

May 2026

NEWSLETTER

LATEST NEWS FROM
LIONS ASSISTANCE DOGS

National Hearing Dog Day

Read about our special day of
celebration and our community event
Pups in the Park on **Page 5.**

Sod Turning Ceremony

Breaking ground on the 21st
of May 2026, this historic
event marked the start of
our National Training Centre
rebuild. **Page 11.**



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A message from our CEO.

As Lions Assistance Dogs moves through an exciting period, I want to take a moment to reflect on several important milestones. Last month, we proudly celebrated National Hearing Dog Day on the 19th of April. A day to raise awareness for our longest running program, our Hearing Assistance Dog Program, while also recognising more than 40 years of Lions Assistance Dogs history and service. We also welcomed supporters, puppy carers, recipients and future Assistance Dogs to our annual Pups in the Park event in Mount Barker. The day was a wonderful celebration of community connection and an opportunity for people to learn more about our organisation.

Another major milestone was our Sod Turning Ceremony which took place on the 21st of May alongside the 2026 Lions Multiple District Convention in Adelaide. This event officially marked the beginning of the redevelopment of our National Training Centre in Verdun. As part of this next chapter, our staff and dogs will begin relocating from the National Training Centre from early June before construction commences. While this brings change, it also marks an exciting step forward for the future of Lions Assistance Dogs and the people we support.

We had a great time connecting with Lions from across Australia during the Lions MD Convention, held locally in Adelaide. Lions Clubs have been at the heart of our organisation since the beginning, and we remain incredibly grateful for the ongoing support, advocacy and generosity of Lions communities nationwide.

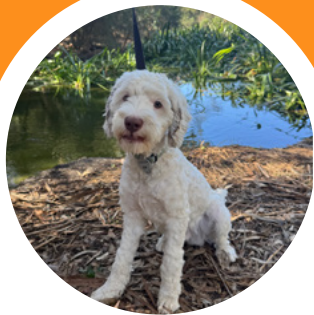
None of this progress would be possible without our dedicated staff, volunteers, puppy carers, donors, Lions Clubs and supporters. Thank you for continuing to walk alongside us as we shape the future of Lions Assistance Dogs together.

Yours in service,
PCC David Horne
Chief Executive Officer



An update on

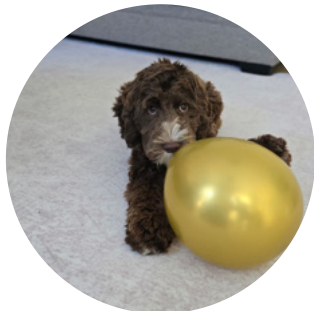
Elsie & Aria's Litters.



Ashwin has had a busy few months filled with outings all over Adelaide, including, puppy catch-ups and important time with his foster family. He's growing into a confident young pup who loves socialising with both people and dogs, and continues building his focus and confidence in new environments.



Alfie has continued progressing beautifully, especially with his lead work and confidence in public. He has been very social and particularly enjoys meeting new people out and about. He has been working hard on his obedience and settling skills at home, like most young pups he can be quite excitable.



Quinn has had plenty of social experiences over the past few months, meeting new people and pups and getting acquainted with the world around him. He continues to show lovely manners around other dogs. He is also building confidence with grooming, vet visits and obedience training as he matures.



Milton has kept everyone entertained with his enthusiasm and confidence. He's enjoyed outings, training sessions and puppy playdates, while also recovering very well from his recent desexing procedure.



Izzy has shown fantastic growth in confidence over the past few months, handling busy outings and new environments with more and more maturity every day. She has also made wonderful progress overcoming her hesitation around drains and unusual surfaces, becoming more confident every day.

To receive more monthly updates, join our membership program at, <https://lionsassistancedogs.com.au/membership/>

MEET OUR NEWEST RECRUITS!



ANA

Sponsored and named by
Faye, Robert, and Sydney



CHILLI

Sponsored and named
by **Lions Club of City
of Adelaide Inc**



RUBI

Sponsored and named by
**Lions Club of Port
Sorell Inc**



BLUEY

IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Bluey has been settling into life with his foster family well, pictured here enjoying the cold months with some comfortable fashion.

Accreditations



Marlin

Psychiatric Assistance Dog Breeding Program

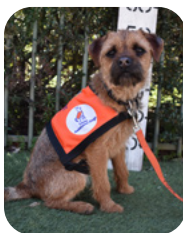
- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Cairns Marlin Coast Inc
- Delivery supported by Friends & Family
- Fostered by Amanda



Sally

Hearing Assistance Dog Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Onkaparinga Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Coogee Inc
- Fostered by Narelle & Allan



Archie

Medical Assistance Dog Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of West Beach Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Paralowie Inc
- Fostered by Sharon



Therma

Hearing Assistance Dog Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Berri Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Hornsby Inc
- Fostered by Sandra



Shilo

Hearing Assistance Dog Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Darwin Nightcliff Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Edwardstown Inc
- Fostered by Leonie & Paul



Harvey

Hearing Assistance Dog Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Cleveland Bay Townsville Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Yeppoon Inc
- Fostered by Jenni & Trevor, and Craig



Eddie

Psychiatric Assistance Dog Breeding Program

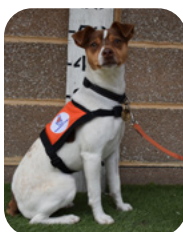
- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Kalgoorlie Inc
- Delivery supported by Friends & Family
- Fostered by Chelsea



Connor

Hearing Assistance Dog Cherishem Kennels

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Kalgoorlie Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Charlestown Inc
- Fostered by Danielle, Susan & Deb



Burnie

Hearing Assistance Dog Gumhaven Kennels

- Sponsored and named by Lions Clubs of Pittsworth, Warwick, Clifton and Toowoomba-Wilsons
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Brisbane Oxlet-Sherwood Inc
- Fostered by Marcia



Zena

Medical Assistance Dog Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named Jake
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Werribee Inc
- Fostered by Rachael



Jordy

Hearing Assistance Dog Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Faye, Robert and Sydney
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Atwell inc.
- Fostered by Nicole & Sabina

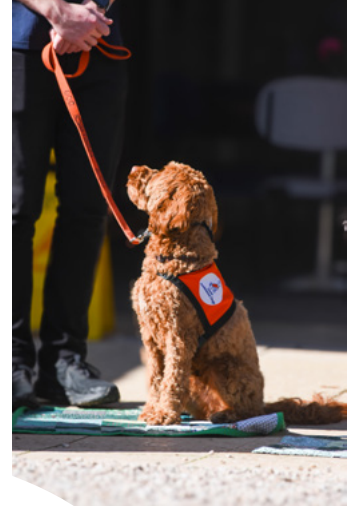
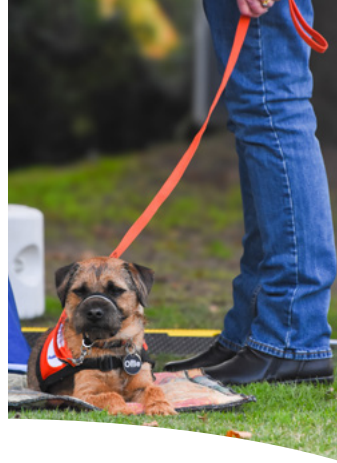


Milly

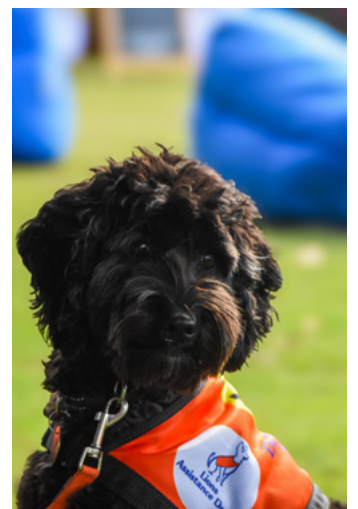
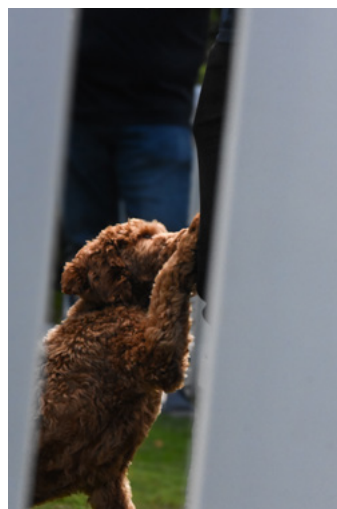
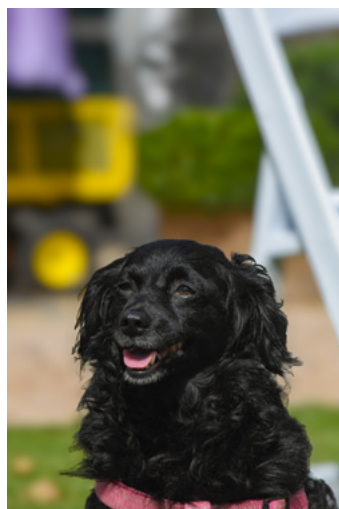
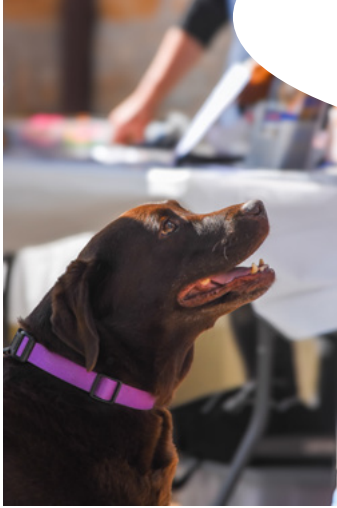
Psychiatric Assistance Dog Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Millmerran
- Delivery supported by Friends & Family
- Fostered by Nicholas

On the **19th of April**, we celebrated **National Hearing Dog Day**, and on the same day hosted our second **Pups in the Park** event. Held at Auchendarroch House in Mount Barker, it was another successful year for those old and new wanting to learn about Lions Assistance Dogs. Celebrating both events on this day was a huge milestone in our rich history.



PUPS in the PARK



Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program

FAREWELL Murray

Murray's journey through the Psychiatric Assistance Dog program has been nothing short of remarkable. From the moment he began full-time training, it was clear he possessed the gentle temperament and calm nature needed for this very special role. A beautiful Labradoodle with a soft and affectionate personality, Murray quickly won over everyone he met with his beautiful eyes. Whether he was enjoying free walks through the Adelaide Hills, at cafés and shopping centres, or quietly settling beside his trainers, Murray approached every new experience with confidence and grace.

Throughout his training, Murray learned a range of important Psychiatric Assistance Dog tasks, including Deep Pressure Therapy, emergency button, "get help" commands, and recognising Anxiety Behaviour Cues. While some tasks took time and encouragement, his steady progress and willingness to learn shone through every step of the way. One of the things that made Murray so special was his ability to balance both his playfulness and quiet composure. Trainers admired how calm and relaxed he remained in busy environments, whilst also having quite a fun and playful attitude when not working.

Now officially placed with his new family, Murray has transitioned beautifully into his role, already forming a strong bond with his recipient and providing meaningful support each and every day. We are incredibly proud of the Assistance Dog Murray has become and know he will make a life-changing difference for many years to come.



Medical Assistance Dog Program

MEET Malley

Malley has made a wonderful start to his journey in our Medical Assistance Dog Program, already showing all the signs of becoming a confident and capable Diabetic Alert Dog. From the moment he entered training, his gentle nature, eagerness to learn, and big-hearted personality have stood out to everyone around him.

Over the past couple of months, Malley has been building a strong start to scent training, an essential skill for a Diabetic Alert Dog. He has progressed from working with scent containers to confidently identifying low Blood Glucose Level scents amongst a range of distractions, including food and other smells. Trainers have been especially pleased with his developing one-paw alert, and ever growing confidence with the emergency button and hypokit retrieve. He does it all with a healthy sense of urgency.



Around the training centre, Malley's fun-loving personality has earned him the nickname "Malley Long Legs," thanks to his tall frame and playful energy. While he can occasionally be a little enthusiastic in new environments, he settles beautifully and continues to grow in confidence during outings to cafés, shops, dog parks, and busy streets.

We are incredibly proud to watch Malley continue developing over the coming months and look forward to seeing the positive impact he will one day make in the life of his future recipient.

Hearing Assistance Dog Program

Bruno

Bruno's journey through the Hearing Assistance Dog program has been one that nobody at Lions Assistance Dogs will ever forget. Bruno quickly proved that great things truly do come in small packages. From the moment he arrived, his big personality, cheeky charm, and incredible work ethic made him an instant favourite among staff and volunteers alike.

Although tiny in stature, Bruno approached every aspect of training with confidence and determination. Early on, he impressed trainers with his eagerness to learn, quickly mastering his touch alert and building strong obedience skills despite the challenges that came with his small size. Over the following months, Bruno continued to thrive, successfully completing his Public Access Test and Sound Assessment, a huge milestone that highlighted just how capable he had become.

Bruno's sound work became especially impressive, confidently alerting to smoke alarms, baby cries ringing phones, and other household sounds with precision and enthusiasm. Whether travelling on buses through the Adelaide Hills, visiting busy cafés, demonstrating for tour groups, or exploring the Adelaide Museum, Bruno handled every outing like a seasoned professional.

What made Bruno truly special, however, was the joy he brought to everyone around him. He had a way of making people smile wherever he went, and it is safe to say there will always be a "Bruno-shaped" place in the hearts of the staff and volunteers who worked alongside him. We are incredibly proud of the Hearing Assistance Dog he has become, and while we will miss him dearly, we know he is destined to make a life-changing difference for his recipient and their family.



WHATS NEW in THE SHOP

<https://lionsassistedogs.com.au/shop/>

2027
Calendar
\$10



Socks
\$10



Collapsible
Water Bowl
\$6



Dog
Toys
\$7



Jute
Bag
\$10

Annual Report

Out now on our website is the Lions Assistance Dogs 2025 Annual Report. As many of you know, 2025 was a milestone year for our organisation, with more Assistance Dogs delivered in a single calendar year than ever before. The report highlights this incredible achievement, while also providing updates on the progress of the National Training Centre Redevelopment and the exciting future ahead for Lions Assistance Dogs. Read it here;

<https://lionsassistedogs.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Annual-Report-2025-Digital-.pdf>

In addition, our Impact Report released earlier this year provides a wonderful insight into the Assistance Dog journey and the life-changing impact these dogs have on recipients and their families. None of these stories or achievements would be possible without the generosity and support of our donors.

Read the Impact Report here, <https://lionsassistedogs.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Donation-Impact-Report-Booklet-Generic.pdf>

Why your gift matters.




Annual Report.

2025



Our Impact.

2025 was a record breaking year for Lions Assistance Dogs. We delivered 41 Assistance Dogs to those in need, more in one calendar year in our entire history.

-  25 Hearing Assistance Dogs Placed
-  6 Medical Assistance Dogs Placed
-  10 Psychiatric Assistance Dogs Placed

With the roll out of our rebrand half way through 2025, we also saw the reach of our impact grow through;

- 27 Accreditations
- 57 Applications Received

14 | Our Impact | Lions Assistance Dogs

178 Active Assistance Dogs across Australia.

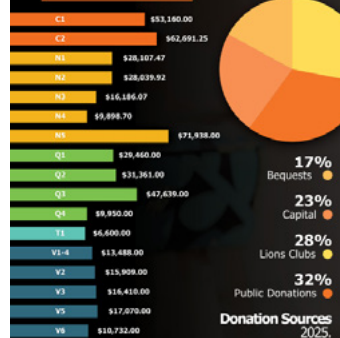
43 Dogs were trained in 2025.

27 Placements in 2025.

33 Staff Members
142 Active Volunteers
397,883 Volunteer Hours

Our Impact | Lions Assistance Dogs | 15

Donations & Lions Support.



16 | Donations & Lions Support | Lions Assistance Dogs

Financial Report.

2024	Operating Income	2025
\$ 493,518	Donations - Lions Clubs	\$464,458
\$ 335,870	Donations - General Public	\$481,145
\$466,444	Donations - Capital Campaign	\$344,500
\$4,085,535	Donations - Requests	\$244,996
\$58,221	Professional Services	\$431,760
\$56,859	Merchandise Sales	\$12,763
\$17,175	Other	\$6,383
\$2,453,423	Total Income	\$3,859,213
\$1,355,794	Operating Expenses	\$1,754,816
\$776,885	Other Operating Expenses	\$1,619,839
\$2,132,669	Total Expenses	\$2,773,045
\$320,754	Surplus/Deficit	-\$913,832

Financial Report | Lions Assistance Dogs | 17

Breaking Ground On our Future

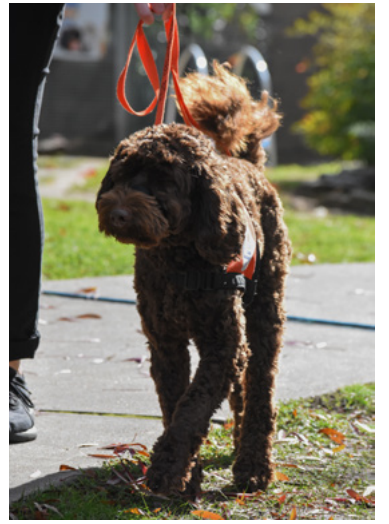
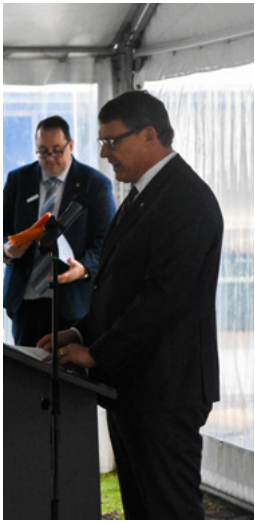
On the 21st of May 2026, we proudly marked a major milestone in the future of our organisation with the official Sod Turning Ceremony for the redevelopment of our National Training Centre - the New Home of Extraordinary.

The event brought together more than 160 guests from across Australia, including members of the Lions community, supporters, sponsors, volunteers and donors whose commitment has helped bring this vision to life. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the people who have stood beside us throughout this journey and recognise the shared belief in what this redevelopment will achieve.

We were honoured to welcome many special guests on the day including Governor of South Australia, Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Lions Assistance Dogs Patron Mr Rod Bunten, and members of our Redevelopment Campaign Leadership,, Tony Benbow OAM and Grant Kelley,.

More photos from the day will be available soon to share with our supporters, capturing this exciting new chapter for our National Training Centre.







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National 18-24 MAY 2026
Volunteer
YOUR YEAR TO VOLUNTEER **Week**

As National Volunteer Week has come and gone, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the incredible volunteers who give their time, skills and passion to support our organisation.

Whether assisting at events, helping behind the scenes, supporting our programs or lending a hand wherever needed, your contribution makes an enormous difference every single day. Your generosity, dedication and belief in our mission help create lasting change for the people we support and the Assistance Dogs we provide. We are deeply grateful for everything you do. Thank you for being such an important part of our community and helping us make a difference together.



2026 Lions MD Convention

Our team had the pleasure of attending the 2026 Lions MD Convention, where we connected with Lions members from across Australia and celebrated the incredible impact of the Lions community.

Throughout the convention, we hosted workshops, demonstrations and meet-and-greet sessions, giving attendees the opportunity to learn more about our programs and the future of the National Training Centre redevelopment. We were also proud to see our very own CEO David give a presentation at the convention, sharing insights into our mission, growth and future vision, along with an emphasis on exploring our Psychiatric Assistance Program.



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