

Guide Dogs.



**Your gift
creates clear
and lasting
change.**

**Leave a gift in your
Will and change lives.**



**Leave a gift in
your Will and
change lives.**



A message from

Isabel Patchett

There are many reasons people decide to support Guide Dogs Victoria. For the late Bill Patchett and his wife Isabel it was all about giving back. A Guide Dog Handler for almost 60 years, and Guide Dogs Victoria supporter for over 40 years, Bill was so grateful for the support he and Isabel had received from Guide Dogs Victoria that he wanted to find a tangible and meaningful way to say thank you. Isabel and Bill decided to get together with a group of likeminded people and talk about how they could support our work.

From that chat came the Otus Fellowship; a group for the wonderful people who have left a gift for Guide Dogs Victoria in their Will. Keep reading to find out more about the Otus Fellowship and how becoming a member can make a profound impact on people living with low vision or blindness.



“ Our lives would not have been the same without Bill’s Guide Dogs. They gave him mobility and independence, and for me, peace of mind and the joy of being mum. ”

Isabel Patchett,
Bequestor and Otus
Fellowship Member

Otus went on to become one of our most successful stud dogs and the Gifts in Wills Society at Guide Dogs Victoria was named: ‘the Otus Fellowship’ in his honour.

Otus and one of his puppies.



About Otus

Otus was born in 1993, and at an early age was assessed as the top of his litter.

It seemed natural that he would be selected to become a Guide Dogs Victoria stud dog.

Otus went on to become one of our most successful stud dogs and the Gifts in Wills Society at Guide Dogs Victoria was named: ‘the Otus Fellowship’ in his honour.

About

Guide Dogs Victoria

Since 1957, Guide Dogs Victoria has been providing vital support to Victorians who have low vision or blindness.

Since our founding days, our services have grown far beyond just Guide Dogs to include a wide range of community initiatives, and training and education programs.

Today we work to ensure people with low vision or blindness are active and involved members of the community. We do this by teaching practical skills to help children and adults reach their personal potential: regardless of when or how they became affected by low vision or blindness. These skills are developed under our Orientation and Mobility training programs and with the support of Occupational Therapists.

The number of Victorians who need our services is growing every year, and low vision and blindness will significantly increase over the next decade due to conditions of ageing and diabetes.

At Guide Dogs Victoria, it is essential that we plan for the future and ensure our sustainability, so that we can continue to support Victorians for many years to come.

The magic of

Guide Dogs

The partnership between a Guide Dog and their Handler is a bond of trust like no other. In fact, a saying that we use in Guide Dog Training is “Before Guidance Comes Trust”.

A Guide Dog can create profound change for a person with low vision or blindness by offering a perfect blend of independence and companionship. Think about your daily activities like going to the shops, visiting a friend, or dropping your kids to school. Now imagine trying to do these things if you were blind.

A Guide Dog can open a new world of opportunity and independence for a person with low vision or blindness. What’s more, they offer companionship and confidence through the relationship they form with the person they are matched with.

The partnership between a Guide Dog and their Handler is a bond of trust like no other.



Jack and Spencer

Anything is possible
with the right support.
We tailor each program
to the needs of each
individual Client.

How we

Make it happen

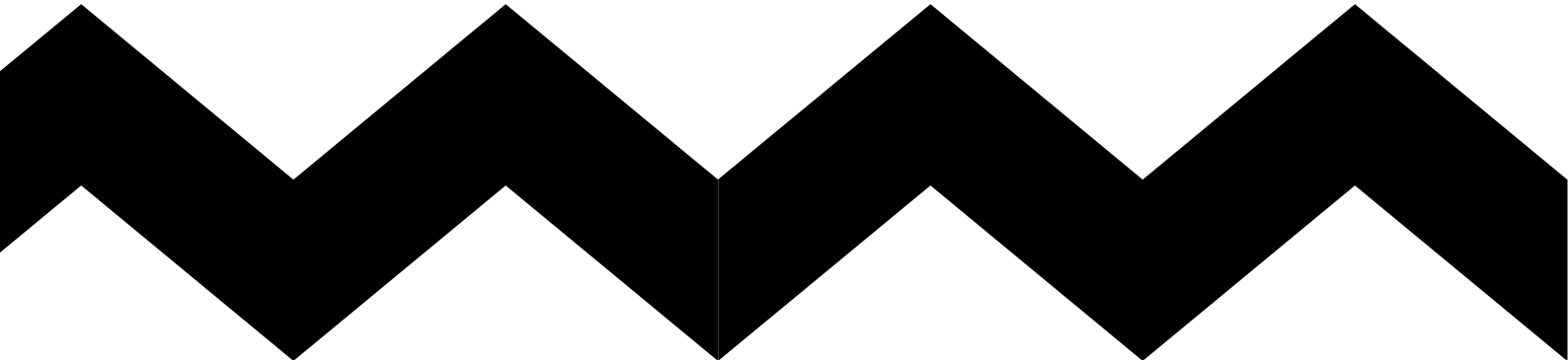
Everyone experiences the world differently. Whether we're conscious of them or not, we all learn skills to help us navigate our daily environments.

Getting on a train, going to work or school, or functioning at home — each one requires a set of practical abilities.

These skills are essential in getting us out and active in the community: safely exploring the world and our own personal potential. These kinds of skills can be learned in Orientation and Mobility Training, or with the support of Occupational Therapists.

Anything is possible with the right support. We tailor each program to the needs of each individual Client, to support the achievement of their personal goals.

At Guide Dogs Victoria, we provide services to Victorians of all ages.



Pam and Willoughby



A focus on

Mobility and independence

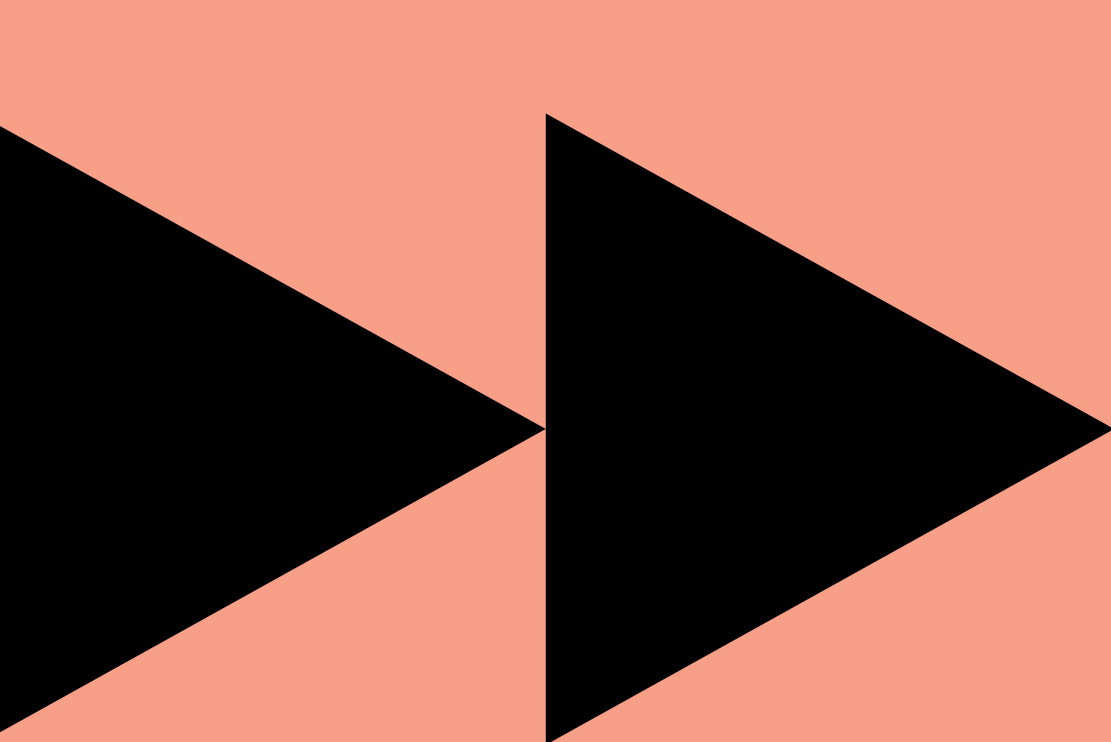
We strive to empower our Clients to achieve their unique goals with whatever mobility aids or training is necessary.

We offer a comprehensive range of Orientation and Mobility services that are available to people of all ages, including children.

‘Orientation’ refers to our understanding of where we are in the environment. ‘Mobility’ relates to our ability to move safely and confidently through the environment. Our Occupational Therapists teach skills to independently perform all kinds of daily tasks, and to support each Client’s journey to achieve their personal goals.



Our wonderful Guide Dogs are the most recognised mobility aid, but they are just one service that we can offer to our Clients.



Most importantly, our Guide Dogs provide so much more than mobility benefits. They can enhance social participation, wellbeing, and encourage their Handler to try new experiences and challenges.



Eamon and Tarjyn

All about

Our dogs

Our Guide Dogs undertake comprehensive, world-class training by our respected Guide Dog Training Team.

This includes comprehensive safety and relationship training, and detailed behavioral analysis from an early age. We think it's important to learn each dog's skills and temperament to gain an intimate understanding of how they might eventually match with our Clients.

Every Guide Dog goes through an intensive training program to learn the skills required to navigate communities – from busy city streets, to the uneven paths and tracks of rural environments. After training, dogs are matched with their Handler through a detailed selection process that caters for each Client's personality, mobility needs, and lifestyle.

The average working relationship of a Guide Dog and a person with low vision is between eight and ten years. As a result, it is absolutely essential that a Handler and a Guide Dog share a powerful bond, built on trust, companionship and a strong connection.

Leaving a gift to Guide Dogs Victoria is a simple process

By leaving a gift in your Will, you can make a profound change to the life of a person who is blind or has low vision.

You may never meet the person whose life your kindness changes, but they will never forget you.

All gifts are greatly valued and significantly help in our future planning.

Having a valid Will is the only way you can ensure that your wishes will be met as a Will needs to be regularly updated and reviewed to reflect your current circumstances.

When creating your Will, firstly provide for your loved ones, and then consider leaving a lasting legacy to Guide Dogs Victoria.

A gift can take many forms:

Residuary

The remainder of your estate after specific gifts have been disbursed.

Percentage

A percentage of either residue or the entire estate.

Pecuniary

A specific gift of cash.

A Specific Asset

Real estate, shares or other particular items of value.

Leave a gift in your Will

Consult your legal advisor to ensure the option you have chosen best reflects your intentions.

Discuss your decision with your family and loved ones. This will ensure they understand and support your reasons for choosing to help Guide Dogs Victoria in such a special way.

Once you have remembered us in your Will, please let a member of our Gifts in Wills Team know.

You don't have to tell us, but we would love the opportunity to thank you and welcome you into the Otus Fellowship.

By becoming a member of the Otus Fellowship, you will be invited to special events that will help you see how your future gift will benefit Victorians who are blind or have low vision.

Kathryn and Sammie



Contact our friendly
Gifts in Wills Team on
1800 804 805

They would love to hear from you and are there to help ensure you have all the information you need. All calls will be treated in confidence.

The Otus Fellowship was established in 2007 to honour and acknowledge the generosity of people who have remembered Guide Dogs Victoria in their Will.

It gives us the opportunity to thank you personally and recognise your generosity and concern in assisting with our work.



Introducing

The Otus Fellowship



It is an honorary and exclusive membership that brings together like-minded supporters of Guide Dogs Victoria.

It does not involve any fees or responsibilities. Otus Fellowship members receive a Certificate of Appreciation, a special membership pin, are invited to exclusive Guide Dog events, and are kept up to date with what is happening at Guide Dogs Victoria.

The Otus Fellowship was named to honour one of our champion stud dogs, Otus, a legend at Guide Dogs Victoria. His first litter produced six Guide Dogs and one Pets as Therapy Dog. Otus officially retired from the program in 2004 at 10 and a half years of age. He was honoured in November 2004 when he received a medallion from the Board of Directors. He is still fondly remembered by a large number of Guide Dogs Victoria supporters.

If you choose to join the Otus Fellowship, you will join a like-minded group of donors who, by planning a future gift in support of our services, will help us to change the lives of Victorians with low vision or blindness.

To join the Otus Fellowship, all you need to do is notify us of your gift to Guide Dogs Victoria.

For a confidential discussion on leaving a gift and joining the Otus Fellowship, please call us and ask to speak to our Gifts in Wills Team.

📞 1800 804 805

✉️ giftsinwills@guidedogsvictoria.com.au

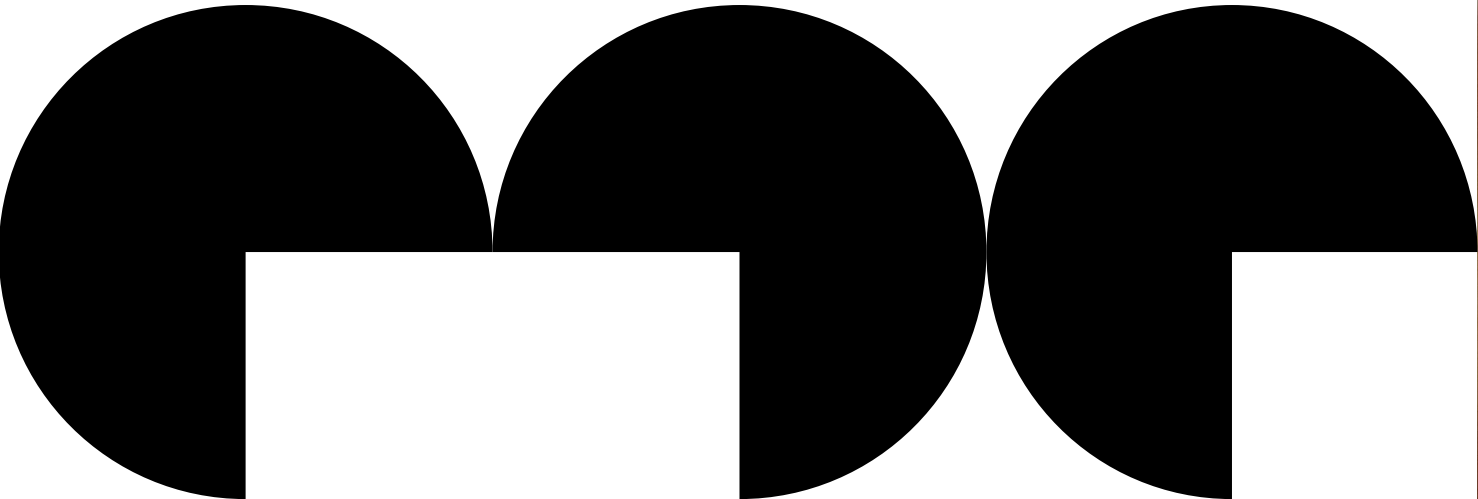
Thank you from Guide Dogs Victoria

At Guide Dogs Victoria we receive less than 25% government funding, so we are heavily reliant on philanthropy to ensure we can continue to deliver our life changing services to the Victorian Community.

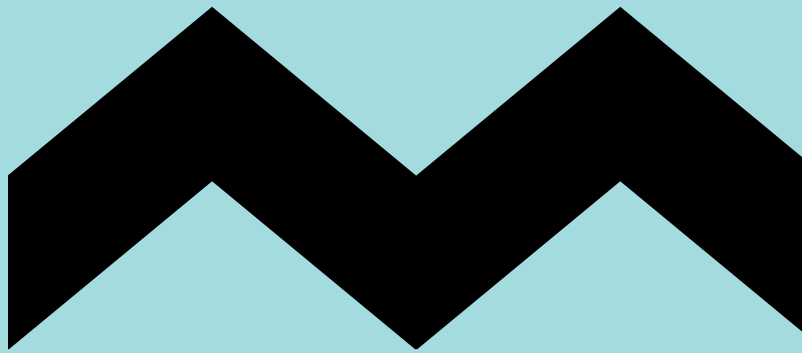
Thank you for taking the time to consider leaving a gift in your Will to Guide Dogs Victoria, and helping us to continue to breed, raise and train our beautiful dogs.

Feel free to contact us for more information.



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Guide Dogs.



We're here whenever you need us.

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