

# paws

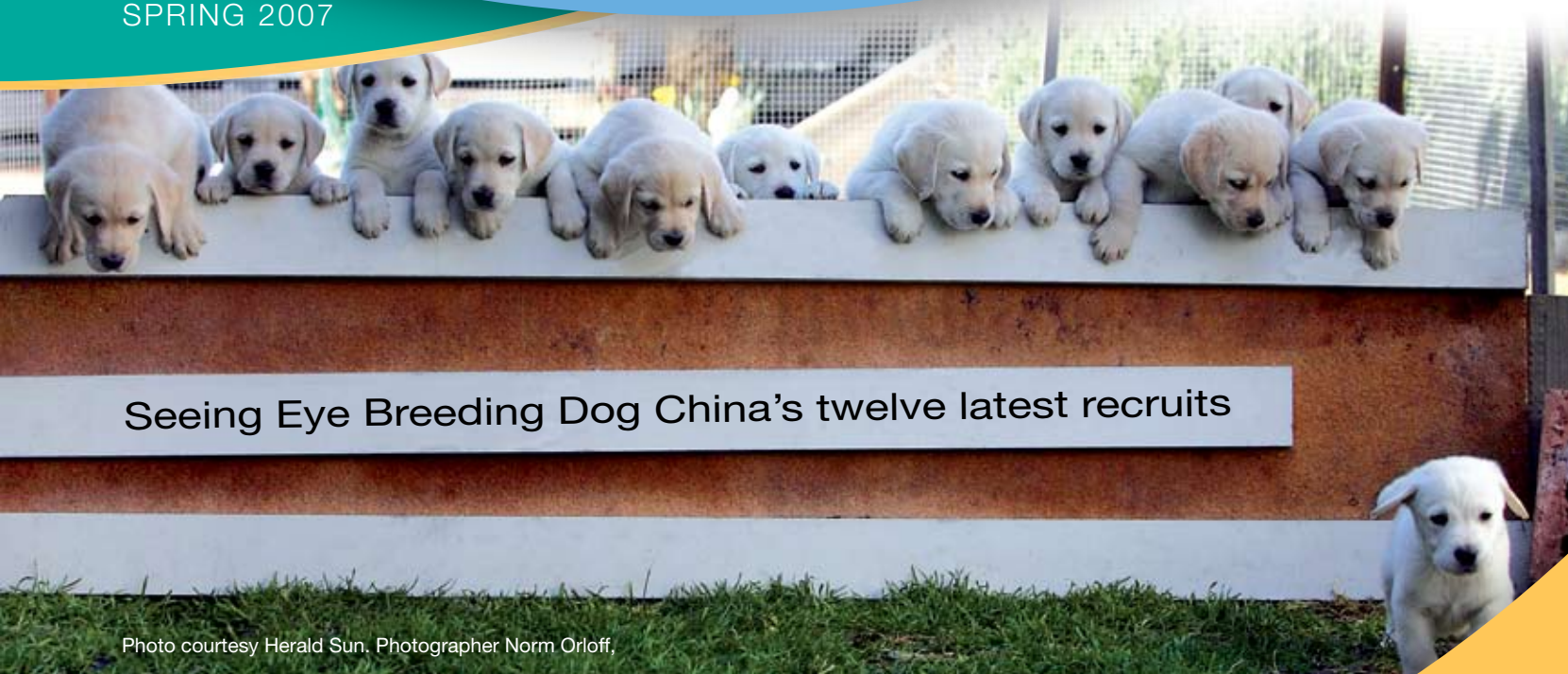
## for a moment



SEEING EYE DOGS  
australia



SPRING 2007



Seeing Eye Breeding Dog China's twelve latest recruits

Photo courtesy Herald Sun. Photographer Norm Orloff,

## open day

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 11am - 3pm

**It's time for our super Seeing Eye Dogs and puppies to shine!**

Held at our national breeding and training facility in Melbourne, we open our doors to supporters and members of the general public. This is a great opportunity to tour our fantastic facility and learn first hand about the training and expectations of our Seeing Eye Dogs and puppies.

This year's event will be the biggest yet. There will be demonstrations from pups of all ages showcasing skills of basic obedience to distraction training techniques, working dogs in harness and plenty of little puppies to pat and cuddle.

It will be a great family day out with puppies to meet, face painting, a kids' animal farm, music, prizes and giveaways, a BBQ and hot food stall, beverages, and much more to keep you entertained.

Put the date in your diary.

We look forward to meeting you at our place:

**17 Barrett Street, KENSINGTON VIC 3031**  
**Melways Ref. 43 A3**

If you have any questions please call  
Skylie on FREECALL 1800 037 773



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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SEEING EYE DOGS AUSTRALIA

# paws for a moment gets a bold new look.



I hope you enjoy our new design and size. Hopefully you will find it smart and contemporary, informative and easier to read.

Being a charity it was important to keep production costs down and we have done that by designing a size that will still fold down to fit into a standard envelope and, as all printing presses now use colour for standard print, we have also been able to utilise this capacity to our benefit and hopefully your enjoyment.

I welcome feedback and views. Please contact me with any suggestions for further improvement or comment.

As this is the last issue before the holiday break I wish you and your loved ones a very happy festive season and a New Year of hope and health.

Leigh Garwood  
CEO

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## Seeing Eye Dogs Australia

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### Queensland

**Phone:** (07) 3255 2877



SEEING EYE DOGS  
AUSTRALIA

# editorial from the CEO



I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation of your support for this great organisation. My objectives are clear – to build our strengthening position as a leading

agency and the only national provider of Seeing Eye Dogs that is recognised nationally and internationally for excellence in its integrated approach to breeding, training and the provision of services and support to Australians who are blind or vision impaired.

The burden of vision loss on the individual and community is high and rising. With one person every 65 minutes diagnosed with vision loss that cannot be corrected by glasses. Right now there are 480,000 Australians aged over 40 with considerable vision impairment and 50,000 of these are legally blind. Over the next 15 years this number will increase to 800,000 with blindness expected to increase by 74% to 87,000 people over 40 years of age.

It costs over \$30,000 and takes up to two years of intensive training to graduate every dog. And owning a Seeing Eye Dog can be the difference between freedom and dependence for a person who is blind or vision impaired. Using a long cane does give a person with a vision impairment a limited degree of flexibility – but most people using canes don't feel as safe going outside their usual routes without depending on family and friends to guide them.

Dogs provide unbeatable skills, flexibility and companionship. Working with the dog as a team builds the skills, confidence and training to travel not just around their own suburb, to and from work or school, but around Australia and even overseas.

With a Seeing Eye Dog a person with vision impairment has the freedom to do more of what they want, when they want, not when someone is available to take them. In short, they are given the same freedom and independence that the rest of us take for granted.

Seeing Eye Dogs are Australia's brainiest canines. They follow orders but can override them if the orders put owners at risk. They navigate escalators, overhanging branches, public transport, pedestrian crossings, road and construction works that have a habit of springing up overnight. They ignore cats, loud noises, bright lights and other distractions.

They are not everyday working dogs – they are individually bred including the use of selected breeding dogs and IVF technology that uses sperm imported from all over the world.

Genetically, they are as close to doggy perfection as possible. They need to be – because every day Seeing Eye Dog users put their lives on the line trusting that all that

breeding and training a Seeing Eye Dog has received will keep them both safe.

Most people are astonished when they hear that Seeing Eye Dogs do not receive a single red cent in funding from any Government anywhere in Australia. That's any Government in Australia.

As you'd imagine this severely limits our ability to provide enough dogs each year to meet the ever-growing demand.

If we did have even a little support, from any Government in the country, we would be able to breed and train more dogs and help more people on our waiting list.

Governments do show interest in blindness and vision impairment but mainly in terms of research and prevention. For those of us working with people who are already blind ... well, we do the very best we can.

We're currently seeing a push from Governments for people with disabilities to re-enter the workforce. And that's great. According to a recent survey by Vision Australia about 63 per cent of people with vision impairment are out of work – about ten times the national unemployment rate. Nobody wants that – especially people with vision impairment.

Workers with vision impairment do get support. The Government will meet the cost of computer software that turns text into audio – about \$5,000. Government will also fund a Braille Note machine, which turns a screen of text into Braille (those readable bumps and dots) – about \$10,000 each. And, even fund some workplace modifications.

So, the irony is that while you can get funding to be at work, without a Seeing Eye Dog you can't really get to work in the first place. Or the local shops, medical appointments or to catch up with friends. And yes – if the employee with vision impairment needed a wheelchair instead of a two year old Labrador, then the government would happily fund the chair.

Why should you care if Seeing Eye Dogs get Government funding?

Because the best predictor of blindness is age and Australia has a rapidly ageing population. In the next ten years alone demand for a Seeing Eye Dog will double. Without extra support, that will lead to longer and longer waiting lists for people in need.

One of those people could be you.

A full life for people with vision impairment means moving from welfare to work – but it's pretty hard walking alone in the dark.

**Leigh Garwood**  
Chief Executive Officer

## SEDA AMBASSADORS

# the selwood family



**Joel Selwood won the 2007 AFL rising star award.** Pic L-R Bryce Joel (Geelong), Adam (West Coast), Maree and SED puppy Selwood, Troy (Lions) Scott "Scoot" (up and comer)

Seeing Eye Dogs Australia (SEDA) is delighted to announce the Selwood family as its new ambassadors. This family is no ordinary family. They already have an Eagle, a Cat and a Lion in the fold, but became a little bit bigger in June with the addition of a very special dog – a Seeing Eye Dog pup aptly named Selwood.

AFL players Adam, Troy and Joel, along with up-and-comer Scott and parents Maree and Bryce, have been named as AFL celebrity ambassadors for Seeing Eye Dogs Australia. On June 16th 2007 the Selwood

family ambassadorship was officially launched at our national training facility in Kensington and was a great success with all metropolitan media attending the event.

Puppy Selwood has become somewhat of a celebrity with regular visits to catch up with his 'family' – always putting his best paw forward in front of the cameras and TV crews.

To top it off, he is a well travelled pup; accompanying SEDA staff member Carolyn Moorshead on a recent trip to Brisbane. Of course the highlight of the trip was visiting Troy at the Brisbane Lions Football Club

and travelling in the cabin to and from Melbourne. Seeing Eye Dogs Australia would like to pass on a special thank you to all the team at Virgin Airlines who were wonderful in accommodating every need (including making sure there were lots of cuddles for Selwood).

To date, almost \$6,000 has been pledged in donations towards Selwood's training. If you would like to help him on his journey to becoming a Seeing Eye Dog, please contact Carolyn Moorshead on 03 9381 6400 or email [carolyn@seda.org.au](mailto:carolyn@seda.org.au)

## puppy sponsors!

Great news! More readers have now opted to strengthen their support for our work by co-sponsoring a Seeing Eye pup! This means we can now plan for more puppies to be trained and ensure that the current trainees work harder at exam time!

We hope you enjoy your puppy sponsorship as much as we enjoy keeping you in touch with your Seeing Eye pup as it trains to be the gift of freedom, safety and independence for an Australian who is blind or vision impaired.

Our puppy sponsorship team is always at hand to answer your questions and even give you some up to date, exclusive bit of news about your Seeing Eye puppy.

If you have a friend or a member of your family who would like to take up a sponsorship of a cute Seeing Eye puppy, a member of our team will be very happy to tell them about the joys and rewards which you get from a puppy sponsorship. Please ask them to call us on 1800 787 797 at 1800 Puppys!

We extend our thanks and congratulations to all our puppy sponsors for being part of a very special group of Seeing Eye Dogs supporters!

*Amel, Donor Development Manager*

## christmas hours



Seeing Eye Dogs will operate at a reduced level over the Christmas period to allow staff to take leave at this quieter time:

- The offices will be closed from Friday 21st December 2007 with staff returning from annual leave on Wednesday 9th January 2008.
- Our kennels will continue to operate as usual on skeleton staff and can be contacted on 03 9381 6426.
- Senior Instructors on a roster basis will manage any urgent training or dog health issues during this time. The contact number is 0438 872 013.

## CLIENT PROFILE

# verdi much more than a name



After many years of deliberating the pros and cons of having a Seeing Eye Dog I finally decided to take the plunge and apply in February 2006. My decision was tough given my extensive travelling commitments, I had concerns as to how fair it would be on the dog and if indeed I would be able to take him with me. Excited yet nervous I was glad to have gotten the process rolling. During the interview my partner mentioned "could we get a chocolate one because they're so cute". "yeah if you want to wait 2 years" I was told so I hastily reiterated "any colour's fine!!".

The hardest part was the waiting. Do they have any new pups? Does anything look promising? Should I make plans as usual? All the questions that seem to creep up on and distract you.

On November 19th I received a call from Ian Cox an Instructor at SEDA to ask when would be convenient to meet the dog. I had no idea a dog had even been found so as adrenalin began to run through me as I tried to calmly say "oh anytime really". "How's about tomorrow?" Ian said and the rest is history.... Not only did I get my best friend that day, but wouldn't you know it... he's chocolate too.

Verdi (affectionately known as my little chocolate budha) came into my life on Nov 20th 2006 at 8pm, not to be too precise.

Since then my life has changed so much and yet not at all. I say this because Verdi has made my life gain so many things without impacting as an imposition in any way. Coming from a background of needing to teach myself the adaptive skills to survive the "seeing world" unnoticed, or no different, I had great cane and mobility skills but at a cost of constant thinking and concentration. Verdi has changed all that as now I need to be aware but not in overdrive. I simply say "bank Verdi, lets go" and he takes me to the door where as before I had to think about walking straight, listening intently for wall and obstacle changes etc. I still work but now it's as a team.

We've had lots of adventures travelling to Brisbane, going through Southland and Chadstone shopping centres, a

visit to hospital, working the Melbourne International Flower and Garden show, featuring in the newspaper and even on the Channel Nine News: what a star he is. Cool calm and collected, and now I have just started a new part-time job where my boss not only lets him in, but supplies a thick woollen carpet for him to sleep on – whoever said it's a dog's life definitely got it right. We've had our hiccups but he's a quick learner and constantly we are growing.

Verdi is a leader, he doesn't like to be at the back of the pack so it's great when we go into the city or through crowds, he has this wonderful technique of giving people a chance to move, then... if no response... it's in with the cold wet nose on their ankles. Boy do they move quickly, heehee. And then there's his toys, he's very particular with whom he will play; there's Sam the monkey, Max the sausage dog and Ball a soft footy – yes he knows them by name and at night he's learning to pick them up and put them to bed, too so that everyone can get a good nights sleep – adorable: doesn't it just make you squirm!

Well we've been together now for 8 months; I can hardly believe the time that has passed so quickly – I often reflect upon how far we have come. This has been an amazing gift to my life that wouldn't have been made possible without the SEDA team, specifically Paul H, Ian C, Brent F and Margaret S. I want to say thank you so very much for changing my life. The word thank you does not express just how grateful I am. Not only was SEDA there for me every step of the way but they really listened to and met my needs. SEDA is always there for a panicked phone call "Verdi's stood in chewing gum, what should I do?" or to just catch up. Not to mention that when Verdi moved in, SEDA supplied his Futon, collar, check-chain, leash, bowl, brushes, cup and a 20kg bag of food and never asked for anything in return.

So thank you again for my best mate – Verdi.

As I sign off, Verdi gives another contented snuffle as he repositions himself under my desk and on to the other side of my foot (ex-cu-se me! – your typing disturbs my sleep – I'm sure he's thinking). I hope to be in touch with our next round of adventures.

*Cheerios, Ness & Verdi Murby*

all smiles  
for brighton  
winner!



Mrs Colleen Dellbridge of Brighton, Queensland, was the very lucky winner of our Winter Art Union. Mrs Dellbridge took home a brand new Mitsubishi Outlander LS Sports.

The car was presented to Colleen and her husband on Monday 9th July at Zupps Mt Gravatt. Mrs Dellbridge was delighted to hear that she had won the car after years of entering Art Union draws supporting various causes.

The second Queensland Art Union of 2007 is now underway and this time the prize is a car of your choice to the value of \$36,000. If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please contact the Art Union hotline on 07 5560 4988.

# letters to the editor



Well, after the twelve days of training in Brisbane and another week back at home, "Seeing Eye Dog Ultimate" and I were then on our own.

At first I was terribly nervous and would be almost frantic if "Ultimate" wasn't there when I checked every minute. This drove my husband nuts, so he fitted a small bell to Ultimate and that fixed the problem. In the meantime Ultimate was also adapting, and this was quite funny.

Because we are on acreage, Ultimate needed to adapt to birds in the yard, wallabies everywhere, cattle, horses, etc. Also just the space he could run in was very exciting. I now have this great freedom to be able to find my way about town, and also I can go for walks on the farm as Ultimate always knows his way home. This has given me a lot more confidence, and improved my outlook an unbelievable amount.

All this has also led to other things. My husband says he can no longer escape to the shed, as all I have to do is ask Ultimate to find him and Ultimate takes me straight to where ever my husband is.

To sum it all up, each day we learn something new, and for me, I am very much enjoying the "Ultimate" experience.

I thank SEDA, Queensland Instructor Phil, and in particular all the donors that make this service possible and for the opportunity I have been given.

*Esther and Ultimate*



## zappa retires

After 7 years of outstanding service to Steve Nicholls and this organisation, Seeing Eye Dog 'Zappa' aged 10 has retired. He now lives in Prahran VIC with a past Puppy Carer Larna McLean.

Steve, a Community Education officer for SEDA together with Zappa visited thousands of service clubs, schools, corporate offices, shopping centres, train stations and retirement homes where they became well known and much requested speakers. Happy retirement Zappa. You deserve it.

# a temporary roof for temporary boarders

Our teenagers are ready to commence their intensive training to qualify as a Seeing Eye Dog. Can they move in with you for their final six months of training? We'll collect them for school and drop them home after class. Your after school caring will someday help give an Australian who is blind independence for life.

We provide you with all the necessities like food, bed, registration, leads and toys and all we ask is that you house and love this 'super hero' of the future. Our trainers will collect your new family friend Monday through Friday for training. Of course, we will fit in with your schedule.

These very special animals have been cared for during the first 12 months of their life by our volunteer Puppy Carers who have, under the watchful eye of our training staff, taught these dogs obedience and socialised them to the community. So you see, your new family friend comes trained and ready for the final stage before qualifying.

So if you are retired, work from home or have a young family and live in the Melbourne or Brisbane Metropolitan area and feel you could help us, we'd love to hear from you.

**Please contact Seeing Eye Dogs Australia on 1800 037 773 for more information or fill out the Temporary Caring form, online at [www.seda.org.au](http://www.seda.org.au)**



## New Graduates since June 2007

Client	State	Dog name	Breed	Sex	Puppy Carer
Gail Kerr	ACT	Quinn	Lb (yellow)	M	Kate Harry
Esther Watson	QLD	Ultimate	Lb (black)	M	Jacky Tupangaia
Steve Nicholls	VIC	Sage	Lb (black)	F	Peter Revell
Josephine McKinnon	VIC	Nevada	GR	F	Jess Hill
Colin Verity	VIC	Toby	Lb (black)	M	Margot Bretherton
Aaron Steley	QLD	Spida	Lb (yellow)	M	Rosalie Dewar
Les Weshack	VIC	Thor	Lb (yellow)	M	Mandy Ymer
Gwen Jenkinson	VIC	Pebbles	Lb (yellow)	F	Kim Rulach

Golden Retriever (GR) Labrador (Lb)

## NATIONAL LAUNCH

# 'shades for sight'



Blindness and Children is the theme for the 2007 World Sight Day on 11th October 2007. As a progression from this important event, Seeing Eye Dogs Australia is delighted to announce the national launch of its annual Shades for Sight fundraising campaign.

Coinciding with the start of daylight savings on 28th October, the goal of this campaign is twofold:

1. Create awareness of the importance of wearing sunglasses to protect eyes from damaging ultra violet (UV) radiation. This is particularly important for children, even infants as young as 6 months.
2. Secondly, to raise urgently needed funds to enable us to continue to train Seeing Eye Dogs to provide the 'gift of independence' to Australians who are blind or vision impaired.

You can join in the fun of the event and raise money for our cause.

We want everyone to get behind this campaign – individuals, small business, corporates, contractors, primary or secondary schools, clubs or any organisation. It's easy – you can organise your own event to support the wearing of Australian Standard sunglasses to protect eyes from UV radiation.

You can conduct your own fundraising initiative, make a donation directly to Seeing Eye Dogs Australia or you may consider doing any of the following:

- Hold a casual dress day (or two) and ask employees, clients and contacts to make a \$2 donation and fine those who don't join in the fun
- Hold a 'wear your shades' day – and request a gold coin donation
- Plan a fancy dress/fancy shades fundraiser
- Organise a Doggy Shades Day
- Pass the bucket around the office for donations
- Run a month long fundraiser to coincide with the six week campaign, with a goal to raise over \$5,000 and if successful, your organisation can name one of our pups
- Organise a fundraising BBQ, lunch or morning tea for friends, family, neighbours and colleagues
- Purchase merchandise from our shop or buy silicone wristbands in support of Shades for Sight for only \$3 – see back page for full details

**Sunday 28th October to  
Saturday 8th December 2007**

## How to register

**To register your Shades for Sight fundraising activity or to download an information sheet, visit [www.seda.org.au](http://www.seda.org.au)**

Or please contact Carolyn Moorshead:  
**Phone: 1800 037 773 or  
Email: [carolyn@seda.org.au](mailto:carolyn@seda.org.au)**

You can conduct your fundraiser anytime during the above dates, or call Carolyn to discuss a preferred alternative.

Good luck – and remember to take heaps of pictures of your fundraising activity as we would love to put them on our website and share your initiatives with others.

Eye damage from UV exposure builds over time – so it is imperative to protect the eyes of children and adults.

## what's your caption?

**Write a caption and WIN a SEDA gift pack valued at \$43.**

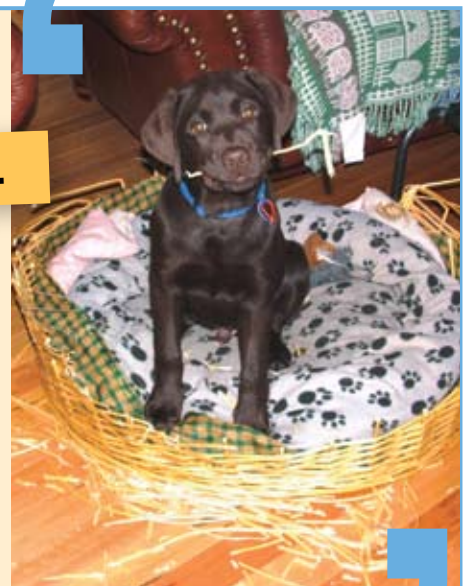
Can you think of a fitting caption that suits "Fred" – one of our latest Seeing Eye Dogs puppies?

**Send your entry to:**

**Editor 'Paws for a Moment', SEDA, 17 Barrett Street, Kensington VIC 3031.**

In all matters the Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into. Entry implies acceptance of the rules. The closing date for this competition is Friday 14th December 2007.

**Gift pack includes SEDA cap, pewter key ring, silicone wrist band and carry bag. Prize to be awarded before Christmas and your caption for Fred will appear in the next edition.**



# paw pals out to lunch

Members of the Seeing Eye Dogs Paw Pals group enjoyed a great day out when they recently took their SEDA pups out to lunch at the Giant Steps restaurant in Healesville.

Paw Pals, all volunteers, organise outings for puppy carers and their pups during the first 12 months before they return to Seeing Eye Dogs for their final six months full time training.

Foreground Jenni Conquest and Zorro, from left are Kate Harry and Angie, Margot Bretherton and Zadena, Rosalie Dewar and Axel, Kath Vendy and Oriana, Kim Rulachand and Chief, Cindy Higgins and Zsa Zsa, Susan Rafferty and Heart and Peter Battye and Zora.

Photo Courtesy Mountain View Mail



# puppy carer program

Our puppies are placed in homes at eight weeks of age where they stay until they are approximately 12 months old, at which time they come into the kennels to begin their formal training. During their time in the home they are taught basic obedience, to walk on the left hand side, and to eat and go to the toilet on command.

The puppies are introduced to large crowds, shopping centres and also taken on public transport. We do continuous visits while the pups are out, to monitor their progress and also to help with any problems that may arise.

Our Puppy Carers are one of the most important parts of our organisation. It takes a lot of dedication and patience at times to raise a Seeing Eye puppy but it is also very rewarding to see the final outcome and the joy and independence they can give a blind person.

Puppy Carers know and understand that they are helping to give our Clients the freedom of mobility and that they carry a large responsibility to prepare the pup for its intended role.

**If you live in the Melbourne or Brisbane Metropolitan area and feel that you can help in this important role, please call FREECALL 1800 037 773 for details.**

## your bequest does make a difference to seda

When I look back over the past few years as the SEDA Bequest Officer I am both humbled and delighted with the hundreds of conversations I've had with our donors and supporters who may have been considering leaving a Bequest in their Will.

Every discussion has been different but the thought of leaving us a Bequest is both a personal and emotional issue for them. However, one of the major considerations for people is "Will my Bequest make a difference for SEDA"?

Without hesitation I can assure our donors, supporters and readers of this newsletter that every Bequest, no matter or whatever the size may be, does make a difference to us and our services.

Without Bequests we would simply not have the resources to produce the number of Seeing Eye Dogs required for the benefit of our Clients. **It may sound trite but "Less Resources means Less Seeing Eye Dogs are produced"** which are so vital for the "independence" gained by our Clients when they are matched to and allocated one of our wonderful Seeing Eye Dogs.

It costs around \$30,000 to breed and train each Seeing Eye Dog and takes up to two years of intensive training for a single Seeing Eye Dog to "Graduate". A lot of specific resources make up that sum but the result in providing our future Clients with the independence and the ability to move around safely and freely makes it so worthwhile.

Every Bequest we receive, no matter the size – be it \$500 or \$50,000 – helps to fund the various resources required: equipment, facilities, our exercise yards, our kennels, our training needs, our Client support and the many other resources which make up our programs.

If you would like to consider a Bequest to SEDA to help improve and maintain our resources in the future, why not contact Richard Morrison on 1800 037 773 for a copy of our special Bequest brochure or simply to just have a "chat" about how you can make a difference.

Sadly, this will be my last Bequest article in "Paws for a Moment" as I will shortly be retiring. Thank you to all our members, bequestors and supporters for the opportunity to be part of our SEDA team and to share with you our journey in providing the funding for our mission.

Always remember, your Bequest certainly can and will make a difference to us, and I encourage you to put your thoughts into action.

*David Bramley*



# can we come visit?

## workplace visits – melbourne and brisbane

Boost morale, brighten up your day! Some employers take the initiative to break with traditional routine by conducting a casual dress day once a month and even sometimes every week.

We have an idea – one that we are sure you will find hard to resist. Next time your workplace has a casual dress day, or is in need of a morale boost or delightful distraction, why not invite Seeing Eye Dogs Australia to visit and say hello? We will even bring along some of our cute pups and dogs for you to meet and cuddle and take lots of photos to share with colleagues, family and friends.

Our team can stay as long as you like – for a short time or for a while. We can talk to a group, or better still, our team can walk through your place of work so that everyone has the opportunity to meet our special pups.

And you make a difference by way of a donation; purchase some of our merchandise, ask your employees and colleagues to make a contribution on the day; or you can even create your fundraising activity to raise money to help our cause. Every dollar counts so that we can continue our vital work of breeding, training and providing the gift of independence.

Remember, we receive no Government funding – not one cent, so we rely greatly on the support of the Australian business world.

**Can you help us or do you know someone who can? If you work for a company or know someone who does, with preferably 50 plus employees in any industry, then please pass on our details. Contact Carolyn Moorshead on 03 9381 6400 or Nicole Morris on 07 3255 8977. We can't wait to hear from you.**

## volunteering keeps you fit!

Volunteering fights obesity and improves health and fitness, particularly amongst young people. That's according to research carried out by research company ICM, commissioned by CSV UK's largest volunteering organisation.

The research comes in the wake of national concerns over growing waistlines. Initial findings from the survey involving more than 600 volunteers throughout the UK show that volunteering improves fitness levels and reduces weight.

People volunteer for many different reasons, but you may be interested to learn the following facts:

- Nearly half of all volunteers (47%) say volunteering has improved their physical health and fitness.
- 24% of people who volunteer more than five times a year say volunteering has helped them lose weight.
- 60% of 18-24 year olds say volunteering has improved their fitness and nearly a third (32%) say volunteering has helped them lose weight.

- 22% of 18-24 year olds say volunteering helps them cut down on alcohol intake.
- Nearly a third (30%) of 18-24 year old smokers say volunteering helps them smoke less. 21% of smokers who have volunteered for over two years say that volunteering helps them smoke less.
- 15% of all volunteers said volunteering had led them to eat less chocolate!

If you want to make a difference – and perhaps get a little healthier in the process – then why not get in touch?

Seeing Eye Dogs has a great range of Volunteer opportunities available and will be ready to explain and explore ones that may suit you.

Drivers	Puppy Carers
Breeder Carers	Temporary Carers
Kennels	Shopping Centres
Reception	Collection Dogs
Tours and Events	Admin

**Phone Margot on 1800 037 773**

## depression – it's a serious illness

People with vision loss are three times more likely to experience depression than the general population.

Depression is one of the most common of all mental health problems. One in five people experience depression at some stage of their lives and having a chronic illness is a risk factor for depression. Research shows that around 50 per cent of people with a major chronic illness also have depression.

Depression is more than just a low mood – it's a serious illness. While we all feel sad, moody or low from time to time, some people experience these feelings intensely, for long periods of time and often without reason. People with depression find it hard to function every day and may be reluctant to participate in activities they once enjoyed.

Beyondblue aims to provide clear and comprehensive information about depression. Their website will take you step-by-step through the symptoms of depression; how to recognise it, how to get help, how to help someone and how to stay well. Beyondblue also provides recommendations on where to find additional information.

Visit [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au) or call their info line 1300 22 4636.



# sirens sound for future heroes

It was a training day with a twist for Queensland's Seeing Eye Dogs in the making when they gathered with their Carers at Queensland's busiest fire station on Roma Street, Brisbane City, for their July training session.

As the pups patiently endured the sound of the station's fire sirens as part of their loud noise training, Puppy Development Supervisor Bev Brocklehurst kept a watchful eye on every dog's reaction.

The pups even stayed calm long enough to pose for photos with some of the station's firemen. The winning combination of adorable puppies and men in uniform was a great drawcard for the media, and the fire station visit was featured on Channel Nine News that evening.

Although the pups didn't learn to fight fires, the visit was a valuable addition to their training. It was also a unique chance for Queensland's dedicated Puppy Carers to see the inner workings of a fire station and meet a different kind of hero – our amazing firefighters.

## queensland office update



SEEING EYE DOGS  
queensland

Several exciting new ventures have been keeping us busy in Queensland this quarter. We are delighted to announce that Seeing Eye Dogs Queensland has signed a three year partnership with Heritage Building Society. The partnership is off to a great start – Heritage staff recently voted to name one of the J litter puppies 'Jada' and will be following her training progress over the next twelve months. Staff at Heritage branches across Queensland will be organising their own fundraising events and activities to raise money for SEDQ and Collection Dogs will be placed in over 100 branches. Watch this space for further updates!

On August 23rd, we held SEDQ's inaugural Corporate Community Education Breakfast at the picturesque City Gardens Café in the heart of Brisbane's beautiful Botanic Gardens. Sixteen guests, including several representatives from Queensland's Supreme Court, enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about SEDQ and ways to get involved

in supporting us. Client Louisa Young spoke about her experiences with her Seeing Eye Dog, Jazz, which was a valuable way for guests to understand the difference our dogs make in people's lives.

Our puppies have been out and about in Brisbane's CBD recently as part of our new 'Workplace Visits' program. These are a good way for SEDQ staff and Puppy Carers to raise awareness of our cause and let people know about the different ways in which they can support us. It's also a useful training exercise for the puppies; so far, our visiting dogs (including Aslan, Banjo, Hope, Harper, and Vidal) have been on their best behaviour. The fun part for them is when their coats are removed for five minutes of pats and hellos at the end of question time! So far, we have had successful trips to Imagetec, a photocopy and office supplies company in Milton, and the Eagle Boys Head Office in West End.

We were invited to open this year's Dayboro K9 Day on Sunday 19th August – Nicole Morris, Fundraising Manager gave the opening address and was assisted by client Erynne Conyard and her dog, Koda.

The search for more Puppy Carers continues. We had a record-breaking response to our recent articles in the Noosa News and the Sunshine Coast Daily, which was wonderful. For the next several weeks, a team of Marketing students from Queensland University of Technology will be helping us out by coming up with some fresh ideas for encouraging the public's interest in Puppy Caring.

Thank you to our Clients, Volunteers, and Puppy Carers for continuing to support us in so many ways. Thanks also to Pam Nock, who has organised two more successful Peak's Crossing dances for us in recent months.

# Praise paws in for Sue

Jen Kelly

AFTERNOONS at the theatre, shopping at the supermarket and thrill rides on speedboats are all in a day's work for seeing eye dogs in training.

Puppy carer Sue Battye takes 10-month-old Zora everywhere with her as she prepares the labrador pup for her future role helping a blind person.

Zora is the third dog in Ms Battye's full-time care in three years.

That and her role as a foster mum for other pups whose carers need a break have earned her a Pride of Australia medal.



"I just love dogs and it's something that I can give back. God forbid that I should ever need one one day," she said.

"Zora goes everywhere with me. We go shopping and, if I go out for lunch, she comes and sits under the table and waits patiently. My friend and I go into the city once a month and she's got Zora's brother, Zorro, so we go to the Arts Centre and go to a show and the dogs come with us."

The three puppies raised by Ms Battye — Zora, Friday and Olinda — all regularly enjoyed trips on the family's speedboat off Cowes on Phillip Island.

Ms Battye was recently a foster carer for five months for trainee pup Fynn, who husband Peter took to work each day.

Ms Battye, of Mooroolbark, also volunteers one day a week at the Seeing Eye Dogs Australia.

SEDA spokesman Gareth Wills said that puppy carers as dedicated as Ms Battye were a rarity.

"She often takes in other puppies temporarily, so she's a bit like Pippa from *Home and Away*," he said. "Even though she's got her own

dog that she's looking after, she'll often taken in other dogs so other people can have a break.

"It's a big emotional ask to give someone a puppy and get them to teach it, train it and then give it back to advance to the next level."

SEDA has about 30 puppy carers in Victoria, but needs about 20 more.

Each puppy stays with a carer for about a year.

Ms Battye will soon give up Zora when her training ends, but she hopes to have another puppy by then to make parting ways easier.

**Net link:** [www.prideofaustralia.com.au](http://www.prideofaustralia.com.au)



Feeling the squeeze: Sue Battye gives 12-week-old seeing eye puppy-in-training Selwood a cuddle, but Zora is not impressed. Picture: IAN CURRIE

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**"customers know where the money is going"**

Independent Tecoma BP petrol station agreed to place a collection dog on their front counter. Employee Minka is passionate about her 'new project' and asks just about everyone to put their change into 'Fred'. "We are so excited – in three months we have raised more than \$300. A small sign on the dog keeps our customers informed about how much we have raised to date. There have been so many positive comments because customers know where their money is going and are keen to keep on donating".

attention store owners, managers and office managers



**Are you looking for a fantastic charity program that your store, staff and customers can support with absolutely no expense?**

Seeing Eye Dogs Australia is seeking community-minded businesses to display our attractive collection dogs. With no Government funding, Seeing Eye Dogs rely on support from the public and business world to help provide the gift of independence – a Seeing Eye Dog.

You will be supporting an organisation that has provided Seeing Eye Dogs to blind and vision impaired people throughout Australia since 1960.

Volunteers will regularly collect the donations, maintain and clean the dogs. After each visit you will receive an official letter of appreciation, informing you how much was collected from your collection dog. Many of our supporters display this letter for their customers and staff as a proud example of their community involvement.

If your business would like to help, please call our FREECALL number 1800 037 773 and ask for Skylie.



Simply the best in pets, supporting our pups and Seeing Eye Dogs in training with play toys.

# woof!!! carers for breeding dogs



Seeing Eye Dogs Australia is looking for people in the Melbourne Metropolitan area who are interested in becoming carers for our breeding dogs.

This is a long term commitment in which our star breeding bitches or stud dogs live permanently in a family home. An adult must be home during the day and have their own transport, plus a secure yard.

The female dog will be whelped, under supervision of our canine midwife, in the family home where the puppies will stay until they are approximately six weeks of age.

Food and all expenses including veterinary are provided. This is an opportunity to permanently care for one of our outstanding breeding dogs, have the experience of a lifetime, and be supported by professional staff every step of the way.

For further information call FREECALL 1800 037 773.

## litter box



A record 27 pups in 2 months with another two litters due before Christmas

### China – yellow lab

Whelped: 3.07.07 (Friday 13th)  
Stud: External G,Ret, Henry  
Pups: “J” litter 12, 7 girls  
5 boys, all yellow  
Breeder carer: Terri Carolan

### Honey – choc lab

Whelped: 14.08.07  
Pups: “K” litter, 8 girls  
3 boys, all black  
Stud: G.Ret Henry  
Breeder Carer: Kim Toladay

### Kikko – golden retriever

Whelped: 24.08.07  
Stud: G.Ret Henry  
Pups: “L” litter, 1 girl  
3 boys (pure G.Rets)  
Breeder Carer: Peter & Marisia Nesveda

### Sahara – black lab

Whelped: 6.09.07  
Stud: Alfred  
Pups: “M” litter, 5 girl  
2 boys (pure labs)  
Breeder Carer: Kylie Morrissey

## When only the best will do.

People often ask why we use Royal Canin to feed our puppies and dogs. The answer is simple – just like humans, if you are expected to work at your very best all the time you must exercise and eat high quality food.

When SEDA reviewed the dietary requirements of our dogs a few years ago Royal Canin stood out. Not only was it a market leader in health nutrition for dogs and cats in 85 countries, but the fact that the organisation centred its brand and products on its mission ‘Knowledge and Respect’. To us this demonstrated a continual will to always better understand the nutritional needs of dogs and cats.

So good is the Maxi range – which we use – it provides the complete dietary requirements of our breeding stock, puppies, and all Seeing Eye Dogs in training. They were also the first to offer breed-specific diets.

The health and wellbeing of our dog, is very important, as I am sure it is for your dog or cat. But for us and our blind and vision

impaired Clients it has a greatly increased importance. To ensure a long working life, a Seeing Eye Dog needs a diet which focuses on improving longevity, the ability to sustain a healthy and happy lifestyle, and to prevent potential health risks.

We have no hesitation in recommending Health Nutrition range for your dog or cat. It is tailored to the specific nutritional and physiological needs of dogs of different sizes during particular life stages. They also have a Breed Nutrition range, which is a breed exclusive diet focusing on specific problems for specific breeds. And they have a Veterinary Exclusive range that is focused on specific health issues of dogs and cats. Royal Canin would be happy to discuss your pets’ nutritional needs and can be reached on their national advice line 1300 657 021.



Proud supporters of Seeing Eye Dogs Australia

## Worm your pets regularly

*Because your dog is also your best friend it is important to keep him/her happy and healthy.*

**Sentinel®**  
Spectrum

*At the heart of every home*

**Sentinel Spectrum** helps ensure the health and happiness of your family. **Sentinel Spectrum** is the most convenient way to get 3-in-1 parasite protection against heartworm, intestinal worms – including tapeworm and fleas.

One delicious beefy flavored tablet given once a month with a full meal, all year round, is all it takes to protect your dog against the most dangerous worms and fleas. Just remember that and enjoy happiness and fun together.

**If you would like to know more about the products available for your pet dog or cat, please call the customer assistance line on 1800 633 768.**

Novartis Animal Health are proud supporters of Seeing Eye Dogs Australia

