



Seeing Eye Dogs
Vision Australia

Paws

For a moment

Issue 2 – 2026

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



Thank you

Confidence means something different to each of us. But there's one thing we all have in common – confidence makes us feel on top of the world.

That's how Nicole feels with Seeing Eye Dog Trixie. She's making an even bigger difference as a chaplain and doing things she didn't think possible. Nicole is now running marathons and has no intention of slowing down.

Tarina is full of confidence in every location with her perfect match Mika to help her. Seeing Eye Dog Mika helps Tarina navigate city, country and a 60,000-hectare sheep station!

Thank you for bringing the gift of confidence to Australians who are blind or have low vision. Your support is life-changing.



David Williamson
Chief Executive Officer



Welcome to the world puppies!

<p>With your support these puppies are heading for big things.</p>	<p>Ziggy, Zuko, Zorba, Zippo, Zeke, Xavier, Zinny DOB: 18/11/25 Breed: L Mum: Cello Dad: Floyd</p>
<p>Rover, Ruby, Roger, Ryan, Raine, Rhonda, Rupert, Reva, Rita, Russell DOB: 2/9/25 Breed: L Mum: Lucy Dad: Bingo</p>	<p>Yvette, Yeti, Yuna, Yale, Yates, Yakira, Yona, Yann DOB: 15/11/25 Breed: LxGR Mum: Xendi Dad: Louie</p>
<p>Sugar, Satr, Sheriff, Sarge, Sanjay, Seamus DOB: 11/9/25 Breed: L Mum: Ocean Dad: Copi</p>	<p>Andy, AJ, Adele, Annie, Astrid DOB: 15/1/26 Breed: L Mum: Maiko Dad: Scully</p>
<p>Ulani, Unique, Uni, Uriah, Uxley, Umber, Uriel DOB: 24/10/25 Breed: L Mum: Bali Dad: Charlie</p>	<p>Bowser, Bentleigh, Brooks, Boyd, Butters, Beebee, Babette DOB: 19/1/26 Breed: L Mum: Posy Dad: Caspar</p>
<p>Vikki, Valerie, Velvet, Viva, Vita, Vonda, Vonny, Vernon DOB: 27/10/25 Breed: LxGR Mum: Ivory Dad: Omri</p>	<p>Daphne, Jess, Dwayne, Darwin, Disco, Danny, Darcy, Digger DOB: 5/2/26 Breed: LxGR Mum: Margo Dad: Kamahl</p>
<p>Wellie, Wednesday, Waffles, Waldo, Womble, Willem, Wilbi, Wilton DOB: 29/10/25 Breed: LxGR Mum: Gretel Dad: Polo</p>	<p>Elphie, Eliza, Ettie, Elsa, Ember, Ebony DOB: 12/2/26 Breed: L Mum: Iris Dad: Mirring</p>

L = Labrador, GR = Golden Retriever



“Trixie has had a profound impact on my life – I feel more confident.”

Nicole was diagnosed with a rare genetic condition called rod monochromatism at four months and struggles with short and long-sighted vision and nystagmus. Fortunately, Nicole had the support she needed right away, made possible by your compassion and care.

She learned to get about independently using a cane, built a busy and successful life and enjoyed running to keep fit. But a serious car accident as a teenager left Nicole with a shattered pelvis and broken coccyx. She was told she should never run again.

While a skilled cane user, Nicole’s vision conditions had a major impact on her confidence, particularly at night. “I wanted to go out at night, but I always felt quite vulnerable using a cane. The mental load left me exhausted,” she said.

Now working as a chaplain on a hospital campus, offering emotional and spiritual support, Nicole had not considered running again until she discovered Achilles Sydney, a fitness group supporting individuals with disabilities to exercise confidently.

The group inspired her to try running – but also led to a life-changing decision.



Nicole with Seeing Eye Dog Trixie

Watching others working confidently with Seeing Eye Dogs, Nicole decided to apply herself. She now enjoys new freedom and independence matched with wonderful Seeing Eye Dog Trixie, trained thanks to people like you.

“With Trixie, I have a real sense of safety and protection. She takes such a load off my mind. The cane finds all the obstacles, but a Seeing Eye Dog just avoids them. It’s smooth, safe travel. I’m also now competing in marathons!”

At Nicole’s workplace, Trixie’s high emotional intelligence makes her the perfect companion for those grappling with loss. “She can read a room so well. Trixie deals with death frequently and always works out who needs her the most.”

Trixie has opened up Nicole’s world, and your kindness made this possible. Thank you for all you do to support the independence and happiness of people like Nicole!



Sally with Seeing Eye Dog Joyce

“Thanks to Joyce, I’m able to look to the future and know that there is one.”

- Sally

Julie's proudly supporting the journey to independence

Growing up with dogs in regional Victoria shaped Julie's caring nature early on. "Dogs have always been an important part of my life," she says warmly. "They taught me compassion and inspired my love of volunteering."

When Julie visited our Kensington facility in Melbourne a few years ago, she wanted to better understand the work we do. What she witnessed left a lasting impression. "The care and training the dogs receive, and the staff behind it all, are amazing," she says. "You walk away thinking, wow, this is something really special."

That visit led Julie to include a gift in her Will to Seeing Eye Dogs and become a monthly donor. As a Gifts in Wills supporter, she was invited to Queensland's Iris Circle Bequest lunch. "What I learned at the lunch really highlighted how much these dogs change lives," she reflects. "I'm proud to be part of a community that supports people on their journey to independence."



Julie with Willow and Dug at home in Queensland

This is why making a difference matters to Julie. "If you love dogs, consider including Seeing Eye Dogs in your Will," she suggests. "It supports the care and training of these beautiful animals while giving people with low vision and blindness the independence they deserve."



Zed and Zsa Zsa

To learn more about including a gift in your Will, scan the QR code or contact our Gifts in Wills team on 1800 422 077 or email giw@visionaustralia.org



Tarina and Mika have an effortless partnership, thanks to you

Legally blind for more than 30 years due to Stargardt's disease, Tarina's sudden decline in vision in 2025 was the catalyst for a perfect match with Seeing Eye Dog Mika. Her support has transformed Tarina's life.

Tarina lives in Yorketown, regional South Australia, where she works as a physiotherapist. She also travels regularly to Adelaide and Moolooloo Station, a 60,000-hectare sheep station in the Flinders Ranges owned and operated by Tarina and her husband. Seeing Eye Dog Mika has quickly proven she can help Tarina be active and independent in every location.

In the city, Mika helps Tarina at work by staying calm and settled in the clinic. "Nine out of 10 of my patients don't even know she's there under the desk unless she yawns," Tarina said.

Out and about, Mika loves working in built-up, busy areas, helping Tarina navigate traffic, kerbs and crowds. And on the station, Mika's incredible skills help Tarina stay on trails and find buildings. "It can be quite difficult to navigate, especially when everything is brown because of the drought, but not with Mika."



Tarina with Seeing Eye Dog Mika

Tarina says it's the everyday support that matters. She was always an active and independent person but had become reluctant to go to new places when her vision deteriorated. Travel was also getting quite dangerous. "I was covered in bruises from bumping into things and catching myself on doorknobs."

But now Tarina is so confident with Mika, she walks very fast. "The cane slowed me down, but with Mika I walk very upright and quite quickly, which I love. I've actually had to do some work with Brooke, our instructor, to slow down, so my husband can keep up with us!"

From remote South Australia to Adelaide's CBD, the training you helped Seeing Eye Dog Mika complete has given Tarina incredible independence and confidence. Thank you for helping to make this perfect match possible.



Seeing Eye Dog Frankie

"Frankie here! Earlier this year, I told you all about my training at Seeing Eye Dogs HQ. Now I'm excited to tell you that I've found my paw-fect match! Thank you for helping pups like me become Seeing Eye Dogs." – Frankie

Congratulations to our new graduates

Your generous support means the world, and we are so grateful you are helping to change lives.

Our newest graduates!

SEEING EYE DOG *Ira* MATCHED WITH *Isabella*

SEEING EYE DOG *Ludwig* MATCHED WITH *Krystel*

SEEING EYE DOG *Doris* MATCHED WITH *Roland*

SEEING EYE DOG *Jin* MATCHED WITH *Esther*

SEEING EYE DOG *Rio* MATCHED WITH *Neil*

SEEING EYE DOG *Elwood* MATCHED WITH *Aileen*

SEEING EYE DOG *Kylie* MATCHED WITH *Anna*

SEEING EYE DOG *Dixie* MATCHED WITH *Leah*

SEEING EYE DOG *Mika* MATCHED WITH *Tarina*

SEEING EYE DOG *Mackenzie* MATCHED WITH *Elisabeth*

SEEING EYE DOG *Marlo* MATCHED WITH *Rolf*

SEEING EYE DOG *Kermit* MATCHED WITH *Wyona*

SEEING EYE DOG *Truffles* MATCHED WITH *Fay*

SEEING EYE DOG *Remus* MATCHED WITH *Frances*

SEEING EYE DOG *Gabby* MATCHED WITH *Noelene*

SEEING EYE DOG *Cosmo* MATCHED WITH *Michael*

SEEING EYE DOG *Teddy* MATCHED WITH *Lily*

SEEING EYE DOG *Bilby* MATCHED WITH *Robin*

SEEING EYE DOG *Quokka* MATCHED WITH *Hayley*

SEEING EYE DOG *Rishi* MATCHED WITH *Courtney*

A special experience at Seeing Eye Dogs HQ

Several puppy sponsors stepped behind the scenes of puppy training in March, and it was an amazing experience they will never forget.

Each of these wonderful donors had the chance to see puppies in the Puppy Development Centre and tour our Mobility Training Centre, seeing first-hand the power of their support. One sponsor got to experience what it's like to be blindfolded and led by a Seeing Eye Dog.

"Our highlight was watching the trainer work with the young labrador. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to learn how the organisation works and see aspiring Seeing Eye Dogs in action," said puppy sponsor, Carolyn.



Thanks to everyone who attended the tour, for their time and ongoing support – you can see highlights from the day here!



If you'd like to sponsor a puppy, please visit sed.org.au/Puppysponsorship



13th Annual Seeing Eye Dogs Appeal

Last year's Petbarn Foundation Seeing Eye Dogs Appeal raised a record \$1.5 million and in 2026, we're aiming even higher!

This July marks the 13th annual Petbarn Foundation Seeing Eye Dogs Appeal, and after more than a decade of partnership, Petbarn Foundation has helped train 209 Seeing Eye Dogs for people living with vision loss.

Through the Petbarn app or website, handlers can order food and supplies with two-hour delivery, helping clients maintain independence in their own way.

And through Greencross Vets, handlers receive a discount on veterinary care, supporting the lifelong health of these remarkable working dogs.



Heartworm: A Hidden Risk for Every Dog

Australia's love of dogs is legendary, but heartworm remains an under-estimated threat, with confirmed cases reported in every state. In 2025 alone, over 480 cases were recorded, and the true number may be higher.

Transmitted by mosquitoes, heartworm can be silent for months before causing serious, potentially fatal damage. Prevention is far easier, safer, and more affordable than treatment.

Simparica TRIO offers a triple attack on heartworm: preventing new infections, killing juvenile heartworm, and killing the mosquitoes that spread it.

Simparica TRIO is proud to help protect Seeing Eye Dogs all year round.

Visit simparica.com.au/simparica-trio to find out more.



Celebrating 20 Years of Partnership

For two decades, Royal Canin has proudly partnered with Vision Australia Seeing Eye Dogs, supporting the training and care of life-changing Seeing Eye Dogs.

Together, we've helped Australians living with vision loss gain greater independence, confidence, and companionship. From providing tailored nutrition for every stage of a Seeing Eye Dog's journey to supporting vital advocacy for the rights of Seeing Eye Dogs, our commitment has never wavered.

As we mark this 20-year anniversary, Royal Canin remains dedicated to supporting Seeing Eye Dogs, ensuring every dog receives the best start in life, and every handler has a loyal companion by their side.



Nicola's new role supporting our national training program



Nicola

We're delighted to introduce Nicola Cotton as National Manager, Seeing Eye Dogs. After 12 years with the program, this role reflects her deep commitment to dogs, clients, and the future of our work.

A veterinarian by training, Nicola brings two decades of experience across clinical practice, breeding and animal welfare. She has already played a key role in building collaborative relationships with guide and assistance dog organisations worldwide.

Nicola will oversee the entire Seeing Eye Dogs program, from breeding and health through to training, placement, and long-term outcomes for clients who are blind or have low vision. She will also help shape welfare standards across the sector as chair of the International Guide Dog Federation Standards Committee and lead our Animal Welfare Strategy.

"I'm honoured to step into this role and build on what your generosity makes possible every day. Thank you." - Nicola

Pups in Parliament for an Australian first launch



David Williamson, Chris Edwards and Lester Chraim in Canberra

Our recent visit with pups-in-training to Parliament House in Canberra was a wonderful chance to showcase the life-changing independence you help provide for those living with vision loss – and to mark an important milestone for dog guide accreditation: the new NDIS Dog Guide Provider List.

Chris Edwards, Chief Mission Officer – Corporate Affairs and Advocacy, said the list benefits both NDIS participants and dog guide schools.

"A national high standard of dog guide training means people who are blind or have low vision can navigate their communities safely and independently with dog guides trained to a gold standard," he said.

The Hon Jenny McAllister, Minister for the NDIS, said the list gives participants clearer information, stronger safeguards and greater certainty when choosing a provider.

Thank you for supporting our vital work in training life-changing Seeing Eye Dogs for all Australians.