



Seeing Eye Dogs
Vision Australia

Paws

For a moment

Issue 2 – 2024



Thank you
for helping
to care for and train
more pups!



Thank you

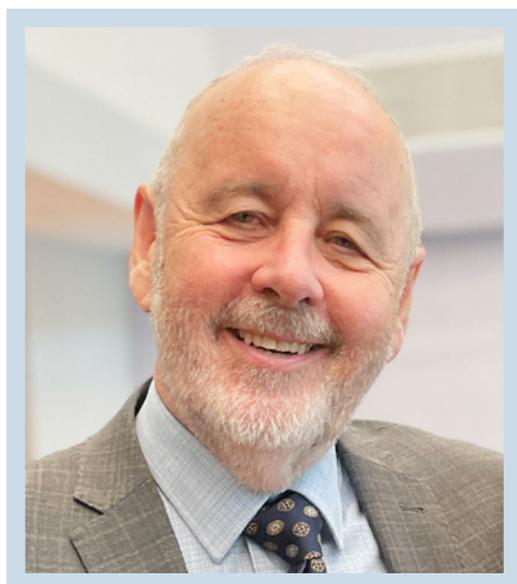
I can't imagine anything better than witnessing how life with blindness or low vision is transformed by a match with a Seeing Eye Dog. It's something I feel incredibly grateful and honoured to experience. Thanks to you, another 20 people have been matched with their new best friend since our last newsletter. What wonderful news to share with you today!

In this issue you'll meet just two of the people whose lives you've transformed – Thayana and Gordon. With their Seeing Eye Dogs at their side, anything is possible.

The role you play in training and matching Seeing Eye Dogs is absolutely critical – we can only do what we do because of you and your kindness. Thank you.



Ron Hooton
Chief Executive Officer



<p>With your support these puppies are heading for big things.</p>	<p>Ira, Inex, Ilana, Igor, Ivory, Irish DOB: 7/12/23 Breed: L Mum: Vashti Dad: Tiger</p>
<p>Waylon, Whisky, Wanda, Wyatt, Wren, Winsome DOB: 11/9/23 Breed: LxGR Mum: Helen Dad: Jedi</p>	<p>Elwood, Eddy, Errol, Ebba, Emily, Evie DOB: 27/10/23 Breed: GR Mum: Olive Dad: Nitro</p>
<p>Yuku, Yeti, Yello, Yasmin, Yuja, Yardley, Yoko, Yaris, Yobi, Yanta DOB: 25/9/23 Breed: LxGR Mum: Gretel Dad: Ulysses</p>	<p>Gimble, Gulliver, Gus, Gypsy, Glossy, Gertie, Genie, Gator, Griffin, Gabby DOB: 23/11/23 Breed: L Mum: Vivi Dad: Laurance</p>
<p>Zen, Zella, Zio, Zenya, Zina, Zoom, Zane, Zappa, Zee Zee, Zebra DOB: 25/9/23 Breed: L Mum: Makayla Dad: Norris</p>	<p>Lizzy, Ludwig, Louie, Lainey, Leesha, Lily, Larry, Locket, Laurel, Lingo, Lotus DOB: 19/1/24 Breed: L Mum: Quiver Dad: Quincy</p>
<p>Alice, Adele, Alba, Aspen, Ali, Albert, Addy, Aimon DOB: 12/10/23 Breed: LxGR Mum: Elsie Dad: Keanu</p>	<p>Jin, Ken, Kylie, Kasha, Kosey, Kermit, Katie, Kelvin DOB: 21/12/23 Breed: LxGR Mum: Iris Dad: Robbie</p>
<p>Benny, Bamsey, Birdie, Boris, Berry, Bali, Baffin, Bindi, Bertie DOB: 12/10/23 Breed: L Mum: Quilla Dad: Anton</p>	<p>Mary, Mackenzie, Marty, Marlo, Margo, Matteo, Mika DOB: 3/2/24 Breed: LxGR Mum: Summer Dad: Jonah</p>
<p>Connor, Cello, Cedric, Cosmo, Clive, Clay, Chamois, Calvin, Caspar DOB: 25/10/23 Breed: L Mum: Keira Dad: Bingo</p>	<p>Otter, Oats, Oona, Ohara, Obi, Orbit, Olinda, Onyx, Opal DOB: 9/2/24 Breed: LxGR Mum: Pickles Dad: Jedi</p>
<p>Frank, Fleur, Forrest DOB: 3/11/23 Breed: LxGR Mum: Orla Dad: Deuce</p>	<p>Jodie, Jeffrey DOB: 12/12/23 Breed: L Mum: Quaver Dad: Vesper</p>
<p>Daryl, Dottie, Dixie, Della, Dora, Durban, Dewey, Duncan, Dana DOB: 27/10/23 Breed: L Mum: Yentl Dad: Quincy</p>	<p>Nova, Nessie, Nadia, Norma, Nero DOB: 9/2/24 Breed: GR Mum: Hattie Dad: Casper</p>

Thank you for transforming Thayana's life!

Thayana had always been very independent, so losing her vision was an incredible challenge, especially while studying at Curtin University in Perth.

By 2012, Thayana had already experienced significant vision loss due to retina detachments. When she began university in 2015, her lack of independence frustrated her. She says, 'I couldn't walk around campus like other students. I had to rely on the help of friends and classmates or Curtin Security Officers, even just to get coffee or food. I was missing out on the full university experience.'

Then one morning, she woke to find her vision had disappeared completely. Emergency surgery helped her regain 10% of her vision. This was the moment Thayana realised she had to accept her new life but needed to make changes. 'I didn't want to live the way I had been before, being dependent on everyone.'

After deciding to embrace her life with low vision, Thayana immediately began looking



into being matched with a Seeing Eye Dog – and met her beautiful best friend, Shaylah, a match only possible because of your kindness. 'I was super excited to receive a dog, and that excitement came shining through during our training!'

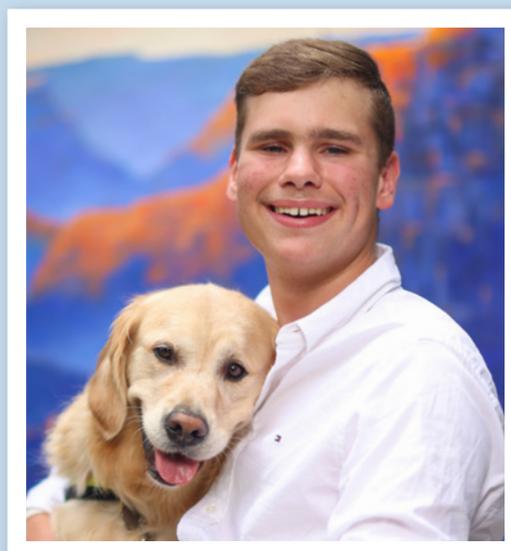
Our mobility instructor Matt Wood is full of praise. 'Thayana is open to change as well as challenges. She has bonded quickly with Shaylah and they work together extremely well.'

Thayana says, 'I love not having to depend on others, even just to walk around the block. Now if I want to get up and go out, I can do so with Shaylah! I know not every day will be the same, there will be ups and downs, but I am so excited and grateful for my freedom and confidence!'

What an amazing gift you have given Thayana – the gift of freedom. Thank you for all you do to help care for and train Seeing Eye Dogs.

'Thank you so much for your contributions to keep the Seeing Eye Dogs programs running. Without you, people like me wouldn't be able to maintain their independence and live their best lives.'

- Ollie with Seeing Eye Dog Sadie



Legacy of Independence: Rhiannon's kind gift to Seeing Eye Dogs

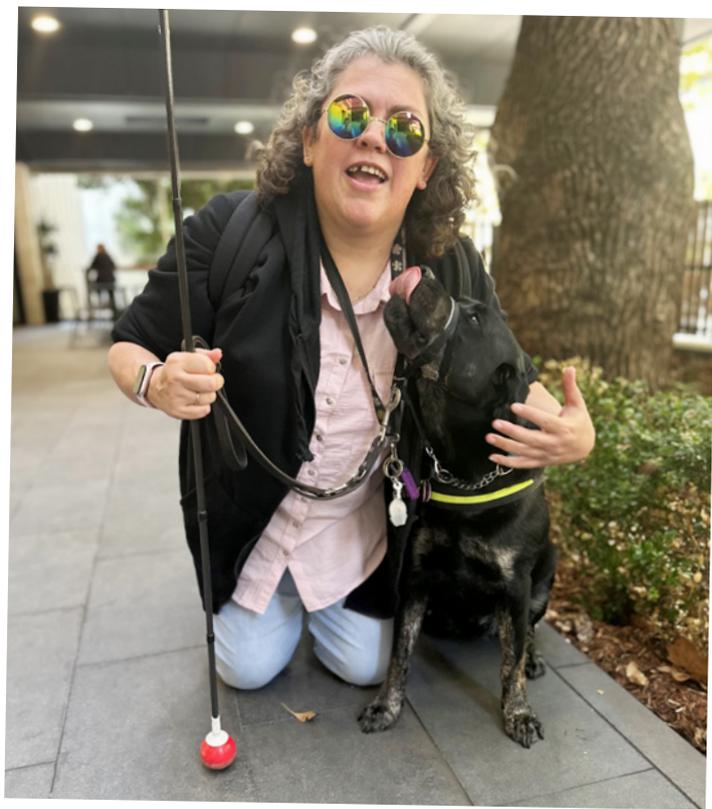
Say hello to Rhiannon, our friendly Donor Care coordinator, who for over six years, has been thanking supporters, just like you, for contributing to essential services provided by Seeing Eye Dogs.

Rhiannon knows all about vision loss firsthand. 'I was just 29 years old when I lost my sight to rubiopic glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy while working in remote Western Australia. It was devastating'.

She vividly remembers the turning point in her life, being matched with her first Seeing Eye Dog, Kingy. She shares, 'I've mastered using my cane, but there's a difference with a Seeing Eye Dog by my side. Kingy wasn't just my eyes or my companion; he was my lifeline to the community. With him, I could confidently



Seeing Eye Dog Yaffa and retired Seeing Eye Dog Kingy



use public transport, attend university, enjoy theatre shows, and visit shopping centres – experiencing a level of freedom typically reserved for sighted people.'

Today, Rhiannon is living her best life with her two beloved dogs, Seeing Eye Dog Yaffa and retired Seeing Eye Dog Kingy. **'My dogs are my everything. They've given me the gift of independence and freedom, for which I am eternally grateful.'**

Rhiannon recently decided to pay it forward. 'After the loss of my mother and grandmother, I considered my own legacy,' Rhiannon explains. **'By including Seeing Eye Dogs in my Will, I ensure that pups, like my Yaffa and Kingy, are nurtured and prepared, bringing freedom and independence to future generations, just like they did for me.'**

We're hugely grateful to generous supporters like Rhiannon. If you'd like to know more about how you too could include a gift to Seeing Eye Dogs in your Will, we would love to hear from you. Please contact our team by phone on 1800 422 077, or email giw@visionaustralia.org

Your kindness led to a perfect first match!

Matching a Seeing Eye Dog with a handler is a very special and painstaking process, and your generous support plays a very important part!

For people like Gordon, being matched with his first-ever Seeing Eye Dog was an amazing and life-changing experience after vision loss.

Gordon had experienced increased eyeball pressure due to glaucoma, which caused his gradual loss of sight. Aged 80 and living a laidback but busy lifestyle on the NSW Central Coast, Gordon had lost confidence, and was barely leaving the house.

To make sure Gordon was matched with the ideal Seeing Eye Dog for his needs, he went through a medical examination and interview, then accompanied an instructor to the places where he would spend time on a regular basis.

Every dog is an individual, so it is vital to find the right match of personality and preferences – and Seeing Eye Dog Yuma was the perfect choice for Gordon.



'From the moment we were together, Yuma knew exactly what he was doing and gave me confidence. I couldn't ask for a better companion,' says Gordon.

Now Yuma takes Gordon everywhere – from daily walks to the local lake to lunch dates and appointments. Gordon is beyond pleased to have regained his confidence and independence.

'We take him to the local soccer club or the RSL and he is so well behaved. When we arrive, he goes straight under the table and stays there until we finish the meal.

'People are surprised that, at 80, I've just got my first Seeing Eye Dog, but older people do need Seeing Eye Dogs as well.

'Thank you to everyone who helped make this special dog what he is. He has made a huge difference to my life.'

'Everyone with low vision or blindness is unique. We all have different lives and different needs, and training a dog who can fill those needs takes time, effort, patience and love.

To everyone who donates, I want to say thank you very, very, very much.'

- Marilena with Seeing Eye Dog Hamiton



New matches – and exciting days ahead!

Twenty more people are now striding out with confidence and independence, thanks to your amazing commitment to helping people with vision loss. In the last six months, the following 20 teams have been successfully matched. **We are so grateful for your help.**

SEEING EYE DOG *Winnie* MATCHED WITH *Sophie*

SEEING EYE DOG *Trina* MATCHED WITH *Henry*

SEEING EYE DOG *Yori* MATCHED WITH *Edward*

SEEING EYE DOG *Yola* MATCHED WITH *Mathew*

SEEING EYE DOG *Waldo* MATCHED WITH *Perte*

SEEING EYE DOG *Chester* MATCHED WITH *Jarraah*

SEEING EYE DOG *Pepe* MATCHED WITH *Maria*

SEEING EYE DOG *Tambo* MATCHED WITH *Kathryn*

SEEING EYE DOG *Vixen (Trixie)* MATCHED WITH *Nicole*

SEEING EYE DOG *Zylah* MATCHED WITH *Amanda*

SEEING EYE DOG *Wilkie* MATCHED WITH *Griffith*

SEEING EYE DOG *Connie* MATCHED WITH *Georgia*

SEEING EYE DOG *Ollie* MATCHED WITH *Glen*

SEEING EYE DOG *Valentine* MATCHED WITH *Terri*

SEEING EYE DOG *Shayla* MATCHED WITH *Thayana*

SEEING EYE DOG *Fitz* MATCHED WITH *Renata*

SEEING EYE DOG *Arnie* MATCHED WITH *Mitzi*

SEEING EYE DOG *Imran (Kevy)* MATCHED WITH *Linda*

SEEING EYE DOG *Cecil* MATCHED WITH *Katrina*

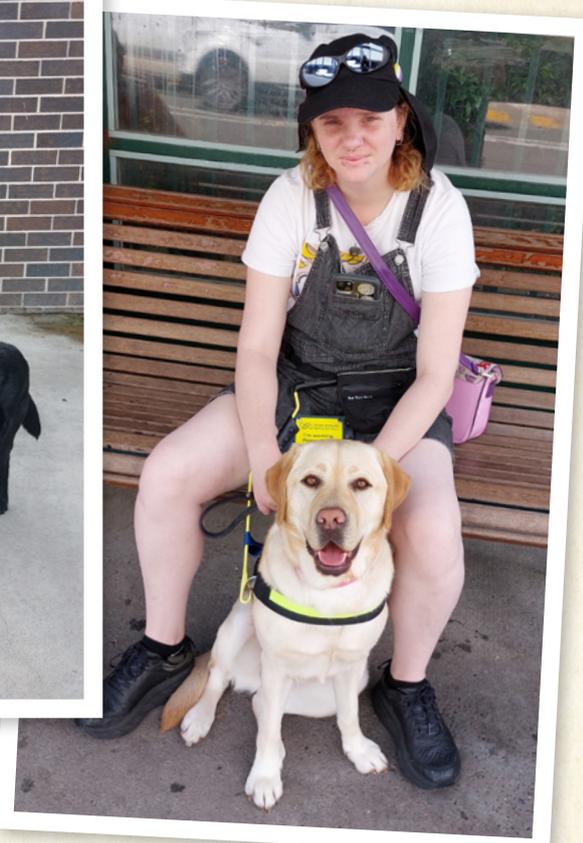
SEEING EYE DOG *Diesel* MATCHED WITH *Lorraine*



Renata and Seeing Eye Dog Fitz



Glen and Seeing Eye Dog Ollie



Amanda and Seeing Eye Dog Zylah

Petbarn and Vision Australia – changing lives together!

Since 2012, the Petbarn Foundation has donated over \$26M to animal welfare groups and rescue organisations through Australia, and along the way, forged an incredible 11-year strong partnership with Vision Australia.

In that time Petbarn Foundation has funded 152 Seeing Eye Dogs, donating over \$7M to Vision Australia. That's 152 lives changed forever through the joy and companionship only a Seeing Eye Dog can bring.



Now you can help take this total even higher, by supporting the 2024 Seeing Eye Dogs Appeal at any Petbarn store during July! To learn more about the Petbarn Foundation visit, petbarn.com.au/foundation



Greencross Vets clinics nationally provide a 15% discounted veterinary care and support for Vision Australia clients, to help ensure their four-legged companions stay healthy, happy and ready to work.



Nutrients over ingredients Why feeding a nutrient-led approach makes sense for your pet.

Royal Canin uses a nutrient-based approach to pet nutrition because this is the most precise way to tailor nutrition to the specific needs of individual cats and dogs.

This is also a pet-first approach to nutrition.

NUTRIENT-BASED NUTRITION: 4 GOALS

01 Energy Provision
Provide the energy the animal needs in the right amount and format through precise levels of:

- Protein
- Carbohydrates
- Fat

02 Body Development and Maintenance
Meet the nutritional requirements for healthy physical development and maintenance through precise levels of:

- Amino acids
- Vitamins
- Minerals
- Fatty acids

03 Targeted Support
Support long-term health by considering common concerns, including, for example, the effects of ageing, urinary issues, digestive problems, and skin conditions through precise levels of:

- Antioxidants
- Fibre
- Prebiotics
- Essential fatty acids

04 Special Care
Very specific nutrients can be limited or added in certain formulations in order to help cats and dogs affected by particular health issues.

At Royal Canin, each of the formulas contains over 50 nutrients which should be included to supply the most precise nutrition for cats and dogs, each of which have individual nutritional requirements. We believe that each pet deserves only the very best nutritional solutions we're able to create.

To learn more about our values visit:
royalcanin.com/au/about-us/our-values



Looking after your best friend

No matter where your beloved dog plays or stays, you want to be sure they are safe and well – and that's why vaccination and targeted treatment is so important.

Dogs are highly susceptible to various diseases and harmful parasites and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) recommends three core vaccinations – the first no earlier than six weeks of age, and the third at 16 weeks or older. To complement vaccinations, Simparica TRIO® is an excellent preventative treatment from eight weeks, specifically chosen to protect our precious Seeing Eye Dog puppies, who love the tasty liver flavour!



The best start in life could start with you!



The careers of Seeing Eye Dogs Yuma and Shayla started in the homes of a volunteer puppy carer – someone just like you. No experience is necessary, just a love of dogs, your time, a little patience and a desire to take a puppy into your heart and home. As a dedicated supporter of Seeing Eye Dogs, we encourage you to find out more!

'You'll be supported every step of the way,' says puppy development trainer Jess McKenzie. 'We will show you how to teach a puppy basic training and get them ready for life as a working Seeing Eye Dog. All food, equipment and vet costs are covered. You'll also meet wonderful like-minded people who also love pups, dogs and giving back to the community!'

Applications for new puppy carers are now open. For dates, times and locations of puppy caring information sessions, and how you can get involved, visit: sed.visionaustralia.org/volunteer/Care-for-a-puppy/apply

'Double Donations' Day – a huge success!

On Wednesday April 24 we celebrated International Guide Dog-Day with our first ever Seeing Eye Dogs Matched Giving Day. This special event championed our Youth Program, which helps young clients build independence and confidence and teaches them about life with a Seeing Eye Dog by their side.

For 24 hours only, all donations were doubled up by our generous matching partners Zoetis, Royal Canin, Pace Farms and Danny and Herby Wallis.

Our Seeing Eye Dogs Mobility Training Centre was transformed into a phone room where volunteers and staff took donations from wonderful supporters, and of course, there were plenty of puppies and dogs on hand to keep everyone motivated.

Thanks to generous people like you, the day was a great success, resulting in \$126,006 to help support young people who are blind or have low vision. What an amazing result!



Thank you for all you do!