

February 2025

NEWSLETTER

LATEST NEWS FROM AUSTRALIAN LIONS HEARING DOGS




**MEET
QUEENIE!**
P.05



P.07 Read all about our Psychiatric Assistance Dog program.



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CEO UPDATE

and women with PTSD.

The start of 2025 also brought exciting additions to our team—a litter of nine labradoodles! These future Assistance Dogs are currently being raised in our Breeding Centre with the care and dedication of our expert breeding team. And soon, we will be seeing them progress into the Puppy Program.

Meanwhile, our Trainers are hard at work, overseeing 20 dogs-in-training, with plenty of deliveries on the go, and more dogs joining the training program in the coming

months.

As April approaches, we're gearing up for a busy and exciting month. National Hearing Dog Day and Pups in the Park are just around the corner.

So please, enjoy this edition of our newsletter and get yourself up to speed on what's going on at Australian Lions Hearing Dogs, and between editions, you can stay up to date through our social media and website. After all, it's simply not possible without each and every one of you.

2024 marked a new phase in ALHD's growth, and 2025 will showcase the results of our hard work. Our Psychiatric Assistance Dog program is off to a strong start, with an incredible group of trainee dogs currently in training to support returned servicemen

BUNDLES OF JOY

Last Christmas, we were delighted by the pitter-patter of tiny paws as Maple's litter arrived.

With the dedicated care of the Breeding and Veterinarian team, these puppies have grown up quickly and are now ready for their next big step—joining the Puppy Program with their loving foster carers! Each pup is now beginning their journey toward becoming an Assistance Dog, learning foundational commands like 'sit,' 'stay,' and 'drop.'

Following in their steps, we're thrilled to welcome Poppy's babies into the world!

In late January, Poppy, an experienced and attentive mother, brought us her beautiful and final litter. She has been nurturing them with love, ensuring they grow up strong and healthy. Soon, these little ones will begin exploring their surroundings, encountering new sounds, textures, and experiences—all essential steps in preparing them for the real world when they leave the nest!

Poppy will now retire and continue living a long, peaceful life with her Guardian family.



MAPLE'S FIRST LITTER



POPPY'S LITTER

MEET OUR NEWEST RECRUITS!

TACO

Sponsored and named by
the **SA Power Networks
Employee Foundation**

BRUNO

Sponsored and named by
the **Lions Club of
Carnegie**

TACO
& BRUNO

JUNI'S LITTER

PEARL

Sponsored and
named by **The
Pearl Box
Foundation**

DOUGIE

Sponsored and
named by
**Lions Club of
Prosperine Inc**

CINDY

Sponsored and
named by **Faye,
Robert and
Sydney**

LILLA

Sponsored and
named by
**Lions Club of
Yankalilla &
District Inc**

TULLY

Sponsored and
named by **Lions
Club of Tully
Inc**

DEWI

Sponsored and
named by
**Lions Club of
Whitsunday Inc**

TAZ

Sponsored and named by
**Lions Club of Lake
Cathie Bonny Hills Inc**

BURNIE

Sponsored and named by
**Lions Club of
Pittsworth, Clifton,
Warwick and Wilsonton**

MAPLE'S LITTER

BOBBY

Sponsored
and named
by **Lions
Club of
Elernore
Vale Inc**

PAPPY

Sponsored
and named
by **Lions
Club of
Devonport
Mersey Inc**

REX

Sponsored
and named
by **Lions
Club of
Millicent
Inc**

KAYLA

Sponsored
and named
by **Lions
Club of
Marion Inc
(closed)**

CLIVE

Sponsored
and named by
**Lions Club of
Rochdale
Springwood
Inc**

RICKI

Sponsored
and named
by **Ric and
Vicki**

ZENA's Journey in the PUPPY PROGRAM

Little Zena has reached a huge milestone in her journey—she is now preparing to begin her official training to become an Assistance Dog!

Zena's journey began at the Breeding Centre, where she spent her first eight weeks alongside her siblings. At a young age, she was introduced to a variety of sounds, from TVs and traffic to thunder and human interaction, helping her build confidence. Zena was one of the first to explore new places, and was quick to pick up crate training and impulse control, all of which laid a strong foundation for her future training.

When the big Handover Day arrived, Zena went home with her foster carer and met her canine companion, Lara, a Springer Spaniel. While the two of them were initially unsure about one another, they soon found rhythm and became the best of friends!

Puppy Preschool was an exciting time for Zena, where she learned and soon excelled in foundational skills like sit, drop, recall, calm greetings, and loose-lead walking. By the end of the course, she proudly received her little puppy coat and graduation certificate!

As she grew up, Zena ventured out more frequently and tackled new challenges. She visited busy streets, playground obstacles, and even bustling markets, building new experiences and confidence. Walks everyday have helped her refine her loose-lead walking, though the occasional distraction — like ducks — provided a fun test of her self-control!

Now, with months of training, socialisation, and learning, Zena is earmarked to join the Psychiatric Assistance Dog program, where she will learn the task training of a Psychiatric Assistance Dog.

ZENA

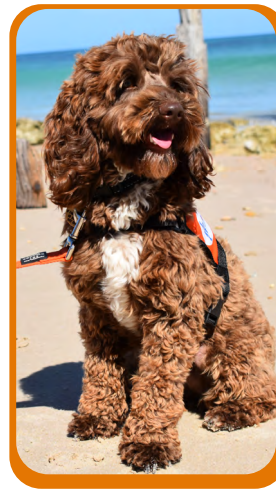
p.g. 4

ACCREDITATIONS

JIMMY

ALHD Breeding Program

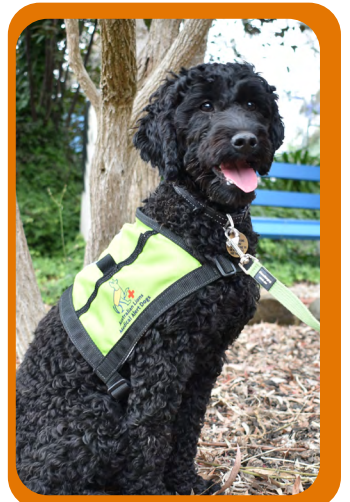
- Sponsored and named by Suzanne
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of West Maitland Centennial Inc
- Fostered by Elizabeth



LEONIE

ALHD Breeding Program

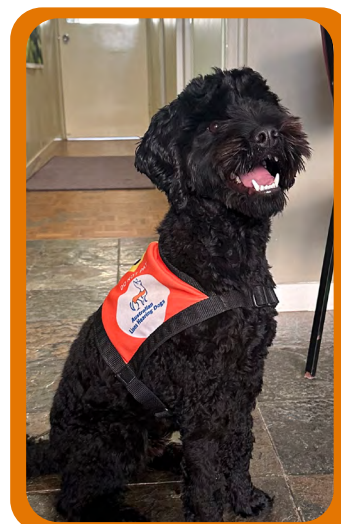
- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Glenside Inc
- Fostered by Trudy and Georgia



EARNEST

ALHD Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Specsavers Audiology
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Edwardstown Inc
- Fostered by Anne





MEET Queenie

A MEDICAL ALERT DOG IN TRAINING

Queenie was born in August 2023 alongside her seven siblings to 2nd time mother, Daisy.

From the get go, Queenie was a favourite amongst the staff in the Breeding Centre. She was very bright; always quick to pick up new commands and never one to be scared of exploring around.

As Queenie matured, so did her personality. Even as a puppy, Queenie was a very sensible little girl. Her foster carer did amazingly with her, exposing her to a variety of new experience from a young age and helping build her training foundation.

'She's like the perfect dog!'

One of the most memorable things about Queenie as a puppy was her extremely long and beautiful eyelashes. Her foster carer said they had never seen anything like this and everyone who met her during their walks were always particularly enamoured!

Queenie was placed in the Medical Alert Dog program due to her love for playing fetch, which has helped her pick up the Hypokit Retrieve almost immediately. Currently, she is learning to push on the 'Emergency Button' when Trainer Carly is laying down on the floor 'unconscious'. She has also learned 'Get Help', where she runs to another person in the house to alert them when their recipient gives them the command to.

She is just as exceptional in her task training, already at the stage where she can alert to the correct low blood glucose level (BGL) scent sample amongst other decoy scents. Soon, she will advance to alerting to low BGL scents on a human body!

'Queenie has a very sweet, quiet and calm nature. She loves to please and is always content to settle by my side or in her crate while I work on my computer,'

said Trainer Carly. **'She is the type of dog you can take anywhere without having a worry. She walks calmly by my side and takes everything in her stride.'**

One of her favourite place to go to during her down time is our local dog park. This is where Queenie gets to enjoy a romp around off lead and play with the other trainee dogs.

Queenie also has a soft spot for our residential sheep at work. Whenever she and Trainer Carly pass by the paddocks on their way to the Veterinary Clinic behind the Training Centre, the sheep would eagerly come up to her—and Queenie would greet them with kisses and gentle licks on their faces!



MEDICAL ALERT DOG PROGRAM

Clover is coming to the end of her journey!

Clover is currently getting ready for her Public Access Test (PAT). She is now venturing into bigger settings such as larger malls like Marion Shopping Centre, a large shopping centre in the Adelaide Suburbs. One of her more memorable moments was her first experience in the elevator. At first, she was unsure about the funny feeling going up and down, however, now, she rides the elevator like a trained professional!



Clover is a joy to work with and she will certainly be missed once she graduates.



Yakka is starting strong this year!

Yakka has been advancing his scent training to the next stage where, instead of trying to find the low blood glucose level (BGL) scent in sample tubes, he's starting to locate the sample tubes scattered around the room now.

His Trainers are doing this by sitting with the scent on a person, and Yakka has to sniff out which 'person' has the low blood glucose sample. Soon, he will be introduced to the high BGL scent, which contains a different chemical and odour.

Eventually, Yakka will progress to a higher challenge, where his Trainer will hide the scent tubes on their body while in public. This will be exciting!

MEET OUR NEWEST MEDICAL ALERT DOG

This February, Pippa took her first big step into formal training!

After an emotional, but proud, farewell with her foster family, Pippa spent her first day at the Training Centre bonding with her trainer and making friends with the other dogs in training.



PSYCHIATRIC ASSISTANCE DOG PROGRAM



Through this program, ALHD will provide Assistance Dogs to Veterans of the Australian Defence Force living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

PTSD is a psychological disorder that can develop after witnessing or experiencing a traumatic event, which may include incidents experienced as part of military service. It can cause a person to withdraw from social activities, develop negative or unwanted feelings or thoughts, re-experience traumatic events, and more.

The Psychiatric Assistance Dog program aims to utilise the skills harnessed in our Assistance Dog team and across the organisation over many years of service provision, providing crucial support to Veterans.

A Psychiatric Assistance Dog (PAD), is trained to perform tasks that can assist in alleviating stressful situations that the Veteran may incur. This can be:

- Waking a recipient up during night terrors.
- Physically blocking them to protect their personal space.
- Interrupting fidgeting behaviours that may indicate anxious feelings, such as leg tapping and scratching.

These highly trained dogs provide not just companionship but essential support, helping Veterans regain independence and improve their quality of life.

NEW MERCHANDISE



NEW

COLLAPSIBLE TRAVEL DOG BOWL

One of our most popular merch items is back. This time in blue!

\$6

Our collapsible dog bowl is 13 x 13 cm and a 350ml capacity. It comes with a clip for easy carrying during your walks with your dog, perfect to keep your pup hydrated or if they want a quick snack!



ALHD JUTE BAG

Our jute bag is back in stock!

\$8

Shop in style and pride with this jute bag. You will be the envy of other shoppers with this spacious and environmentally-friendly bag, all while carrying those heavy oranges and potatoes!

(Bag dimensions: 37x17x33 cm)



PET BAG DISPENSER

For all the dog lovers out there, our pet bag dispensers are selling fast!

\$7

The perfect accessory for your daily walks, this is the perfect travel essential! This cute case comes with our iconic dog pattern, a roll of bags, and a handy carry clip. You will never be without a poo bag again!



FREE PAIR OF SHOELACES

Included with every merchandise purchase from the 1st of March to the 30th April to celebrate National Hearing Dog Day coming up!

SHOP NOW

NATIONAL HEARING DOG DAY

NATIONAL HEARING DOG DAY

APRIL 19th



lionshearingdogs.com.au



This April 19th, we are so excited to be celebrating our 5th annual National Hearing Dog Day this year!

This special day recognises the life-changing impact of our Hearing Assistance Dogs and the incredible partnerships they form. National Hearing Dog Day falls on the anniversary of the delivery of our 1st Hearing Assistance Dog 'Amber' who was delivered on the 19th of April in 1982. Since then, we have delivered over 700 Hearing Assistance Dogs all across Australia, providing our recipients with independence, safety and increasing their confidence.

This year we invite our recipients to take part in a widespread social media campaign – if you would like to be involved, please contact our team at development@lionshearingdogs.com.au or **08 8388 7836** for more information.

PUPS in the PARK

Join us at our community event on April 5th!

Our annual Open Day will look a little bit different this year!

This April, we're bringing the event out of our National Training Centre and into the local community with '**Pups in the Park**'. This will be held on Saturday, the 5th of April, at Mount Barker's Pop-up Park.

The day will be filled with all of the fun things our Open Day has to offer, such as market stalls, raffles, activities for the little ones (and the big kids!), and of course, our Assistance Dogs – all at the amazing new location in the centre of Mount Barker!

So, save the date and keep an eye out on our social media for more information.

FREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY event!

PUPS in the PARK

**5th APRIL
10am - 2PM**

**POP-UP PARK
MORPHETT ST
MOUNT BARKER**

HEARING AWARENESS WEEK



HEARING
AWARENESS
WEEK

1 - 7 MARCH

Hearing Awareness Week is a time to shine a light on hearing loss and deafness in Australia, raising awareness about the challenges faced by those with hearing loss and the importance of early detection and support.

An estimated 3.6 million Australians live with some form of hearing loss. Deafness can have profound effects on communication, employment, education, and mental health, often leading to social isolation and reduced quality of life.

This week is a reminder for everyone to prioritise hearing health through regular check-ups, protective measures against noise-induced hearing loss, and inclusive communication practices. And more importantly, to spread awareness and help create a more inclusive Australia, because everyone deserves to be heard.

You *shouldn't* miss hearing the best bits Should've gone to Specsavers

Book a free 15 minute Hearing Check
with an Audiology Professional today at
[specsavers.com.au/hearing](https://www.specsavers.com.au/hearing)



Specsavers