

Guide Dogs.

Insights

Edition 1, Winter 2022



Welcome to the first edition of Insights, Guide Dogs SA/NT's new client newsletter. We look forward to keeping you up to date with what's happening at Guide Dogs SA/NT, and sharing the wonderful stories from within our community.

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Join us for Social Happy Hour.

Open to anyone experiencing vision loss, as well as family and friends, Social Happy Hour events are a chance to catch up for a chat and meet new people, from the comfort of your own home.

Held via Microsoft Teams, the platform is fully accessible and can be used on your phone, computer or tablet. Each session is fun and informative, runs for 45 – 60 minutes and will be facilitated by a Guide Dogs staff member.

We hope you can join us at these upcoming events:

Using digital assistance

Date: Friday 12 August 2022

Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Technology has transformed the way we do many everyday tasks. With the assistance of tech we are able to increase our productivity and stay organised. Join us to share your tech experiences and learn from other peers.

Register: www.bit.ly/RegisterSHH1



Social and recreation – what's in it for me?

Date: Wednesday 7 September 2022

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Staying active can still be fun, accessible and achievable. Join our special guest speaker to explore and discover what activities are available. See how you can achieve your fitness goals and learn what adaptations can be done to suit your needs.

Register: www.bit.ly/RegisterSHH2



What's new on CatchUp

Have you joined CatchUp? It's Guide Dogs' accessible online community for social connection, information, and more.

You'll find social discussions, resources and news, and opportunities to connect with people with low vision and blindness.

[Register an account today](#) to join the community!

Born to Lead

Watch 'Born to Lead' a new eight-part series following the Guide Dog journey from birth through to retirement. Available to watch now on [CatchUp](#) after registering for an account, or on [YouTube](#).



Your Social Group

Visit the SA/NT social group, a place for residents to share events and news, or to just have a chat! [Register for a CatchUp account today to join the chat.](#)



Our Stories.



Bruce Ind has been part of the Guide Dogs SA/NT family since 2003. A Guide Dogs client, Bruce is also former Deputy Chair of the Guide Dogs SA/NT Board, former Chair of the Client Advisory Committee and a passionate advocate for people living with low vision or blindness.

And he is a testament to the saying 'good things come in threes', as Guide Dogs SA/NT Client and Handler Bruce recently welcomed his third Guide Dog, Oakland, following the retirement of second Guide Dog, Wallace.

Bruce lives with Stargardt disease which has resulted in a deterioration in his sight over the years. After retiring, he began walking more frequently, prompting his family to suggest he look into getting his first Guide Dog, Keeley, in October 2005.

“The first time I went out with Keeley I realised that there was a learning curve, I had to show clearly that I trusted her and give her a chance to trust me,” Bruce said.

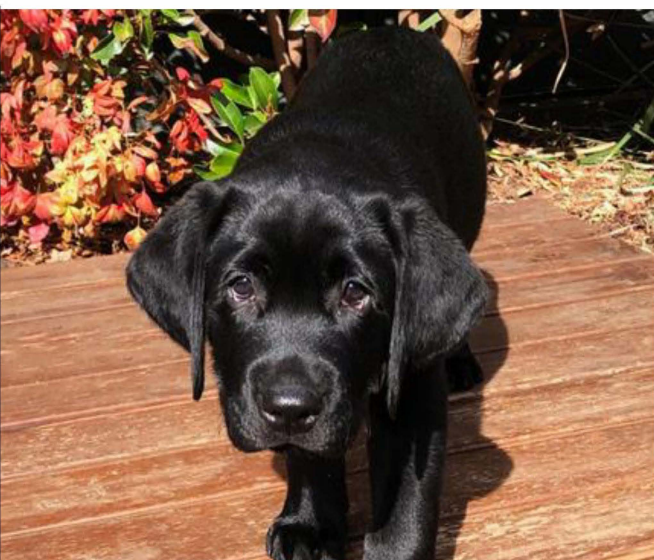
“It was the same with Wallace and now with Oakland. You can’t grab hold of the harness and walk off into the sunset, you need to develop some sort of trust.

“I’m a reasonably confident person but the confidence that I had when I was working with a Guide Dog increased.

“My wife continually says that when we go for a walk – particularly the two of us with me working the Guide Dog – invariably, people walking towards us will look at the dog, then look at me and at my face, then look back at the dog and smile. It’s that immediate.”

Bruce said he and his wife are enjoying getting to know Oakland and watching how the two get along. “Wallace and Oakland are getting on very well,” he said.

“You tend to anthropomorphise and put human emotions and human characteristics onto your dog. When Keeley was coming up to retirement and then as Wallace was coming up to retirement, you are concerned about how they’re going to feel and how they will respond to a new dog coming into the pack.



Oakland as a young pup



Bruce with Guide Dog, Wallace

“Of course, the trainers at Guide Dogs see this many times and they know that as long as they’re fed, looked after and getting attention, then it’s okay.

“Wallace is much more reserved than Oakland. While he is very happy most of the time, he doesn’t wag his tail. Oakland has got a lovely wagging tail which is really excellent.

“However, when you sing ‘Happy Birthday’, Wallace will jump around...so he’s got that. He also doesn’t tend to like being patted much but Oakland does”.

Want to learn more about our services?

Find out more about the ways Guide Dogs SA/NT can support you and your family to embrace your independence. Find out more: <https://sant.guidedogs.com.au/services/>



Walk safely, confidently and independently with a Guide Dog by your side. Visit www.bit.ly/dog_services to learn more about partnering with a Guide Dog.

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