

Winter 2015

PUPPY LOVE

Guide
Dogs
TASMANIA



Jerry & Jacob:

We've all gotta learn
some time



▲ Jacob (coloured collar) and Jerry (black collar) standing out and stepping up at Salamanca. Photography by Kirsty Pilkington - we LOVE Kirsty.

Let's embark



It's been such a busy time at Guide Dogs Tasmania in recent months! We launched a major new advocacy project on International Guide Dog Day, we've been to Agfest, hung out with Hawthorn, welcomed new pups (GORGEOUS!), welcomed dogs into formal training, held information sessions, visited many organisations with Ambassador Dexter, AND started production on a couple of television advertisements! On top of all that, staff and volunteers in the Hobart office continue to be 'constructed around' as our refurbishments ramp up. That's busy! We can only capture a snapshot of our activity in these pages, but if you are keen to see and learn more about what all the pups are up to and be even more engaged with what we do, here are some extra opportunities:



- Like our Facebook page – 'Guide Dogs Tasmania – Puppy Love' for up to the hour adventures of the pups, interesting links to stories and videos, information about upcoming events and even the occasional frivolity and silliness.
- Sign up for eNews – go to guidedogstas.com.au and subscribe to our eNewsletter. These feature more information, images and stories about our services and how we are working with Tasmanians who need our support.
- Visit our website regularly and take a tour of the Puppy Love pages for even more images and information.

And, if you really are crazy lab lovers like us – why not do it all?

Thank you for your continued support. We couldn't train these beautiful pups into amazing Guide Dogs without you.

Sincerely, Kate Grady. Funding Development Manager, Guide Dogs Tasmania

Date of Birth:
9 Feb 2015
Region: South



▲ Respect.



▲ It's a long way to the top.



▲ I've got this covered.

Hello, I'm Jerry and I have a LOT to report!

I arrived from Adelaide on 21 April. Next day was a photo shoot; everyone fussed over us as we were VIP's, Very Important Puppies! It was fun but tiring. I was glad to meet my Puppy Raiser family, including Pedro, a big black Labrador (black Labs rule!) and soon settled in to my new home.

I have my own bed and Pedro says I snore a lot (true) but he still lets me sleep next to him, which is great. I quickly found my way around and know all the important places, like where my food bowl is and where the dog toys (and shoes) are kept. I have lots of fun playing with Pedro; he is very patient when I pester him for a game, even when he's trying to sleep. Tug of war and soft toys are my favourites; my brother Jacob sent me a giant teddy bear who is great fun.

I was teeny-tiny when I arrived; I could walk right underneath Pedro. I'm growing fast though, gaining

about a kilo each week. I now have to duck my head when I walk under the coffee table and I've already outgrown my 'XS' blue coat!

I'm learning lots of new skills and now ask to be taken outside to the toilet, although 'holding on' is tough sometimes. I enjoy going to lots of places and meeting people. Everyone says I'm cute but I try to ignore them when I've got my coat on as I'm learning not to be distracted. I wag my tail a lot, especially when Mum and Dad say I'm a good boy.

I went to the ANZAC dawn service and watched everyone eat breakfast afterwards (I'd already had mine). Sometimes I visit mum at work at a school with lots of people and noise and it doesn't faze me at all. Speaking of noise, I recently watched an excavator dig up the street; I sat calmly and met the friendly driver, he said I was very well behaved. I often visit a big shopping centre where I ride the travelators; they're OK but the escalators are a bit weird. I've been in lifts too; once, I met a

very handsome puppy in a snazzy blue coat and L-plate, just like mine; I thought he was a Labrador but Dad said he was a "mirror".

I love free runs on beaches, I'm really good at recall and run back to Mum or Dad when the whistle blows. I went to a coffee shop last weekend and met a trainee search and rescue pup the same age as me; we were very well behaved and quietly watched all the noisy vehicles, skateboards, prams, people and other dogs pass by.

I've also been to two Guide Dogs Tasmania group training sessions. I met other learners and we practised commands to help us become good Guide Dogs. I know quite a few now and I think this might be a career for me.

I'll let you know more in the next Puppy Love. Bye 'til then!

For more great photos of Jerry, visit the 2015 Puppy Love page at guidedogstas.com.au

Date of Birth:
9 Feb 2015
Region: North



▲ I'm little.



▲ I'm little, but I know how to work the camera.



▲ I'm little, but I've got great big dreams and a whole lot of support.

Hello!

My name is Jacob and I am now 20 weeks old. I live in Launceston with my mum and dad (Linda and Peter) along with Max the cat and my best friend Frankie J the Golden Retriever (we weren't always friends but we are now).

I have done so many things since I arrived in Tasmania to be trained as a Guide Dog. The first thing I had to learn was when and where to do my "busy busy". After a few practices I got it right; mum tells me this is a very important thing for a guide dog to learn.

I found out that Max the cat doesn't want to play with puppies and that I am not allowed to chase him... if I do he gives me a hard slap on my head to remind me (he doesn't use his claws but I get the message).

Life is not all about learning, I also get to go to some interesting places and meet new people. I went to ANZAC Day and slept quietly throughout the service. At the end I

was allowed to play in the leaves – I do like autumn. We all went down to Hobart to a concert and I slept the whole way down. It was fun and I got to meet so many people and showed them how a Guide Dog puppy behaves. I now know how to sit, lie down and stay (sometimes) and how to walk on my lead.

There are so many interesting things in Launceston (like leaves, birds and other animals), dad and mum have to keep reminding me to concentrate on what I am doing and not get distracted (this is also a very important thing for a guide dog to learn). One of my jobs is to educate the public on how to interact correctly with Guide Dogs (sometimes it is difficult for both of us). I went to International Guide Dog Day in the Launceston mall and had my picture in the Examiner – I was very handsome.

Agfest was exciting, full of noises, strange animals and food scraps that I was not allowed to have (maybe you saw me there? I was the teeniest one).

Frankie J and I love going to the free run dog parks where we can run and play without breaking anything. I talk to different dogs and learn the difference between that, and not getting distracted if I meet them when I am walking in my coat. I am still learning that I must be relaxed and quiet before I am allowed off my leash to play.

Every day I go to Mum or Dad's work to say hello and learn to sleep quietly, go up and down stairs, use elevators and ride the escalator. I may be little, but I'm very keen to learn. Life as a Guide Dog puppy is fun and exciting, and certainly not all hard work.

See you next time! (And on Facebook; I have lots of photos posted on there.)

Puppy Raisers like Linda and Peter get support from Guide Dogs Tasmania every step of the way. It is a real team effort. To find out more about joining this team, visit guidedogstas.com.au/how-to-help-us/volunteer/



▲ I love free runs at the park...



▲ ...And I'm getting the hang of this 'recall' business.

Date of Birth:
29 Oct 2014

Region: South

Hi!

My favourite thing is my giant tug rope. It is huge; Mum found it at the shops especially for me. I love going outside and playing tug of war with the family, but in the end they always win and take the toy with them until our next game of fun.

I also love free runs at the park meeting lots of other dogs. I am practicing really hard to come back when I am called and gently arrive at Mum's feet and then I get a reward for coming back. She said it is important that I learn to return when I am called, as then my vision impaired handler in the future will feel nice and comfortable taking me to dog parks, knowing I will come straight back to them.

I have grown a lot since my last update, and am up to a 'Large' coat now. I am big, but I am still a teenager puppy at heart so even though I try very hard to behave, sometimes I just have to bounce around with excitement. I am getting better each day at knowing when is time to play, and (when the coat goes on) when is time to concentrate.

I have a big adventure ahead of me soon; I have been told I am going boarding with another family for a little while. This will teach me to be adaptable, and experience a different home and lifestyle, giving me even more socialisation opportunities. I think it will be like a mini holiday for me. I hope they pack my favourite toys to take with me. I'll see you in the Spring... Maybe I'll be 'XL' by then!



▲ Thanks for my new bed, Dad. I LOVE it!



▲ Those toes look very tempting!!

Date of Birth:
29 Oct 2014

Region: South

Hi again everybody!

Hi everyone. My favourite thing at the moment is Ellie, my stuffed elephant toy. I play with her all the time, but because I love her so much she has developed some worn out patches. Luckily for me, Dad sews up the holes for me.

I have had a very busy few months; learning lots of Guide Dog skills, going to heaps of new places and learning to lie down quietly with Mum and Dad at restaurants and when they are shopping. I must be doing alright, because they get lots of comments from the staff of the shops about how good I am.

That makes me very proud! I've been to the beach with Guide Dog pup Taylor, too. It was lots of fun and there were lots of other dogs there. Mum was a little "disappointed" in me, though, when I ran off with another dog and didn't come back until she came to get me... oops! But I learned from my mistake, and after that I just played in the water and sand with Taylor and came back when I was called.

I am growing up very fast; I am into my "big" bed, which dad made for me. It is really comfy and warm, I love it!

Until next time, bye and maybe you will see me out and about. (Guide Dogs like me can go anywhere, you know)



▲ Branch Manager Yuri; Assistant Branch Manager Riley.



▲ Mr Happy Pants is also Mr Handsome Pants!

Date of Birth:
29 Apr 2014
Region: North

Hi everyone, this is RILEY!

I can proudly say that I am trying VERY hard to be the best learner. Today I got an extra big cuddle from my Puppy Raiser for walking perfectly up and down lots of stairs. I have learnt to put my front paws on the bottom step and then wait when going up, and stop and wait before heading down stairs. My Puppy Raiser says I look like I am walking on eggshells on stairs and always tells me I am a good lad. I do try to go as carefully as I can.

Yesterday I was in a balloon shop and the ladies were filling up helium balloons with a noisy gas tank. I thought it was interesting. Then a balloon exploded and frightened everyone in the shop. I only jumped a bit and then settled down straight away. Everyone was amazed and said their dogs would have run for miles. I didn't know what the fuss was about!

Since the last Puppy Love I have had a birthday (it was on International Guide Dog Day – how good is THAT?) I got given a new teddy on that day because my last one kind of...well...let's say its arms and legs and head fell off.

I've been to concerts, the dentist, the physio, the gym, restaurants and around the hospital. It's just what you do when you are a Guide Dog in training like me.

I still get called Mr Happy Pants because that's what I am. Until next time, cheerily, RILEY!



▲ I understand children now, but kittens are really a bit too complex.



▲ Focus is what it takes, and focus is what I'm trying hard to learn.

Date of Birth:
1 Feb 2014
Region: South

Hello!

Now I am a big boy of 16 months and am really getting the idea of being much better with instructions. I can walk along the street without sniffing at every smell and happily walk past other dogs. Although that takes a bit of effort when I pass that very lovely Molly dog each morning.

Bad habits? No! Of course not. But it is rather difficult to respond when I am called from playing off lead with my puppy friends in the park. I also have an irresistible urge to abscond with those lovely smelly socks left around the house.

I have a new little kitten friend called Lucy. She is really cute and teases me all the time. We play together when I go to visit her and her family.

My favourite play thing is my Nyla bone... which I have managed to lose this week. Just can't find it anywhere so hopefully someone will get me a new one soon. Wink wink.

See you in Spring. I'll have more stories to share then.



▲ There's not much PUPPY left in me...



▲ ... but there's still plenty of COOL.

Date of Birth:
28 Sept 2013
Region: South

Hi!

My favourite thing is going for a run on Seven Mile beach! There's always lots of interesting smells and other four legged and two winged friends to say hello to and the cold weather doesn't bother me at all!

I'm nearly fully grown now and starting to get the hang of this Guide Dog thing. I'm getting so good that sometimes when I'm wearing my Learner coat and my Puppy Raiser has got his sunglasses on, people think that he is the learner!

I have been working really hard on my recall training and getting much better. Almost every time my puppy raiser blows his whistle I come running back, even when I really want to go on an adventure or play with other dogs!

Life is so good - I get to go everywhere, spend my days with people and learn new skills every day. Not many dogs can say that.

See you soon, everyone.



▲ This bridge offers a perfect view of the new dog park.

Date of Birth:
25 July 2013
Region: South

Hi again!

I have been to a couple of new places over the last few months. I went to a Baptism in a really nice church. When we went in it there were a few really little babies. After singing hymns, sitting and standing a few times, the little babies were taken up the front and the Minister poured water on them that made most of them cry. I sat very quietly with my Puppy Raisers; I didn't want water poured on me! The Minister congratulated me at the end for being well behaved. My other new place was just fantastic. I think I have told you before how I love my free run? My Puppy Raiser was told about a free run area for dogs in Blackmans Bay, so Quinton and I went down and checked it out; there was lots of interesting toys like tyres to run through and a small bridge to go over, but I got half way and just stood and admired the scenery.

I have lots of other dogs come and stay at my Puppy Raisers' house with me and although I still love my Nyla bone, my Puppy Raiser knows I have a great temperament because I am always happy to share it with them. They tell me this is another good Guide Dog trait.

There are lots of photos of me snuggled up, quite often with other dogs and sometimes on my own. This is another good Guide Dog trait: after I have been concentrating and while my puppy raiser is busy with other things, it's good for her to know that I am lying quietly on my bed (sometimes with my Nyla bone), ready to go to work when needed. Not bad, hey??



▲ Guide Dogs can go anywhere - even churches!



▲ Pepper and Yoda either adore each other, or this bed!



▲ Yuri enjoyed the sunbeams, and the pats, at Agfest in May.



▲ Holly. On Day 1 with her new handler, the team took everything in their stride.



▲ Guide Dog Cory and his Puppy Raisers spent his first years together, and had the good fortune to also share his last.

Training dogs

Yoda and Yuri have both joined the training group, recently moving to the South to undertake their assessments. They have settled in to the new routine quickly, although they have to be persuaded to leave their nice warm cosy beds to head outside for their assessment walks. With snow on the mountain, it's hard to blame them though!

They will progress to training harnesses over the next month and are showing a willingness to learn lots of new commands to safely guide.

Pepper has passed her assessment and working proudly in her harness. She can be a little anxious at times, but with practice of her guide dog commands and support from her handler, her confidence is increasing and she happily steps out to undertake her training walks each day.

Pepper is proud to show the Y boys in training that she is ahead of them in harness while they still wear their coats.

Holly has graduated and has been matched to a first time Guide Dog client in the south of the state. They are nearing the end of their client training program and starting to undertake independent walks with our instructor in tow keeping an eye that

everything goes smoothly during their first month together. There is a lot for a client and dog to learn in their training program together, including walking together, new routes, grooming, healthcare, obedience, home life, free running and playtime. It's very exciting to be part of the developing partnership.

Thank you

Guide Dog Elton. After 7 faithful years of service to his handler in Hobart, Elton has been retired for health reasons. He has returned to his volunteer Puppy Raisers to spend his retirement years with them. Naturally, Elton's former handler misses him, but understands that his health is paramount. She is waiting for a new Guide Dog to be trained and matched with her. Elton, by all reports, is travelling along nicely.

Rest in Peace, former Guide Dog Cory. Cory was raised in Tasmania and then spent 8 years working for a client in Queensland. He returned to Tasmania for his retirement (you may remember reading about him in Puppy Love) and peacefully passed away in May, with his Puppy Raisers by his side. He was a beautiful dog, with a beautiful nature. Cory spent his retirement years sharing the house with Ambassador Dexter. Dexter misses him dearly.

Where are they now: Wizard.

Did you know that once a Guide Dog is matched and then placed with its handler, Guide Dogs Tasmania continues to work with the team...right throughout the partnership?

As an example, just recently our staff checked in Guide Dog Wizard and her handler, who live in Launceston. Wizard was placed in 2011 and they've steadily been increasing the distance they travel together, heading to more and more places, continuing to extend themselves.

This is exactly why we train Guide Dogs – so they can provide safety, independence and mobility for Tasmanians who need them. As you can see from this image, they also get to spend plenty of time 'off duty' together.

Nice work, Wizard. We're very proud of you.



▲ Wizard and her handler enjoy plenty of off-duty time together (above). When she graduated in 2011 (right), Wizard was ready and willing to work with her handler and she has certainly done a great job so far, keeping him safe, mobile and independent.



PUPPY LOVE

Together, anything is possible.

It takes a lot of people and costs over \$30,000 to raise and train each beautiful puppy into a wonderful Guide Dog. We give them to people who need them and we receive no Government funding to do it.

For as little as \$15.00 per month, you can join Guide Dogs Tasmania's "Puppy Love" program. Become a member and receive updates on all our puppies, knowing you are making a real difference for Tasmanians who are blind or vision impaired.

Fill in the details below and post to:

PO Box 82, North Hobart, Tasmania, 7002

OR

Phone 1800 484 333 to request a DDR form

OR

Download the DDR form at guidedogstas.com.au/puppy-love/puppy-loveoverview/

Title: Mr / Mrs / Miss / Other

Name:.....

Address:.....

State: Postcode:

Telephone: (.....)

Email:.....

NOTE: We would like to send you the quarterly newsletter via email, as a PDF file. Please tick here () if you would like to receive hard copies, via post, instead.

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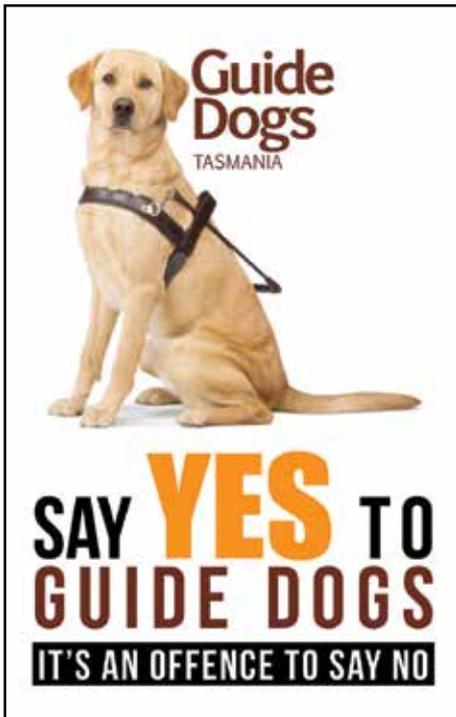
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▲ Look out for these stickers (left) on taxis, and if you can't see one, ask why. Above: With great drivers like Dave, the driver of Taxi 74, and a commitment from key stakeholders, we are confident of positive outcomes as a result of the 'Say Yes' project.

International Guide Dog Day 2015 Say Yes to Guide Dogs

According to a recent survey conducted by Guide Dog organisations around Australia, including Guide Dogs Tasmania, 33% of Guide Dog handlers are still being discriminated against when trying to use a taxi.

This issue resulted in Guide Dogs Tasmania launching its 'Say Yes to Guide Dogs' project on April 29 as part of International Guide Dog Day 2015.

We also held a Pup Parade at the Farmgate Market in Hobart, and an information session in Launceston to raise awareness that Guide Dogs and

puppies-in-training can go anywhere.

With support from the Tasmanian Taxi Council, the Office of the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, Government and the Tasmanian public, Guide Dogs Tasmania is working hard to put an end to any discrimination against Guide Dog handlers.

In recent weeks there have been some disappointing incidents of discrimination involving individual drivers reported in the media, and these concern and disappoint us greatly. We are advocating on behalf of our clients to drive regulatory changes that will see an end to these acts of discrimination.

The taxi industry is complex in its structure, but there is a strong commitment to achieve a positive result.

What's been done since the project launched?

- We have provided bumper stickers and information to the Taxi industry for distribution to networks, operators and drivers;
- We have provided cards quoting the Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act to Guide Dog handlers, puppy raisers and boarders so they can present these to drivers if questioned;
- We have made information available to the public about what you can do to assist;
- We have arranged to bring key stakeholders together for a meeting with Minister Rene Hidding in July to present our suggestions for regulatory change.

continued next page...

Guide Dogs Pet Insurance: HelpsYou. HelpsUs.

At 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 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
or call 1300 131 636

What can you do if you see someone questioning or refusing access to a person with a Guide Dog or puppy-in-training?

- Tell the person that it is against the law to discriminate because of the dog.
- Tell the driver that penalties (fines) can apply for refusing to take the person.
- Take the driver's registration number and the name of the taxi company, and give it to the Guide Dog handler.

How can you help spread the word that Guide Dogs can go anywhere?

- When you're catching a taxi, chat to the driver about the law and ask them if they have put their "Say Yes" sticker on the taxi.
- Remind people that it is against the law to refuse access to a person because of the Guide Dog.
- Remind people WHY a person trains or uses a Guide Dog... to refuse a Guide Dog or Guide Dog Pup access is denying its handler equal rights and is discriminatory.
- Be Social: Tell us about the taxi drivers and businesses who get it right, for the "Say Yes To Guide Dogs Awards" on our Facebook page.
- Learn More online:
guidedogstas.com.au/say-yes-to-guide-dogs

www.thelaw.tas.gov.au and search 'Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs Act'

Agfest: Done. Dusted

Did you see us at Agfest this year? We had a fantastic set-up, just next to the Main Arena, and the Advocate Newspaper rated our site firmly in the Top 10. The boys were well and truly on show, with Dexter (of course), Riley, Yuri and Yoda demonstrating what well-trained and polite labs they are for the crowds, and little Jacob learning very fast just what the term 'the centre of attention' actually means.

We handed out a lot of Puppy Love newsletters and spoke to a lot of people about what it takes and how much it costs to raise and train Guide Dogs, and we hope to see quite a few new members as a result. Of course, being next to the Main Arena meant all the dignitaries (including the PM) had the opportunity to be in the presence of greatness.



▲ Above: Part of our Agfest set-up, before the crowds arrived on Day 2. Below: GD staffer, Paul, and Yuri looking very relaxed about it all on Day 1.



BARKO Abroad

Have you been following the adventures of Barko the Wuppy on Facebook? He's an adventurous spirit, who has been gallivanting around the USA. He's gained a lot of interest on our Page – particularly in relation to the number of billion dollar stadiums he attended to watch a variety of sports.

What you may not know is that Barko's brother, Marco, is currently being chaperoned through Europe! We do hope he has some photos to share that rival Barko's, and that he'll let us post them.

Check out our Facebook page to see if he comes good with the pictures! **Guide Dogs Tasmania – Puppy Love.**

▲ Below: just some of the MANY photos Barko sent back to the office, whilst abroad.



Important Raffle News

In recent years the cost of conducting telemarketed lotteries has steadily increased, while our returns have steadily reduced. It is important for us (and our supporters) to operate viable fundraising projects so our clients receive services they require, and the economic environment in which our tele-marketed raffles were operating was no longer viable. Earlier this year, we took the difficult decision to close our call centre and to discontinue phoning Tasmanians to sell lottery tickets.

Please note that as of 1 May, 2015, Guide Dogs Tasmania does not sell raffle books over the phone. If you receive phone calls asking for donations or support for a Guide Dogs Tasmania raffle, **these calls are not made, nor authorised, by Guide Dogs Tasmania.**

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all Tasmanians who have supported us through our raffles over the last 30 years. There are still a range of ways to support us and regular giving to Puppy Love is one of them. **Guide Dogs Tasmania is the only organisation training Guide Dogs in Tasmania, for Tasmanians who are blind or have low vision.**

Puppy Raisers Needed. NOW.

If you want to make a difference and volunteer in a highly respected, social and supported role with Guide Dogs Tasmania, why not come along to one of our free, no-obligation, information sessions?

We even address this: "I couldn't possibly give it back!"

Launceston:

- Friday 28 August, 12 noon

Hobart:

- Tuesday 4 August 4pm
- Tuesday 3 November 4pm

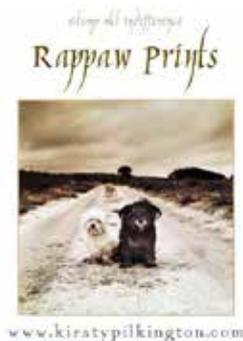
RSVP and venue details: Call 1800 484 333

More information about Puppy Raising can also be found at guidedogstas.com.au/how-to-help-us/volunteer/



PUPPY LOVE

Proudly Supported By



Would you like your business or organisation to be part of something special?

We're looking for Puppy Love partners and sponsors, and there are lots of ways we can work together. To start a conversation, phone Kate on 1800 484 333.

We are very grateful for the support of all our sponsors, partners and members. For more information on how these organisations help us, visit guidedogstas.com.au



NORTH WEST TASMANIA FOREST INDUSTRIES CLUB
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