateful for her generosity. We welcomed the Q's, I's and B's and have been so pleased to be able to share their stories with you. We are expecting another two puppies in time for Christmas, and will certainly introduce you to them in the next edition of Puppy Love.

In this edition, however, we get to know Bella and Buddy, catch up on all the other pups and prepare for Christmas! Enjoy and as always, thank you. - *Kate Grady, Funding Development Manager*



*So, who better to welcome you officially to the Christmas edition than Santa's helpers: Dexter and Whiskey. They take gift-giving seriously.*

# Introducing Buddy!



Date of Birth: 5 August 2012

Sibling: Bella

Personality: Friendly, playful, stubborn, fast learner and cuddly

Hi everyone, my name is Buddy and I arrived from Queensland on a very cold weekend in late September. I struggled with the cold and shivered every time I went outside for “busy busy”. It wasn’t all bad though, because my new family gave me lots of cuddles to warm me up again.

I love my new family. There is mum Sue, dad Scott, big sister Danni and big brothers Matt and Chris, along with their girlfriends Lucy and Daena, which means there are plenty of cuddles for me, but it also means I can’t get into too much mischief because there is always someone watching me... although I do love to steal Matt and Danni’s socks. They have an 8 year old Siberian Husky x Lab dog called Diesel, who I love to play with but I think he is a little bit scared of my puppy teeth.

I have been to lots of interesting places. I was very good walking proudly in my blue coat and I heard lots of comments about how cute and adorable I was. I am trying very hard not to talk to people when I have my coat on but sometimes I forget and want to talk to all those interesting people.

I love playing with all my new toys and if one of my family is sitting on the floor with me, I love to crawl into their lap for a cuddle and a snooze. Mum says I am a very clever boy because I have learnt to go up and down the stairs by myself already.

I especially liked taking Danni to see her physio because she said I had been such a good boy that I could take my coat off and have cuddles and belly rubs with her physio. He said I had made him run late, but he didn’t mind!! I take Danni to the TIS gym, but I haven’t been inside yet because there are loud scary weights in there. She said she is going to take me to athletics to watch her compete in Hammer Throwing. I am not really sure what that is... I thought you built things with hammers, not threw them. Some stuff is confusing for a small pup.



*Top: As an early Christmas present for Royal Guide Dogs Tasmania, Buddy fits the bill!*

*Above: Tulips at the Royal Botanical Gardens are lovely, but when you add Buddy, they become Buddy lovely!*

# And Introducing Bella!

Date of Birth: 5 August 2012

Sibling: Buddy

Personality: enthusiastic, inquisitive, playful, very energetic

Hi everyone, I'm Bella. I am almost 3 months old and my Puppy Raisers – Anna and Marcin – say I am probably the most cheerful and lovely creature in the World!

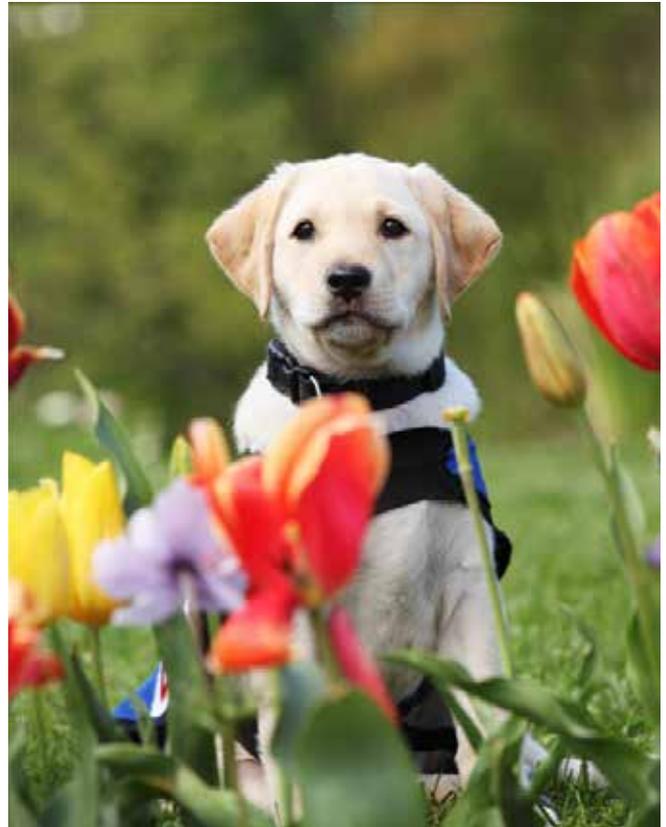
I came to Hobart a few weeks ago and guess what? Almost immediately I started going to University! I am going to be a very wise and knowledgeable Guide Dog. I don't go to all the lectures yet but I do attend a Morning Tea almost everyday and I have to say I made friends with some Professors and it's great fun to play with them in the tea room.

I've learnt a lot of things recently. For example, did you know that the wood heater is hot if there are some funny red flames inside? I know that already and don't go anywhere near it then. Or that there is a funny, little, white puppy living on the other side of the mirror? Oh, life is so full of surprises!

I love playing but sometimes my toys are boring; it's so much more interesting to play with Marcin's boots or Anna's sock. The funniest thing is when I steal a table cloth from the kitchen and run, run, run. Well, I also try to help around the house a bit and recently I was helping Marcin to change the oil in the car. It was a lot of fun and I temporarily changed my fur colour and looked a little like my brother.

Apart from jumping and playing I also do some 'serious' stuff. I am learning to walk nicely on the lead and to ignore people, dogs, all these interesting smells and flying leaves. Oh my! This is really difficult but I am doing better and better. A few days ago I visited a shopping mall and went on escalators and elevators. I was really interested and not scared at all! Well, maybe just a bit, you know I am still a little puppy. I know how to sit and I come back when I hear my name and a whistle.

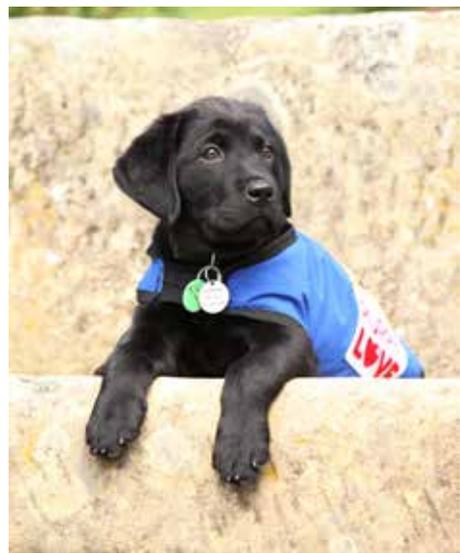
Anna and Marcin took me for a long walk to Tasman National Park recently. At the beginning it was fun, especially when I saw a Wallaby for the first time! Then I got bored and tired so they had to carry me back to the car! I was very comfortable. Can't wait to see where we are going this weekend!



*Top: What's the Italian word for 'Beautiful', again?*

*Above: At 8 weeks, Bella sat comfortably in her brand new coat, like she was made for it!*

# Bella & Buddy



*Clockwise, from left:*

*Buddy sitting patiently during the photo shoot with Kirsty Pilkington.*

*Bella and Buddy set to surprise the next people out of the Mercure Hotel's lift...and didn't they get a surprise!*

*Bella sits to attention when her name is called - at 8 weeks, she's a genius!*

*Buddy getting the hang of the 'profile shot' pretty quickly.*

*Bella amidst the daisies - can a photo shoot get any better than this?*



## Bella and Buddy: They can't do it alone.

It takes a lot of people and costs \$30,000 to raise and train beautiful puppies like Bella and Buddy into wonderful Guide Dogs, we give them to people who need them and we receive no Government funding to do it. For as little as \$10.00 per month, you can become a member of Royal Guide Dogs Tasmania's "Puppy Love". If you would like to become a member and receive newsletters and updates on all our puppies, fill in the details below and post to:

PO Box 82, North Hobart, Tas, 7002.

**OR phone 1800 484 333 / 03 6232 1222 to request a DDR form.**

If you are already a member, but know of others who will enjoy Puppy Love, PLEASE, let them know all about us. We also have gift certificates available.

Title: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other ..... Name.....  
Address:..... Postcode: .....  
Telephone: (.....) .....

Please accept my monthly membership payment of ( )\$10 ( )\$20 Other (\$.....)  
I would like to pay my monthly membership by ( )VISA ( )MasterCard

Card No: ..... / ..... / ..... / .....

Expiry Date: ..... / ..... Signature: .....



# Iris



Date of Birth: 16 April 2012

Sibling: Indi

Personality: Cheeky, stubborn, cuddly, playful, friendly

Hello again! I go to the beach with Mum and Dad, and wear my coat on the way. I find this hard because I get very excited. Once we are on the beach Mum and Dad take off the coat and I run for joy. I play with all the other people and dogs. Some dogs want to play with me but quite a few are shy and try to ignore me, others are a bit boisterous and I get scared sometimes and run back to Mum and Dad.



My manners are getting better. I usually do what I am told... except when I really want to do something else. I had to go to the vet last week for my desexing operation. When I got home I didn't feel like eating, I was sick and very sleepy. I am much better now and soon I'll be staying up north with another family while Mum and Dad are away. Of course I will miss them, but they will be ok!

*Above left: Real dog, pretend dog, double face-plant.*

*Left: "So, I was on the cover of the last edition. Recognise me??" Iris has certainly grown a lot in the last three months!*

# Indi

Date of Birth: 16 April 2012

Sibling: Iris

Personality: Smart, impish, independent, soft and gentle

Summer is coming! I love the warmer sunny days. I am now 6 months old. I have a walk in the morning and evening with my coat on and then a free run in the park after my walk. My best park friend is a springer spaniel who I love to run with. Besides my walks, I have been to a TSO concert, movies and a visit to Mona where there were lots of new things to experience. I liked the glass lift! We go to Salamanca markets on Saturday and the CBD several times a week and practice lying down quietly in the shops, going on escalators and walking through crowds. I went to the vet last week to be spayed, I'm all better now and full of energy. I have been helping with the garden! I rearranged the pansies. I thought the roots looked better on the top! The flowers were yum! I have been asked not to help anymore, but I do! My puppy raisers say I'm doing well, I just have to contain my excitement. Sophie thinks it is time I moved on and stopped using her as a chew toy! I told her I'm here for a long time yet! Kirsty took some more photos of me to go in the magazine. Rest time now, bye!



*Above, right: Indi waits for the signal...*

*Right: Indi is always moving onwards and upwards, but it doesn't hurt to look back from time to time, either!*



# Quinnell



Date of Birth: 5 January 2012

Sibling: Quinton

Personality: Affectionate, playful, gentle, energetic

It's a good thing that when I grow up my job will be to walk in my coat because walking in my coat is one of my favourite things! My puppy raisers take me for walks in my coat at least twice a day – we've been exploring beaches, parks, bush tracks and new places I haven't been before. We go for long walks, and I like to walk quickly – there's so much to experience! And then, when they take my coat off, I like to play and run, and practice coming back quickly when my name is called.

When we get home, I curl up in the sun and sleep next to the cat. She's soft and warm and we're good friends – she still won't play with me but I keep hoping...

Meeting people is one of my other favourite things. I went to the University of Tasmania to meet some students when they recorded video messages for the 100th birthday of Shanghai Ocean University in China! (I'm only 9 months old. I can't even imagine how many birthdays that is.)



*Top: Quinnell in Coat - cutting a fine figure indeed.*

*Above: Quinnell surveys the river before a quick dip.*

# Quinton



Date of Birth: 5 January 2012

Sibling: Quinnell

Personality: Friendly, I love play and I still love to sleep.

Hello! I have a small problem when out at shopping centres: if I get bored I just flop on the floor where it's nice and cool. The people passing go "poor thing, he's tired", but most of the time I have only been out for a short time and just do not enjoy shopping (especially dress shopping!). My puppy raiser has to lift me up to make me walk again and this makes the people around me laugh. I love my walks and most of the time I am very good when out walking with my puppy coat on.

Last week as the weather warmed up, my puppy raiser took me to the beach. I ran along the beach then went into the water. When I went a little further out there was a drop and suddenly I was up to my neck in water! I got such a shock, I froze and did not know how to get out of the water. After lots of laughs from my puppy raiser and her taking photos of my dilemma, her sister came to my rescue. This summer, my puppy raiser has to teach me dog paddle!



*Top: Sleep time for Quinton looks remarkably like organised chaos - just how he likes it.*

*Above: Since learning the hard way, Quinton is now finding his feet when it comes to deeper water.*

# Elsa

Date of Birth: 20 May 2011

Sibling: Eddie

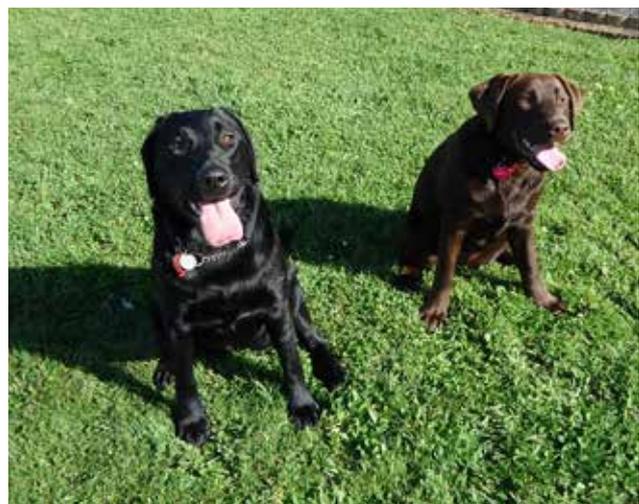
Personality: I love to have a cuddle with the cat Tigger-bell, and sit very close to my carer. I like to run with my friends in the yard.

Hi everyone. I'm 17 months old already. I have been working very hard lately to become a Guide Dog. I have been doing a lot of learning with stairs; to stop at the bottom and top so I don't pull my vision impaired handler down them. I have also been learning how to do left and right turns.

Recently I became a little wary of my jacket going over my head so I have been working very hard to not be so suspicious of it.

I met a new friend called Jaffa. She is a chocolate Lab that

I have some free time with running in the yard. We have a lot of fun together. I went to this place with a lot of people. I don't like crowds all that much and they had these lights in the sky that made a very big bang; I did not like that big bang at all. My carer said they were called fireworks and that MOST dogs were scared of them...I know why!



*Above: Elsa and her new friend Jaffa hanging out on the weekend. Would that be a dark-and-milk-chocolate-Sundae?*

# Eddie

Date of Birth: 20 May 2011

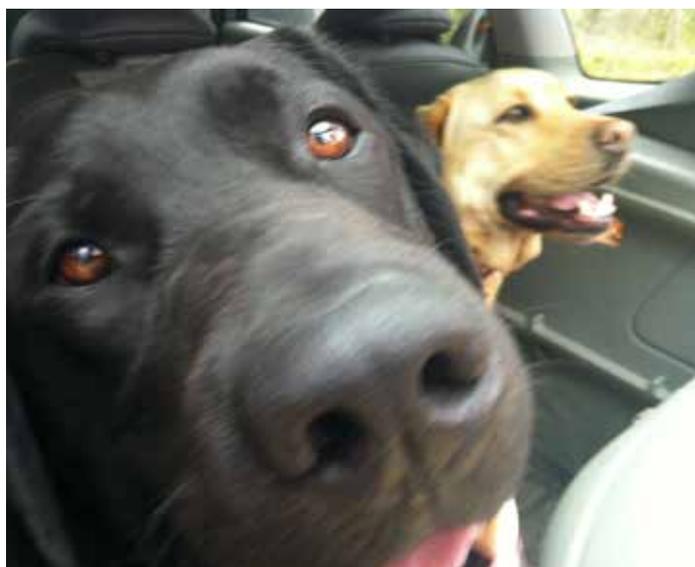
Sibling: Elsa

Personality: Chilled out, really friendly when I visit schools and go into town and I love a good pat when my coat is off.

Hi again. Every Wednesday I go to Rosetta Primary School with Sam to help a grade 6 student for the afternoon, which is always a lot of fun. I get to meet and play with all the children at the school, but also teach them a few things about what I do and how I do it.

As my time comes to an end with my adopted family I look back at all the adventures and new friends I have made along the way. Going to the bush or beach with Ellie and running around till I can't go anymore, and walking proudly through town with my dashing blue coat and showing people how well behaved I can be. I still have a few weeks left here, so will take every opportunity to make sure my skills and behaviour are superior to the highest mark. I know that sometimes I can be a handful at home, like when I 'ventured' into the garden or chewed on an expensive chair, but I will be missed. I'm going onto bigger and better things as my next adventure; one I am going to take on with all four paws...woof woof!

*Right: Eddie definitely has the skill in-coat and on-lead; next step...harness!  
Below right: Can there BE any happier dogs than Eddie and his best friend, Ellie??*



Date of Birth: 4 April 2011

## Cassie

Sibling: Casper

Personality: Friendly, caring and very loyal.

Hello there. I have been helping Mum do a bit of painting lately – well, I've really just been watching her roll this thing on a long handle up and down the wall. When I get tired I find a cosy place to snuggle up and have a sleep. But the other day I found a sleeping spot a bit too close to the wet paint and ended up with white paint on my back. Mum said I looked like a Tasmanian Tiger!



I have actually been sleeping a lot lately in all sorts of places. I do this with my jacket on when I am with Mum at her work, in restaurants, in shops and at the movies. Mum says I am working when I wear my jacket so I reckon I have a pretty good job! But I heard her say that I will soon be leaving to do some very important training. She wants me to become a Guide Dog and help people. This sounds like fun but I just hope I still get time for sleeping.



*Top right: Cassie the Tasmanian Tiger! She tried to help but the technique was all wrong. Stick to guiding, Cassie.*

*Right: So, at least four kids tried to put money in Cassie's head!*



*Above: "I will endure this," says Casper in the middle of bath time...*

*Below: "So I can look as good as this!" He is certainly a looker (and still has those wonderfully big and soft ears!)*



## Casper

Date of Birth: 4 April 2011

Sibling: Cassie

Personality: Friendly, playful, loving, inquisitive, fast learner

HI! Just when I think I have my family's routine down pat it seems to change somehow! I was getting used to going to work every day and then along came the next school holidays, which meant I could relax at home more. Not that I'm complaining of course! Members of my family have been on the move recently too. One is in a place I haven't heard of, called Vietnam, and my parents went to Melbourne, so I got to stay with a lovely boarding family. They have a dog, named Barkley, and I had great fun playing with him.

I went to meet the Guide Dog Instructor at Eastlands, so she could see how clever I am now and I think she was pleased with my progress. I also met up with some of the other pups to listen to our vet tell our families how to keep us healthy and fighting fit. Life is good!

# Paws for Reflection...



## Training dogs

Wendell and Whiskey are completing their training and will soon be up for their final assessments.

Wendell is progressing well, taking on his role with pride and setting a good example for the other pups on the program. He settles very quickly in the office and shows great temperament for his new role of guiding.

Whiskey continues to rush things a little with enthusiasm. He is learning to take things a little slower, but does get very excited at times. We hope that as he matures over the next few months his levels of excitement become more measured. In harness, he shows great promise, except he will sometimes react to other dogs nearby, forgetting that he is meant to be guiding.



## Thank you

Our Puppy Development Program (and Puppy Love, for that matter) wouldn't be possible without the love, care and energy of our wonderful volunteer Puppy Raisers. Many heartfelt thanks to the following Puppy Raisers:

- The Bigwood family for puppy raising Casper and the Waterson's for puppy raising Casper in his early months.
- The Green family for puppy raising Cassie.
- Sam McCambridge and family for puppy raising Eddie.
- The Allen family for puppy raising Elsa.

If you are interested in Puppy Raising we hold regular, free, information sessions. The next session will be held on Wednesday, 21 November at 4pm in our Hobart office (164 Elizabeth Street). RSVP to Catherine: 6232 1222 or [catherine@royalguidedogs.com.au](mailto:catherine@royalguidedogs.com.au)

*Top: Wendell demonstrating that excellent temperament and pride;*

*Above: Whiskey demonstrating serious dissatisfaction at having to be the Christmas poster boy this year. (Not a lot of excitement on this day, Whiskey? Sorry!)*

And, yes, at the information session, we do answer the most frequently asked question: "how do we give them back?!"

## Guide Dogs Pet Insurance: Helps You. Helps Us.

At Royal Guide Dogs Tasmania, the health of our dogs is our top priority, and we know our supporters feel the same way about their pets. We all try to keep our animals safe and healthy, but accidents or illness can strike at any time (even in the garden beds) and when it does, you could face veterinary bills in the hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

Which is why Guide Dogs has launched its very own pet insurance to help you eliminate those unexpected vet bills and keep your pet in the picture of health. A percentage of your pet's insurance policy will fund our Guide Dog training program and ultimately change the life of a Tasmanian who is blind or vision impaired.

Cover is available for dogs and cats with plans that suit any budget.

For more information visit [www.guidedogspetinsurance.com](http://www.guidedogspetinsurance.com) or call 1300 131 636

## Where are they now?

**Wizard:** Since graduating in March 2011, Wizard and her client have increased walk distances, and ventured to many new areas as her client's confidence and independence in mobility increases. Her client found that having Wizard gave him the motivation to venture further on walks and he has subsequently increased his level of fitness. Wizard also enjoys weekly runs at the local park and holidays at the beach shack, where she can frolic in the water. She is very spoilt and gets visits from her puppy raiser who often brings another dog around to play.

**Chester:** Since graduating in September 2008, Chester and his client have moved houses and branched out into many community activities. After receiving Chester, his client joined many groups and activities, and gained



the confidence to independently access these throughout her local area, including fitness classes, community groups, day trips all over Tasmania ... they are very hard to pin down at home for follow-up visits as they are so active together! They are even venturing on a plane trip for an interstate visit soon.

*Wizard, far left, and Chester, left: As Guide Dogs, they're having a ball and leading active and interesting lives with their owners. It has been a treat to check in with them!*

## Dogs and the Beach

With the warmer months now upon us, many of you may venture to the beach with your dogs. You'll have noticed how many of our pups are already getting in the swim of things.

Here are a few safety tips to remember with your dog at the beach:

- Note the rules of the beach - are dogs allowed on lead or off lead? Observe the rules for the safety of your dog and others on the beach. Also observe the water warning signs, and don't allow your dogs to swim in dangerous conditions;
- Dogs are curious animals and will eat almost everything. Both sand and salt water can upset their stomachs and cause diarrhoea, so keep a close eye on your dogs intake and do not allow them to lap up the salt water;
- Responsible dog ownership includes cleaning up after your dogs, so keep plenty of bags on hand. Free-running and excitement often cause dogs to toilet more frequently;
- Dogs can get sunburnt; in particular, those with thin or white hair and pink skin. Apply DOG sunscreen... note that human sunscreen often contains harmful elements to dogs so make sure you use a pet safe cream;
- Prolonged exposure to hot sand can burn their paws;
- Heat and exercise can cause dehydration, so have fresh water and a bowl on hand;
- Provide shade from the hot sun if visiting the beach for prolonged periods - sit under a tree or take a beach umbrella;
- ENJOY!!

*Right: Daisy Dog regularly enjoys Bellerive Beach with her person. Photo by Kirsty Pilkington.*



# Christmas Gift Giving



From our family to your family, we wish you a safe and happy Christmas. If you would like to support Royal Guide Dogs Tasmania with Christmas gifts for your nearest and dearest, we have a range of gifts, including the best\* tea towels in the world, 10-packs of Christmas cards, 2013 calendars, Wuppies, Puppy Love Gift Certificates...just phone 1800 484 333 (Toll Free) to find out about pricing.

*\* According to my aunt, my neighbour, my mother, and at least two Puppy Love members I've spoken to this year! - KG.*

# PUPlic Relations

We took part in the Hobart Myer Christmas Pageant once more on November 17. This edition of Puppy Love was being printed as the pups and volunteers were pounding the pavement, so if you're keen to see the images that captured all the fun and action, visit our ***Puppy Love - Royal Guide Dogs Tasmania*** Facebook page.



Rotary Club of Central Launceston



Commonwealth Bank



Wrest Point HOBART



Clarence... a brighter place



www.kirstypilkington.com



**Hobart's feel good station** [7hofm.com.au](http://7hofm.com.au)

We dedicate this edition of Puppy Love to our special boy, Teejay. We miss you. Rest peacefully. "To call him a dog hardly seems to do him justice, though in as much as he had four legs, a tail, and barked, I admit he was, to all outward appearances. But to those who knew him well, he was a perfect gentleman." (Hermione Gingold)