



Seeing Eye Dogs  
Vision Australia

# Paws

For a moment

Issue 1 – 2026

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



# Thank you

Welcome to 2026! Every day in my new role, I discover more about the incredible power of your kindness for people who are blind or have low vision – people just like Angela.

After losing her husband, then her vision, Angela’s match with Yuki changed everything. Now she feels positive and independent again, just like Nemoy, whose Seeing Eye Dog Benji gives him choice and connection.

We’re also celebrating our fifth straight year of more than 40 graduates – you helped create 43 wonderful new partnerships last year. What an incredible achievement – congratulations to the graduates.

Thank you for all you do. Your support is life-changing!



David Williamson  
Chief Executive Officer



<p><b>With your support these puppies are heading for big things.</b></p>	<p>Florence, Fiona, Fern, Frodo DOB: 29/5/25 Breed: L Mum: Bronwen Dad: Floyd</p>
<p>Wasabi, Wales, Walter, Waver, Wiggles, Willa, Witty, Wonder, Wallaby, Waja, Wrigley, Weasley DOB: 5/3/25 Breed: L Mum: Cheer Dad: Tiger</p>	<p>Ginny, Gus DOB: 6/6/25 Breed: LxGR Mum: Quaver Dad: Caspar</p>
<p>Yoko, Yumi, Yali, Yindi, Yarrow, Yoda, Yuri DOB: 7/3/25 Breed: L Mum: Makayla Dad: Floyd</p>	<p>Hollan, Helen, Hachi, Hope, Hopper DOB: 18/6/25 Breed: L Mum: Vindi Dad: Floyd</p>
<p>Zebony, Zeena, Zenon, Zolton, Zeus, Zeppelin, Zorro, Zev DOB: 20/4/25 Breed: L Mum: Quill Dad: Keanu</p>	<p>Iren, Imogen, Ingrid, Inari, Ian, Icarus, Indy, Issac, Idahoe DOB: 19/6/25 Breed: L Mum: Molly Dad: Tiger</p>
<p>Alice, Audrey, Andy, Archer, Alonzo, Aero, Alfie, Anakin DOB: 22/4/25 Breed: L Mum: Ella Dad: Zed</p>	<p>Jersey, Julia, Jindy, Jojo, Jake, Jumbo, Jack, Jayjay DOB: 12/7/25 Breed: LxGR Mum: Zara Dad: Klil</p>
<p>Betsy, Bronte, Bindi, Barkley, Bandit, Bruce, Burton DOB: 25/4/25 Breed: L Mum: Omari Dad: Tiger</p>	<p>Lani, Lottie, Lychee, Lira, Linny, Lennard, Lando, Lofty, Lyle DOB: 23/7/25 Breed: LxGR Mum: Hickory Dad: Trevi</p>
<p>Clover, Cherry, Carmen, Cooper, Colin DOB: 6/5/25 Breed: LxGR Mum: Zia Dad: Trevi</p>	<p>Mindy, Meagan, Martha, Mischa, Mia, Maddy, Melva, Mako, Manfred, Mork DOB: 27/7/25 Breed: GR Mum: Treasure Dad: Nitro</p>
<p>Daisy, Daabak, Wooro DOB: 16/5/25 Breed: L Mum: Summer Dad: Monsoon</p>	<p>Nina, Nova, Nahnun, Nelly, Nikita, Natalie, Nussy, Norm, Nemo, Nevins DOB: 28/7/25 Breed: LxGR Mum: Wilma Dad: Ivan</p>
<p>Emmi, Etta, Eric, Emil, Esley, Edward, Eagan DOB: 23/5/25 Breed: L Mum: Unice Dad: Diego</p>	<p>Frances, Frankie, Freckles, Fancy, Freya, Frisco, Flint, Faris DOB: 21/8/25 Breed: L Mum: Lucy Dad: Kahuna</p>

**“Yuki has bought so much positivity to my life!”**

It has only been a few months since their perfect match, but Angela and Seeing Eye Dog Yuki are inseparable, and Angela feels confident and happy again. It’s been a much-needed change in Angela’s life, and you made this possible.

Just six months after her husband’s passing, Angela, a former nurse and lawyer, began to notice difficulty with her vision when travelling in familiar areas, especially when driving at night. She knew she needed to seek help.

She discovered her eye condition, plaquenil retinopathy, was a side effect of Plaquenil, which she’d taken for an autoimmune condition. “I was told I would experience severe vision loss, and it wasn’t reversible,” Angela said.

As her vision decreased, maintaining her daily confidence became increasingly difficult. Angela decided to apply for a Seeing Eye Dog, and is excited and thankful that Seeing Eye Dogs, and kind donors like you, helped her reclaim her independence.

Angela gratefully recalls the initial training and support she received, especially from her Seeing Eye Dogs instructor.

“The instructor reassured me, boosting my confidence to learn cues and interact with



Angela with Seeing Eye Dog Yuki

others wanting to pet Yuki. On our first day out, a business owner initially refused us entry, but the instructor told them Yuki was a Seeing Eye Dog. Thanks to her support, I’ve grown more confident.

“I only have to take Yuki to a new place once and she can take me there again. The other day it was quite wet, and I realised she was taking me on a different route, ensuring I didn’t walk in puddles.

“She’s a love sponge, and a great partner. They really paired us well,” Angela said.

**Thank you for helping to give Angela confidence and independence. Your continued support means positive change for many Australians who are blind or have low vision.**

*“With Lassie, I feel free to explore, take on challenges, and go after what I love.”*

*- Summer*



Summer with Seeing Eye Dog Lassie

# "You really can get a lot from giving..."

Recognised for his dedicated service to the blind and low vision community after his tenure with the Vision Australia board, Don is both a philanthropist and committed volunteer of note!

Don, an avid dog lover, was invited onto the historical Seeing Eye Dogs Australia (SEDA) board by an industry colleague. His extensive background in board-level governance and the ICT industry saw him actively participate in the merger between Vision Australia and SEDA, which resulted in our current Seeing Eye Dogs division.

"During this time, I gained a greater awareness and deep regard for the work of Seeing Eye Dogs and the services provided to the blind and low vision community," Don related.

And as our world becomes increasingly digitised, and the use of adaptive technology is increasingly used within the community we serve, Don notes that "these accessible tools can be powerful enablers for their users."



Don's beautiful Border Collie, Rocky.



Don is a dedicated supporter.

"It is wonderful that many of these innovations address a wide range of users – and open up the world for someone with low vision" Don says.

Apart from his financial support for our specialist donor-funded programs, Don actively volunteers as a safety instructor for ocean sailors and is passionate about wildlife, dogs, community and life in general.

Don continues his family's custom of philanthropic support for positive change, saying, "My father loved his involvement in a charitable board. Participating in community support activities provides me with many good feelings – fulfilment, sense of purpose, and interaction with likeminded people."

**Thank you, Don, for all you do. We are so grateful to have you on our team!**

We are deeply grateful for the support of donors like Don. If you would like to support programs that benefit Australians who are blind or have low vision, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact us at [philanthropy@visionaustralia.org](mailto:philanthropy@visionaustralia.org)

# “With Benji, I can make choices and be independent.”

Nemoy’s match with Seeing Eye Dog Benji was everything he hoped for and more – giving him the freedom and independence he urgently needed.

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Nemoy was born with no vision in his left eye, due to a condition called toxoplasmosis. Then at age 18, he lost sight in his right eye, following a retinal detachment.

In 2009, he moved from the United States to Australia and has been connected to Vision Australia ever since. It was a connection that led not only to support and empowerment, but employment. Today Nemoy helps others who are blind or have low vision as Emotional and Social Support Programs Lead at Vision Australia.

The passing of his previous dog guide, Rizzo in 2023 prompted Nemoy’s application for a Seeing Eye Dog. Nemoy had strong support from the Seeing Eye Dogs team throughout the matching process.

“The journey to getting Benji was really hands-on, and the Seeing Eye Dogs team



Nemoy with Seeing Eye Dog Benji

was incredible. They reached out and walked with me through the process, kept me informed every step of the way, supported me with the paperwork and were just as excited as I was,” Nemoy explains.

Benji and Nemoy’s connection was carefully planned – Nemoy’s individual needs and personality matched with Benji’s personality and temperament. Now Benji gives Nemoy independence, connecting him with community. “Benji is the ambassador between me and the public. He never fails to turn an eye and people use him as a conversation starter.

“To me, choice is what leads to independence. Now I can choose to walk, take an Uber or taxi, take a bus, and having Benji with me increases my choices,” Nemoy says.

**You’ve helped Nemoy take on life and embrace choice with Benji by his side. Thank you!**



Alayna with Seeing Eye Dog Joey

*“I don’t know where I’d be without Joey. I’m so thankful for him and to all the donors.”*

*- Alayna*

# Forty-three lives changed forever

Every Seeing Eye Dogs graduation is special, but this past year there was an extra special reason to celebrate with 43 graduating dogs. It's the fifth consecutive year that more than 40 dogs graduated, helping changes lives forever!

Each handler has been carefully matched with a highly trained Seeing Eye Dog to help them navigate the world, thanks to the kindness of people like you.

More than 200 puppies enter the Seeing Eye Dogs program every year. For two years, these puppies, full of potential, undergo in-depth training that will enable them to bring independence, confidence and freedom to someone who is blind or has low vision.

We rely on you to give these puppies the care and training they need, transforming them from tiny, curious balls of fluff to fully trained and confident Seeing Eye Dogs.  
Thank you for your support!

## Our newest graduates!

SEEING EYE DOG *London* MATCHED WITH *Jodie*

SEEING EYE DOG *Quinnie* MATCHED WITH *Katie*

SEEING EYE DOG *Sabbath* MATCHED WITH *Peter*

SEEING EYE DOG *Lana* MATCHED WITH *Judith*

SEEING EYE DOG *Scott* MATCHED WITH *Annette*

SEEING EYE DOG *Aimon* MATCHED WITH *Christine*

SEEING EYE DOG *Lily* MATCHED WITH *Catherine*

SEEING EYE DOG *Yuja* MATCHED WITH *Alastair*

SEEING EYE DOG *Billie* MATCHED WITH *Chrystal*

SEEING EYE DOG *Yuku* MATCHED WITH *Angela*

SEEING EYE DOG *Cha Cha* MATCHED WITH *Shirley*

SEEING EYE DOG *Joyce* MATCHED WITH *Sallyanne*

SEEING EYE DOG *Kyra-Lee* MATCHED WITH *Tracey*

SEEING EYE DOG *Tommy* MATCHED WITH *Sam*

SEEING EYE DOG *Boris* MATCHED WITH *Vicki*

SEEING EYE DOG *Hathi* MATCHED WITH *Lynette*

SEEING EYE DOG *Inca* MATCHED WITH *Colleen*

SEEING EYE DOG *Zappa* MATCHED WITH *Robert*

SEEING EYE DOG *Bertie* MATCHED WITH *Phillip*





## Creating a brighter future with Seeing Eye Dogs

Since 2012, the Petbarn Foundation has championed animal welfare across Australia. One of its most significant partnerships is with the Seeing Eye Dogs program.

Over 12 years, thanks to generous supporters, the Petbarn Foundation Seeing Eye Dogs Appeal has contributed over \$10 million, funding 209 Seeing Eye Dogs who bring greater independence, companionship and support to Australians who are blind or have low vision.

With your support, the Petbarn Foundation can continue to fund this life-changing program, ensuring more Australians who are blind or have low vision have access to the support they need.

To discover more, visit: [petbarn.com.au/services/pet-foundation](http://petbarn.com.au/services/pet-foundation)



## All-in-one protection for your dog

Simparica TRIO is the world's number one selling all-in-one protection for dogs, offering comprehensive coverage against heartworm, ticks, fleas, worms, mites, and mange.

It provides extended protection, lasting up to 35 days for fleas and ticks.

Available in a range of sizes to suit all breeds, Simparica TRIO is trusted by pet owners worldwide, as the ultimate solution for keeping your dog healthy and protected.

Visit [simparica.com.au/simparica-trio](http://simparica.com.au/simparica-trio) to find out more.



HEARTWORM



TICKS



FLEAS



WORMS



MITES



MANGE

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#1 petfood brand recommended for palatability by Australian vets\*

Proudly feeding Seeing Eye Dogs since 2006



\*Ipsos Telephone survey, 400 vets, December 2024 - January 2025 across Australia on behalf of Royal Canin, full details at [royalcanin.com/au](http://royalcanin.com/au).

# Will you help our puppies transform lives?

Have you ever thought about becoming a Puppy Sponsor? It's the paw-fect way to make a life-changing difference, helping Seeing Eye Dogs puppies grow into confident, highly skilled companions for people who are blind or have low vision.

From the moment you meet your puppy pack, you'll be the most im-paw-tant person in their lives during their incredible two-year journey of training.



Seeing Eye Dog Tommy, then and now!

Tommy, once a proud spokesperson for his pack, recently graduated and was matched with his new handler. This gentle boy was adored throughout his training for his sweet nature and determination. Thanks to the support of his sponsors, Tommy is now confidently guiding his handler and changing their life every single day.

We would love to welcome you to our wonderful community of Puppy Sponsors. Meet our newest litter of future Seeing Eye Dogs and find out how you can be part of their journey! Scan the QR code here.



## Rusty's Gift to Support Seeing Eye Dogs' future



Rusty at an Iris Circle event with Theresa and Seeing Eye Dog Jango.

Raised on a farm in the Adelaide Hills with his two sisters and brother, Rusty learned the importance of family and looking out for one another. "Those early life lessons shaped who I am today," he reflects.

Dogs were central to farm life, both hardworking partners and beloved pets. That bond stayed with Rusty, who has supported Seeing Eye Dogs for many years and recently chose to include a gift in his Will.

Rusty believes this is a powerful way to make a lasting difference. "These dogs are trained with care and kindness to help their handlers feel confident and independent," he says. "By including a gift in your Will, you're helping future generations of puppies become trusted Seeing Eye Dogs."

**We are hugely grateful to supporters like Rusty. Please consult the enclosed brochure if you would like more information about including a gift in your Will.**

**Thank you for helping change the lives of people who are blind or have low vision!**