

August 2025

# NEWSLETTER

LATEST NEWS FROM LIONS ASSISTANCE DOGS



## MEET ARCHIE:

Our first Border Terrier in the Medical Assistance Program!

P.08



P.05 In the spotlight is **Orlando**, our first Lagotto pup!



P.11 Read about **Lap The Map 2025** and **Sheryl's journey!**





## CEO UPDATE

Welcome to the first newsletter from Lions Assistance Dogs. As I write this column, it's been just over five weeks since we officially rebranded to our new name, and we've received great positive feedback from our supporters across Australia. The change to Lions Assistance Dogs represents the amazing growth of the organisation

from our humble beginnings back in 1980, our first Hearing Assistance Dog Amber being placed in 1982, to the development of our two newest Assistance Dog programs and our change from recruits sourced from pounds and shelters, to being purpose-bred onsite at the Training Centre.

This growth has only been possible because of the support of people just like you, who have either donated towards the program, been a recipient of one of our Assistance Dogs, shared our stories with your friends and families or all the above.

Most importantly, the number of people who benefit from

our Assistance Dogs only increases every year, highlighting the impact of our organisation.

I want to extend my thanks to our team involved in the rebrand, who worked extremely hard in the months preceding to ensure that everything went as smoothly as possible. The only issue that we are having is me getting our name right when I answer the phone.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Yours in service,

David Horne



JOJO



HARVEY



THERMA



SALLY

## MADDIE'S LITTER

Four new additions to full time training!

August brought a special milestone as Jojo joined her siblings Sally, Harvey, and Therma in full-time training! Despite some cold and wet days at the National Training Centre, the pups have settled beautifully, bonding with their trainers, making new friends, and even winning over our resident cat, Pants.

Jojo has embraced the training routine with confidence, especially enjoying muddy puddles, and is already standing out in group sessions. Therma is thriving on quiet walks and café visits, staying calm and focused even with lots of distractions going on. Sally's gentle nature has made her a favourite-she has nailed the early stages of sound training and shows signs of becoming a reliable Assistance Dog. Harvey, looking sharp with a fresh trim, has mastered the "touch" alert and is learning to settle in busy environments, supported by focused walking work.

If you wish to sign up to receive monthly updates on these four, please visit <https://lionsassistedogs.com.au/donate/>

# MEET OUR NEWEST RECRUITS!

Zoe has had an exciting month learning about the world around her, meeting other pups and even a trip to the Lions Assistance Dogs' Vet Clinic. Shes shaping up to be a confident and clever girl!

## ZOE

Sponsored and  
named by  
**Zoetis**



## AYLA

Sponsored and named by  
**Peter and Megan**



## MORGAN

Sponsored and named by  
**Ray and Karena**



## FRED

Sponsored and named by  
**Lions Club of Blacktown  
Ponds Inc**



## NUSA

Sponsored and named by  
**Lions Club of Tewantin  
Noosa Inc**



## INCUS

Sponsored and named by  
**Specsavers Audiology**



## ORLANDO

Sponsored and named by  
**Marjorie**



## KIMBA

Sponsored and named by  
**Lions Club of Noble Park-  
Keysborough Inc**



## TILLY

Sponsored and named by  
**Wendy**



## MACCA

Sponsored and named by  
**Lions Club of McLaren  
Districts Inc**



## TOBY

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



# ACCREDITATIONS



## SIMBA

### Cherishem Kennels

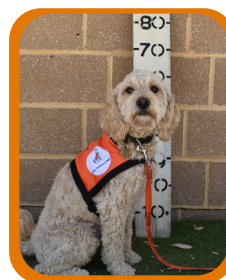
- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Ipswich Inc
- Delivery supported by Friends and Family
- Fostered by Meg



## CODA

### Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Hahndorf & Districts Inc
- Delivery supported by Friends & Family
- Fostered by Dean



## YAKKA

### Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Lucindale Inc
- Delivery supported by Friends and Family
- Fostered by Carol



## SHADOW

### Breeding Program

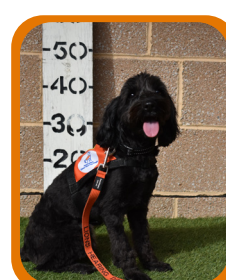
- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Seaford & Districts Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Tamworth Inc
- Fostered by Jenni + Trevor



## BUFFY

### Gumhaven Kennels

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Blacktown Ponds Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Pambula-Merimbula Inc
- Fostered by Frederick



## MOLLY

### Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Naracoorte Inc
- Delivery supported by Friends & Family
- Fostered by Leonie & Paul



## NESSIE

### Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Blue Lake City Lioness
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Angle Vale Inc
- Fostered by Carol + Elaine



## CLOVER

### Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Wendy
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Kinglake Inc
- Fostered by Holly



## MIMI

### Breeding Program

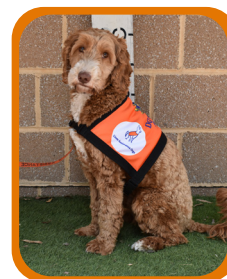
- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Charles Sturt Woodville Hindmarsh Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Maroubra Inc
- Fostered by Christie



## ELSA

### Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Goolwa Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Kangaroo Island Inc
- Fostered by Nicole



## VICTOR

### Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Victor Harbor & Port Elliot Inc
- Delivery supported by Friends & Family
- Fostered by Pam



## CLYDE

### Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Batemans Bay Inc
- Delivery supported by Friends & Family
- Fostered by Margot & Tony



## TIGGY

### Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Australia
- Delivery supported by Friends and Family
- Fostered by Amy



## PHOENIX

### Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Townsville Northern Suburbs
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Logan Village Inc
- Fostered by Pat & Ormand





# WELCOME ORLANDO OUR FIRST LAGOTTO!

We have seen a variety of breeds over the years, whilst recently staying with Labradoodles and Border Terriers, we welcome Orlando into our family, the first Lagotto Romagnolo to be trained as a Lions Assistance Dog.

He has recently joined the Puppy Program with his foster carers in an exciting step into his future. An interesting looking pup, described by Lyn & Simon (his carers) as looking like Agro from The Muppets, they describe him as easy going, intelligent and loves to be close to humans, all qualities that make a fantastic companion. Meanwhile, his impact on Lyn & Simon is described like he is their child, and that it is a satisfying experience having him in their lives. They would recommend anyone becomes a Puppy Carer as it 'makes an unbelievable difference to their lives'. In the short time Orlando has been there he has already made a difference. We all can't wait to see what the future holds for him.



**COCO**

## WHATS HAPPENING AT THE BREEDING CENTRE

It has been a busy few months in the Breeding Centre, we have seen multiple of our Guardian Dogs come through and deliver more future Assistance Dog pups.

We have **Coco** pictured on the left. This was Coco's first litter and she gave birth to two beautiful Labradoodles named Nusa and Morgan.

Secondly, we have **Bonnie**, who also delivered two new pups to the Training Centre. This is not the first time Bonnie had puppies in our Program, before she delivered a litter of an astonishing 11 pups. This time she is mum to Kimba and Tilly.

Lastly, we have **Aria** who is due very soon. This will be the first time Aria has delivered pups before and is expected to be mum to two beautiful Border Terrier pups.



# AN UPDATE ON OUR PSYCHIATRIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

With **EDDIE'S** Public Access Test on the horizon, his training has started to ramp up, but this has not deterred him, he has taken the challenge head on and stayed committed! His task work has seen vast improvement of the past three months with his responses being extremely quick and staying constantly alert whilst training.

His emergency button push has improved drastically as trainer Nick makes it harder for him and no matter what is thrown his way he manages to always impress. Eddie is turning into a skilled Assistance Dog.

**BABS** who is apart of our Bed and Breakfast Program, being looked after local volunteer Lynda, is one of the sweetest pups we have had come through the Training Centre. Anybody who has the pleasure of interacting with her immediately falls in love with her gentle and compassionate nature.

She is also at the stage of refining her skills in preparation for her Public Access Test coming up soon. She stands out because of her ability to consistently push herself to learn and be better.

Lastly we have **VINO**, who unlike his siblings here, has recently passed his Public Access Test! An achievement any Assistance Dog goes through but is always worth celebrating. Now Vino works towards his task assessment where he is a few steps ahead of his siblings.

By completing his Public Access Test he is one step closer to being homed with his future recipient, and with the way he is going, he is shaping up to be one of the most consistent and capable Psychiatric Assistance Dogs we have had!



**EDDIE**



**BABS**



**VINO**



# MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INTRODUCING ARCHIE

**MAY**

A milestone for our Medical Assistance Program here at Lions Assistance Dogs, we introduce Archie who will be our first Border Terrier trained in this program.

Archie started full time training in May under the care of Trainer, Sarah. He came into our program as a dual Assistance Dog, being trained Medical Assistance as a priority based on desires from a future potential recipient, but also being trained in Hearing Assistance skills.

Whilst both May and June have been about getting himself oriented, June was a big introductory month for Archie. He really started to settle into life at the National Training Centre in Verdun. At the start, he was a little shy and could get overwhelmed by the bigger dogs in the yards but now everybody is his friend.

Archie started learning the basics and got a grip of tasks such as 'Hypokit Retrieval' for the Medical Assistance Program quite quickly and started learning the proper etiquette on outings. He was also introduced to scent training, a crucial task for any Diabetic Alert Dog.

Whilst it is always quite daunting and confusing for a pup to enter into the world of becoming an Assistance Dog, Archie is proceeding at a very steady pace and is making lots of progress.

**JUNE**



As of July, Archie is starting to show everyone around the Training Centre his bubbly personality. He still has the early puppy excitement where everything around him is very new and overstimulating, but he never lets it get in the way of training-he just loves to show his appreciation.

His task work has started to include more, such as the emergency button push (where if his recipient fell unresponsive he would press this to send out an alert message to an emergency contact). With this and the hypokit retrieval, whilst also steadily wrapping his head around the scent training, Archie is doing a fantastic job whilst also starting to learn sounds as part of his Hearing Assistance training.

With confidence built quite strongly over the course of these past few months, Archie is shaping up to become a superstar!

**JULY**





# HEARING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OFF TO WORK GOES SHERBET

Sherbet was delivered to her recipient in the month of July. Truly a staff favourite, but none loved her more than her trainer James, who has said that Training Sherbet was fantastic! Sherbet was trained as a Hearing Assistance Dog and was one of the most energetic and persistent pups we have had in training for a while.

*'She was such a clever girl and could learn everything I was throwing at her very quickly. Such a vibrant girl and just wants to do any type of work!' - Trainer James.*

It took James a short amount of time to get attached to Sherbet, and after a couple of weeks the feeling was mutual. A fantastic aspect of Sherbet is how much she loved other people, and how caring she is.

Sherbet showed great instincts when it came to training, as per James, *'She understood the sound work almost instantly, she had such an eagerness to learn and please'.*

With these instincts and outstanding behavioural traits, like her drive to locate and alert all the time, We were all so pleased with how she turned out and are not surprised that James has heard only good things from her recipient. She stands out as a perfect example of what we strive to create here at Lions Assistance Dogs!





# WHATS NEW IN THE SHOP!

**ROYAL  
ADELAIDE  
SHOW**  
31 AUG - 8 SEPT

**LIONS  
ASSISTANCE  
DOGS  
SHOWBAGS**

We have an exciting new promo that we will be running in line with the Royal Adelaide Show!

We are offering two different showbags, with many treats, trinkets, toys and fashion items! They include:

Dog showbag - \$30  
Human showbag - \$25

Be sure to check the website around September for this once off promo!

Available now! <https://lionsassistedogs.com.au/shop/>



## NEW MERCHANDISE!

As the start of the new financial year begins, we welcome some new stock into our store!

A range of new socks both with fresh designs and a comfy feel, for adults and juniors and a particularly new favourite amongst our family of pups here at the National Training Centre, that is the new duck toy as seen pictured with Archie below.

Make sure to grab these items while stocks last.

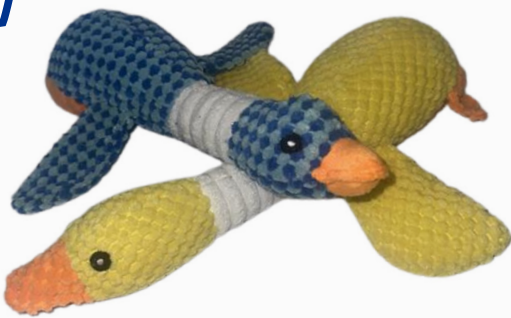
Our EOY financial sale will be extending until the end of September, on selected items.

Be sure to check out the shop on our website:

<https://lionsassistance-dogs.com.au/shop/>



**\$7**



**\$10**





# THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERING

It always expressed by us that we would not be where we are today without the constant support of volunteers and their selfless sacrifice of time and effort towards us. A program we run at Lions Assistance Dogs is our Bed and Breakfast program where dogs in training will get placed in a home environment instead of staying at the training centre to get a feel for what it is like when they are placed with their recipient.

One volunteer, Lynda, who is on her fourth BnB dog (Babs who was mentioned as one of our Psychiatric Assistance Dogs) is someone who we want to point out for her incredible determination to this program.

Lynda became a BnB carer whilst looking for something to do after recently retiring, she had attended an information evening and signed up immediately. Whilst she describes it as always devastating to say goodbye whenever they must let go of a pup who is going to their recipient, she says she gets great pleasure out of it and the whole experience brings love and enjoyment to her home and you can really see first hand how they can change someone's life.

We are currently looking for more amazing volunteers to help with this program and when asking Lynda what to say to people considering it, she encourages them to just do it. 'The sadness at the end is far outweighed by the love, enjoyment and rewarding experience that you get during the time they are with you' she says there's absolutely no negative to it and it contributes to helping these dog help change someone's life. If you or anyone you know is local to the National Training Centre in Verdun, SA and are interested, please contact [info@lionsassistedogs.com.au](mailto:info@lionsassistedogs.com.au)



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**SHERYL**

## REGISTRATIONS FOR 2025 ARE NOW OPEN!

Lap the Map is a month-long, peer-to-peer fundraising event supporting our Diabetic Alert Dog Program. Each dog costs \$40,000 to train and is provided free of charge thanks to community support, Lions Clubs, and events like Lap the Map.

Lions Clubs, individuals, workplaces and schools are all encouraged to get involved, walk, run, cycle or roll your way to making a difference!

This year, there are fun incentives up for grabs, including a free treat pouch for those who register with a furry friend.

One Lion, Sheryl, has already taken on the challenge, walking the Heysen Trail as our first activation of the year! Over 16 days, Sheryl covered 366kms from Tanunda to Cape Jervis and raised over \$1,500 for Diabetic Alert Dogs.

Why not start your own journey today? Sign up now and help us Lap the Map!

[www.lapthemap.com.au](http://www.lapthemap.com.au)

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