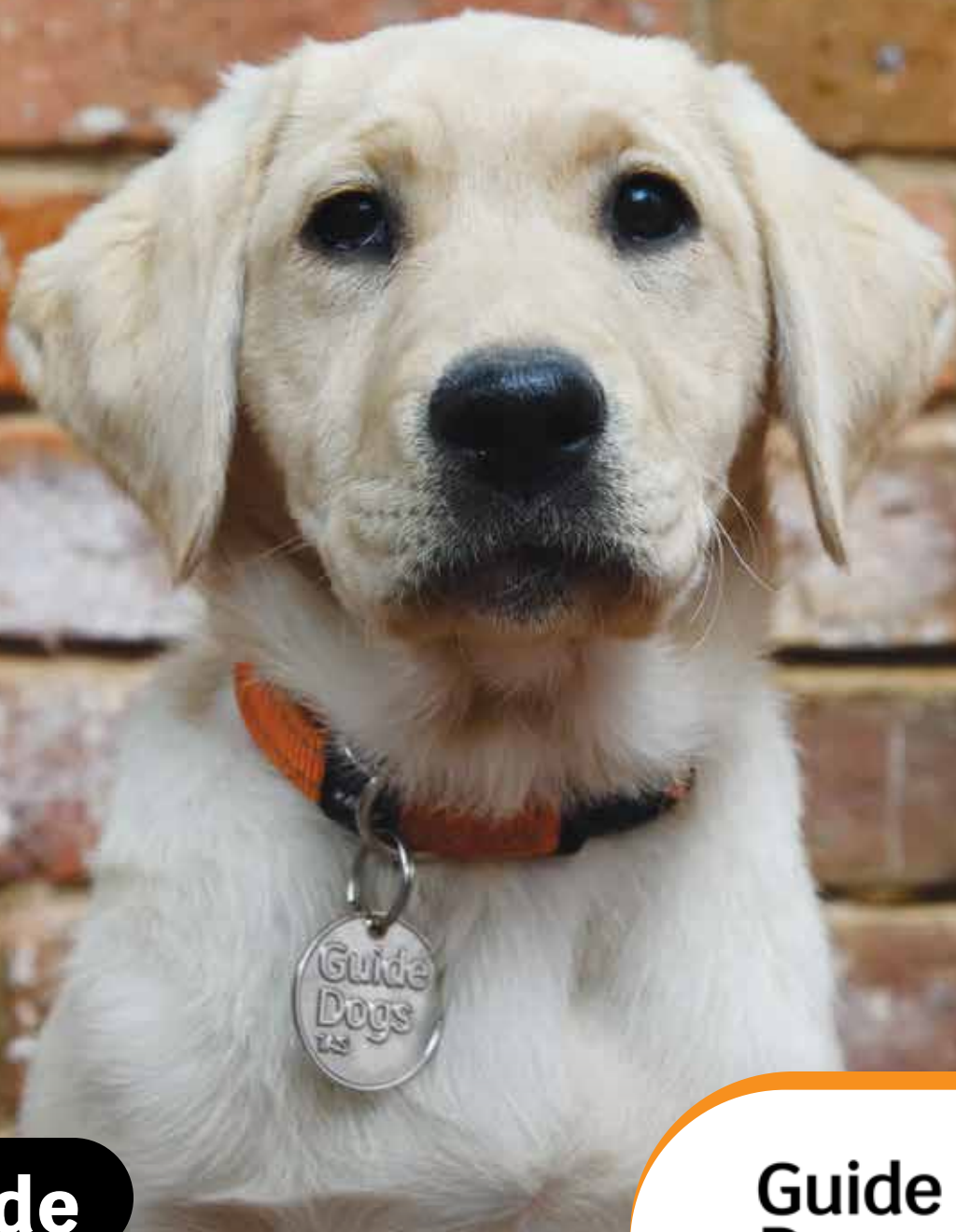


# PawPrints

[guidedogstas.com.au](http://guidedogstas.com.au) 🐾 February 2022

Thank you for making a difference!



## Inside

Meet one of our special volunteers •  
Dianne's journey • Our new recruits •  
Plus more...





# Dianne's new journey with Sara

When Dianne met Sara, she knew straight away that this gorgeous Guide Dog was meant to be hers.



“Sara is so gentle and friendly, and we bonded instantly. It's as though she said, I'll have you; you can be mine.”

Dianne lost her sight suddenly three years ago when the optical nerves in her eyes were damaged.

Her whole world turned black – “as though someone had just turned off the lights,” she says.

Struggling to adjust to life without sight, Dianne had very little confidence in herself.

“I was running on nervous energy... I couldn't stay still,” she says. “I'd go wandering with my cane, and who knows where I'd end up. I didn't feel safe at all.”

But thanks to caring people like you, Dianne is doing so much better these days.

Matched with her first Guide Dog in October 2020, Dianne has started a new journey with the beautiful Sara by her side.

“Sara has made such a big change to my life... It's the freedom to get around to places again, feeling safe, and having a constant companion which has made the biggest difference,” says Dianne.

Nowadays, Sara accompanies Dianne shopping, to catch up with friends and on trips around Tasmania - Sara has given Dianne back some of the independence she had lost.

Dianne says Sara is brilliant in new places, which gives her the freedom to go anywhere.

“Having Sara has helped me so much, just to get out and go places. I can go walking anytime I want, instead of being stuck at home,” she says. “Sara is extremely popular in the community and puts smiles on everyone's faces, including mine.”

And it's not just Dianne's mobility that Sara has helped with.

Having suffered from depression for several years, Dianne says her mental health has greatly improved since having Sara in her life.

“Often, I'll be sitting on the ground, and she will come and lie her head on my lap,” says Dianne. “She really picks up on what mood I'm in and makes me feel so much better about myself. She has made such a difference to my life, and I couldn't imagine being without her.”

**Thank you so much for your support of Guide Dogs Tasmania and amazing dogs like Sara!**

# Peter gets the job done!

**Peter Dane is passionate about helping others. And he likes to get the job done. Volunteering as a driver for Guide Dogs Tasmania's Collection Dog program allows him to do just that!**

"You get to meet lots of people, and it's very satisfying and rewarding doing a job that needs to be done," he says.

Guide Dogs Tasmania's Collection Dog program is responsible for more than 2,000 iconic Guide Dog-shaped collection containers found on retail counters right across Tasmania.

Incredibly, volunteers like Peter are the ones who keep the program moving, collecting and maintaining the mini and model dogs each week.

Peter's role takes him as far south as South Port and as far north as Swansea – he'll go wherever the collection dogs take him!

"It's a good mix of city and country runs," he says.

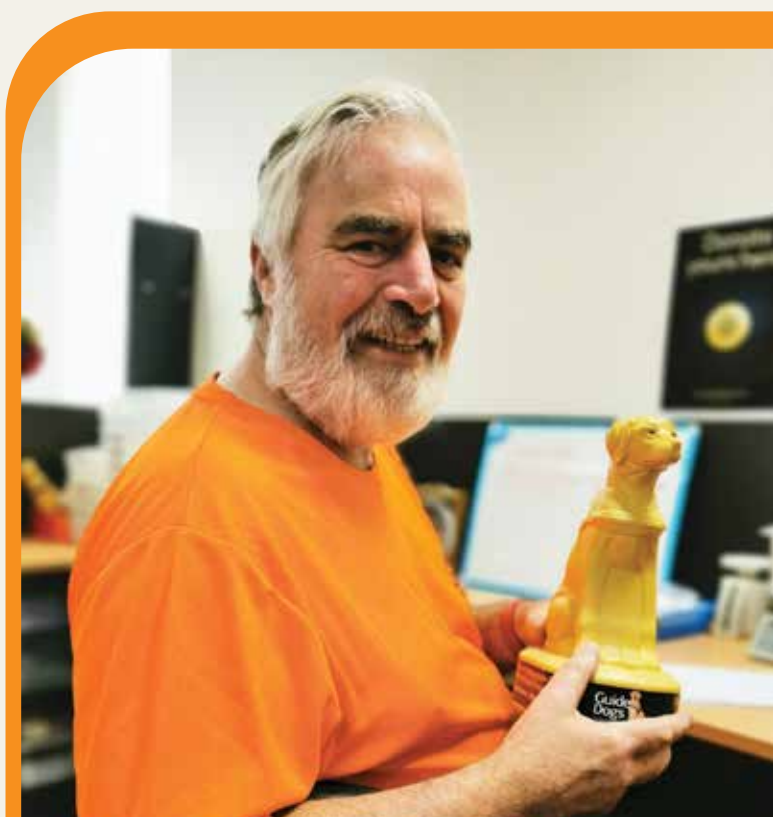
And meeting the happy-go-lucky shop owners makes his day all that more enjoyable.

"I think the people who take an interest in the dog on their counter are the ones that collect the most donations," says Peter.

"It's always nice to see the dogs dressed up; in ribbons, bow ties or glasses. People really make them their own."

Peter has been a volunteer with Guide Dogs Tasmania since 2014. It was his daughter, Sara – who also volunteers – who encouraged him to try it out.

Although retired, Peter juggles weekly volunteering at Guide Dogs Tasmania with other volunteer roles and commitments. But he likes the fact that he knows exactly when he's volunteering and where he's going.



“I would certainly recommend it to anyone who would like to do something worthwhile. You get all the support you need, and it's an excellent way to spend your day.”

If you're interested in volunteering with Guide Dogs Tasmania, contact Kristy Wright on 03 6232 1222 or [kristy.wright@guidedogstas.com.au](mailto:kristy.wright@guidedogstas.com.au).

# A new companion for Lee



“When you’re using a cane, people steer clear of you, but when you’ve got a Guide Dog, people will speak to you and want to know about them. So I’d always choose a Guide Dog as they give you so much freedom.”

**The impact a Guide Dog can have on the life of someone with low vision is truly life-changing. Just ask Lee Field.**

After saying goodbye to his previous Guide Dog, Wendell, who recently hung up his harness to enjoy his retirement (you can read more about Wendell on page 6), Lee, 73, has welcomed a new dog into his life. Guide Dog Bob is Lee’s eighth Guide Dog, and each dog has made an incredible difference in his life.

“Bob already knows how to get to the local RSL,” says Lee, who goes there regularly to catch up with some mates.

Along with going to the doctors, the chemist and doing his grocery shopping – it’s something Lee knows he wouldn’t be doing without a Guide Dog.

“Guide Dogs let you go where you want to go and do what you want to do,” he says.

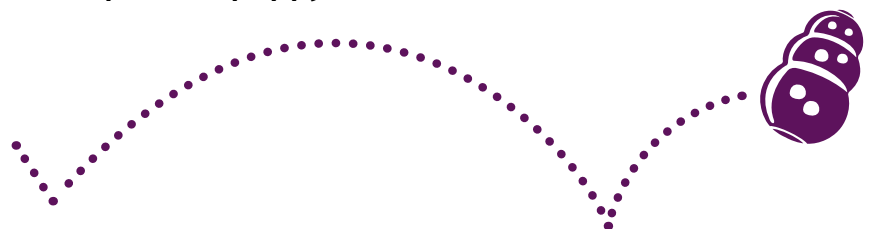
Totally blind from the age of 6, Lee was matched with his first Guide Dog Rosco when he was 24.

He remembers how Guide Dog Rosco would help him to get from his house into town, then catch the ferry across the river to work.

It was the start of an independent life for Lee. And since then, he’s never looked back on his decision to get a Guide Dog.

**Guide Dog Bob was generously sponsored by Mrs Bridget Stott.**

To find out about a sponsorship tier that could suit your level of support, go to [guidedogstas.com.au/supportus/sponsorapuppy](https://guidedogstas.com.au/supportus/sponsorapuppy)



# Meet your latest puppies



Thanks to the support of wonderful people like you, the following pups have started on their two-year training journey to becoming Guide or Assistance Dogs for Tasmanians living with low vision, disability or illness.

Enjoy getting to know your adorable new puppies below, and if you're interested in sponsoring one, contact Melanie today at [melanie.spunt@guidedogstas.com.au](mailto:melanie.spunt@guidedogstas.com.au)



## Simba

Born: 20 June 2021  
Gender: Male  
Lives: Northern Tasmania

As his name suggests, Simba is the King of the pride! This handsome boy is growing quickly and enjoys playing with fellow pups Ziggy, Felix and Oakley at the park.

**Sponsor me!**



## Sarabi

Born: 20 June 2021  
Gender: Female  
Lives: Southern Tasmania

Sarabi is a true family pup, playful and caring. She absolutely loves the children in her home, and they love her in return!

**Sponsor me!**



## Wendy

Born: 1 August 2021  
Gender: Female  
Lives: Southern Tasmania

Wendy is a bundle of joy! She is a confident pup who loves a playdate with the other pups in the program.

**Sponsor:**  
Mrs Bridget Stott



## Winston

Born: 1 August 2021  
Gender: Male  
Lives: Northern Tasmania

A fast-growing pup, Winston is eager to explore, loves his food and enjoys getting out and about with his Puppy Raisers and exploring Tasmania.

**Sponsor me!**





## Hanging up the harness

**Supporters like yourself often ask us, ‘What happens to a Guide Dog when it retires?’**

It’s a great question and one that Kim Ryan, Program Manager for Guide Dog Services, is delighted to answer for you!

“The bond formed between a Guide Dog client and their dog is incredible to watch. But there comes a time, just like all of us, when a Guide Dog needs to retire,” she says. “This is definitely one of the most challenging parts of my job!

“There are several different pathways that a retired dog may take. And whatever the outcome, Guide Dogs Tasmania is there to help the client make the best decision for the dog.”

Kim says that in many cases, a retired Guide Dog will remain with its handler,

or a member of their family, and enjoy a well-deserved rest after its working life.

But in the rare case that the handler is unable to adopt their retired dog, Guide Dogs Tasmania will rehome the dog with a suitable, loving family.

“Supporting the client through this process is very important, and we’re with them every step of the way,” says Kim.

“We share memories, we shed a few tears, and we watch them say goodbye.”

Recently, Kim was fortunate enough to reconnect Wendell, a retired Guide Dog, with his volunteer Puppy Raiser.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for Wendell to return to the home that he grew up in; to the person that helped him become a Guide Dog,” she says.

“He is going to have so much love, so many cuddles, so many treats and a relaxed retirement that he deserves.”

# Pupdates



Your ongoing support helps every amazing pup at Guide Dogs Tasmania reach its full potential. Whether they're at training stage or still learning the basics with their Puppy Raisers – our pups can't become the heroes they were born to be **without you!** So check out what some of them have been up to over the past few months around Tasmania.



**Dudley**

Dudley got caught in the rain – and invented a new look!



**Tucker**

Those eyes! Tucker looking super handsome in his training coat.



**Lilly**

Lovely Lilly visited the Garden of Memories, just up from our Hobart office.



**Freda**

The happy face of Freda!



**Teagan**

Peek-a-boo! Cute little Teagan popping out from the flowers.



**Felix**

Felix took a moment to stop and enjoy his surroundings.

# Pupdates



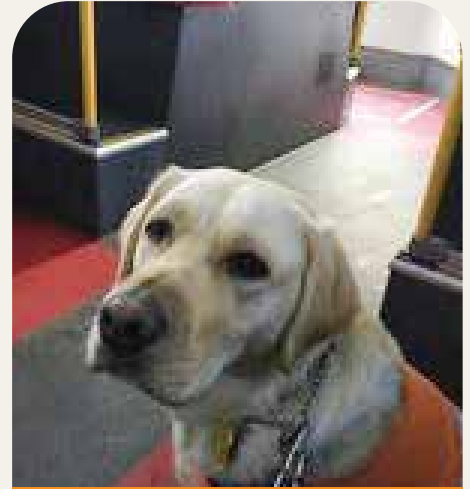
**Lulu**

“Play with me?” asks Lulu, with her toy bone.



**Kayla**

Kayla likes being close to her toys and water at all times.



**Kula**

Kula shows all the pups how to behave on a bus.



**Pixie**

Pixie posing perfectly.



**Dottie**

Dottie decides this floor is a good spot for a rest.



**Quasi**

Young Quasi takes a stroll in the sunshine.



164 Elizabeth St Hobart TAS 7000  
PO Box 315 North Hobart TAS 7002  
03 6232 1222  
[info@guidedogstas.com.au](mailto:info@guidedogstas.com.au)  
[guidedogstas.com.au](http://guidedogstas.com.au)

