

# Pupdates



Your ongoing support helps every amazing pup at Guide Dogs Tasmania reach its full potential. Whether they're training or learning the basics with their Puppy Raisers – our pups can't become the heroes they were born to be without you! Check out what some of them have been up to over the past few months. As you can see, it's certainly not all hard work!



# Paw Prints



Trainings dogs Alfie and Bob getting to know each other better with daily office hangs.



Lilly shows that it is possible to have a beautiful day at the beach in winter!



Oakley wasn't sure what to make of these black pigs. So alike, yet so different!



Alvin enjoys some time out at sea!



There's never a bad time to nap when you're Jonty.



Bonnie on an outing to her local farmer's market.



Austin enjoying a snuggle with his favourite toy.



Kayla thought it would be fun to try and colour match her friend!



Zazu takes a break from a busy day of training.



Dougie posing at Bruny Island's iconic 'Neck' lookout.



Felix demonstrates that Guide Dogs can be cheeky too.



Sisters Lulu and Lilly catch up at the park.



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## Guiding Phil through new beginnings

“ He picks things up so quickly and lets me focus on getting to my destination. ”

When Phil Menzie started a new job this year, the change was made easy – and enjoyable – thanks to his beautiful Guide Dog, Yoda.

With Yoda there to guide him, Phil quickly learnt the layout of his new workplace.

Working together, it only took the pair a few days to become familiar with things like Phil's new desk, where the tearoom and other offices were located, and of course, where Yoda's bed was placed.

“If I were using a cane, I'd have to navigate all sorts of things like desks, people and steps,” says Phil. “With Yoda, he can go straight to where I need to go without hesitating. He picks things up so quickly and lets me focus on getting to my destination.”

But a few months ago, the 53-year-old was reminded of just how different his life would be if he didn't have a Guide Dog.

With Yoda briefly out of action following minor surgery, Phil had no choice but to return to the white cane. For someone who has had a Guide Dog by his side since he was a teenager, he described the change as “a big shock”.

“I don't move as quickly and as confidently with a cane,” says Phil. “I'm concentrating on listening to what's around me and the texture of the footpath.”



Phil and Guide Dog Yoda

Phil remembers walking up a busy street in Hobart with the cane, and feeling very exposed: “I think I hit every sandwich board, pole and table on the street,” he laughs.

The ease of travel with Yoda, on the other hand, is incomparable.

Looking out for obstacles in front of him, Yoda allows Phil to relax, feel confident and just enjoy the moment.

“Yoda is my eyes, and without him I wouldn't have the confidence to travel to so many places,” says Phil. “His help means so much to me.”

With any changes in Phil's life, they are made not only easy, but enjoyable, with Yoda by his side.

Thanks to the continued support of caring people like you, more Tasmanians just like Phil can be matched with the perfect Guide Dog for them.



Pauline and Jasmine

## Pauline, a proud Puppy Raiser!

“It’s the best feeling in the world!”



Do you remember Vinnie, our Autism Assistance Dog who we introduced you to in the last edition of Paw Prints?

This beautiful black Labrador is helping a young Tasmanian boy, Lucas, deal with meltdowns that used to cause his whole family a huge amount of stress.

He’s made an incredible difference in the short time they’ve been together. And Launceston puppy raiser Pauline Oliver played a big part in the success of this partnership.

“When the story popped up on the television, I had tears in my eyes,” Pauline says. “I was just so blown away by it all.”

Pauline plays down the role she played in Vinnie’s success as an Autism Assistance Dog. But without wonderful volunteers like her, these amazing dogs could not be trained right here in Tasmania

Pauline voluntarily took care of Vinnie from eight weeks of age up until 18 months, when he began his formal training.

From day one, her role was to teach Vinnie how to be a well behaved and socialised puppy. Every day, she would take him out to different places to get him used to a wide range of people, noises, surfaces and smells.

It’s a big commitment, but one that Pauline recommends to anyone if they have the time.

“You just can’t explain that emotional feeling you have when you see the dog you cared for matched up with somebody,” she says. “It’s the best feeling in the world.”

And while she admits there were many tears when it was time to say goodbye, Pauline knew Vinnie was going off to do something amazing. “You’ve got to have in your mind that the dog is not yours. You’re doing it for somebody else’s betterment of life,” she says.

Guide Dogs Tasmania is currently looking for suitable people to care for the pups in training. If you would like to be a proud puppy raiser like Pauline, go to [guidedogstas.com.au/getinvolved](http://guidedogstas.com.au/getinvolved)



Peter Bomford

## Supporting Tasmanians now, and in the future

Ever since Peter Bomford started looking after our training dogs, he’s become a passionate supporter of Guide Dogs Tasmania.

He loves getting to know each dog and gets a wonderful feeling when they go on to be matched with someone who needs them.

But it’s something that Peter has set up for the future that is most humbling. He has decided to leave a gift in his Will to Guide Dogs Tasmania, so his support can continue – long after he is able to do so personally.

“As soon as I knew more about it and had the association with several dogs I thought ‘Yes, that’s what I’m going to do,’” says Peter.

Peter’s gift means that more puppies, just like the ones he cares for now, will be trained to meet the growing demand for Guide and Assistance Dogs in our community.

For him, it’s not just a legal document. It stands as a legacy to his memory and something he can be proud of right now.

“Having my Will organised is a load off my mind,” says Peter. “I just hope more people do it.”

Through a legally valid and up-to-date will, you can support the people and causes close to your heart and ensure your legacy lives on into the future – just like Peter’s.

To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will to Guide Dogs Tasmania, contact the Gifts in Wills team on (03) 6232 1222 or email [giftsinwills@guidedogstas.com.au](mailto:giftsinwills@guidedogstas.com.au)



Gilbert

## Gilbert lifting spirits in new role

Hospital emergency departments are never the easiest places to be. Patients are ill, anxious and in pain, and staff are stressed and exhausted. But with his calm, gentle nature, Gilbert the black Labrador is proving that sometimes a dog is the best medicine.

Ongoing knee issues prevented Gilbert from working as a Guide Dog. Now, instead of supporting one person, he is giving comfort and companionship to hundreds of staff members and patients in his role as a Facility Dog at the Launceston General Hospital.

The hospital has gone through some very tough times, including last year’s COVID-19 outbreak in northern Tasmania. But Dr Lucy Reed, Director of Emergency Medicine at the LGH, said Gilbert has lifted spirits in just a few short months.

Lucy said not every dog could handle the demands of the role, but Gilbert’s intensive training combined with his easygoing nature stand him in good stead in a busy, noisy environment. “Nothing fazes this dog,” she said.

Guide Dogs program manager Kim Ryan said: “Seeing an ED nurse come up to Gilbert’s bed and sit with him, stroking him and decompressing after a challenging case, shows what an incredible difference he is making to so many people.”

And according to Lucy, he is “phenomenal” with the patients, too.

“He puts a smile on everybody’s face. It’s amazing for morale... Who’d have thought that a dog could change the face of this place?”

# Guide Dogs TAS



## Meet your latest puppies!

Thanks to wonderful people like you, these gorgeous pups have begun an amazing journey at Guide Dogs Tasmania. Your continued support will help them become the heroes they were born to be.



SPONSOR ME!

Quasi

**Date of Birth:** 21 April, 2021  
**Gender:** Male  
**Lives:** Southern Tasmania

Quasi enjoyed living and learning off fellow Guide Dog puppy Freda for his first few weeks, before moving to his permanent puppy raiser. He is a loving and cuddly pup and calm in his approach to learning about the world.



SPONSOR ME!

Quincy

**Date of Birth:** 21 April, 2021  
**Gender:** Male  
**Lives:** Northern Tasmania

Quincy is enjoying learning about his environment and going to lots of different places. He enjoys play time with the other pups in the north of the state, but equally loves snuggles at home.



Tucker

SPONSOR ME!

**Date of Birth:** 31 May, 2021  
**Gender:** Male  
**Lives:** Northern Tasmania

Tucker is growing quickly and keen to get out in to the big wide world. He loves playing with the pet dog at home, as well as the two children he lives with.



Teagan

SPONSOR ME!

**Date of Birth:** 17 June, 2021  
**Gender:** Female  
**Lives:** Southern Tasmania

Teagan is a dainty and adorable little girl. The latest to arrive at Guide Dogs Tasmania, she’s already winning the hearts of everyone she meets.

Interested in sponsoring a pup? Call Melanie on 6232 1222