

August 2026

NEWSLETTER

LATEST NEWS FROM
LIONS ASSISTANCE DOGS

TEMPORARY
Our New
Home of
Extraordinary

Lions Assistance Dogs takes the first
step towards the National Training
Centre redevelopment.

Read on **Page 6.**



SAVE THE DATE
**Lap The Map
returns for
2026**

Read about it on
Page 13.



A message from our CEO.

Since the last newsletter, Lions Assistance Dogs has undergone one of the biggest changes of its 46 year history, with our operations moving temporarily off-site into a local premises, in Hahndorf. The new Operations Centre is only a five minute drive from our Training Centre, and gives our team more space to work effectively, allowing us to continue providing our life-changing services throughout the redevelopment. If you are in the area, you are most welcome to visit during business hours.

Last month we held our annual celebration of our many volunteers. As a Lions project, volunteering is part of our core, and without our Puppy Carers, Guardians, BnB, Enrichment Volunteers and Emergency Evacuation Homes, we wouldn't be able to continue our life-changing programs. During the celebration we acknowledged the impact of our volunteers and highlighted a few outstanding efforts throughout the year. The Barbara Goldspink Award is reserved for volunteers only and is given out annually to recognise the highest level of impact. This year the recipients of the award were PDG Megan Butler & PDG Peter Korndorfer. Meg and Peter volunteer across multiple programs and have done so for many years, not only raising puppies, but as guardians, and with Meg volunteering on our Board as our Treasurer.

Additionally, we awarded two Bill Holmes Awards. The first to Lynda and Anthony Kingsley, who helped us develop our BnB program and have given homes to five puppies in training, as well as Veronica Seedhouse, who has raised multiple puppies and helped to build a strong support network of carers in the Northern Suburbs. We had over 80 volunteers attend the "Christmas in July" themed event and even Santa made an appearance. For those volunteers who were unable to make it, from the entire Board and Staff of Lions Assistance Dogs, thank you for all of your efforts. Without you, there would be a lot less people who would benefit from the support of a Lions Assistance Dog.

Finally, As we continue to grow and evolve as an organisation, there are now more opportunities than ever to be involved in the work we do. Whether through volunteering, fundraising, spreading the word or becoming a monthly member, every contribution helps us build a stronger future for Lions Assistance Dogs. Our monthly members play an especially important role, providing reliable ongoing support that helps us plan ahead and continue expanding our reach to help those in need. Monthly members get access to exclusive opportunities and information, like the stories from Elsie & Arias pups. We would love for you to join us on this journey and become part of the next chapter of Lions Assistance Dogs, just like Mel and I are.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours in service,
PCC David Horne
Chief Executive Officer



A glimpse into our **Monthly Membership Program.**

ELSIE & ARIAS

Litter Update!

Ashwin - From settling into his foster home to discovering new environments, meeting new canine friends and building his confidence, Ashwin has embraced plenty of new experiences over recent months. His adventurous personality continues to shine as he develops the social skills and resilience that will help prepare him for his future as an Assistance Dog.

Alfie - Alfie has continued to charm everyone he meets while building confidence in public environments. From attending community events to practising his walking and calmly navigating busy traffic, he is becoming a wonderfully adaptable young dog. His gentle nature and enthusiasm make every new experience an exciting part of his journey.

Quinn - Quinn has been busy building his confidence and refining the foundations of his training. He is becoming increasingly reliable with his obedience, walking and handling, while enjoying plenty of adventures with his foster family. His love of travelling, exploring and meeting new people is helping him develop into a confident and enthusiastic young dog.

Izzy - Izzy has begun an exciting new chapter as she starts her journey towards becoming a Hearing Assistance Dog. She is getting comfortable in her new training environment, meeting new canine friends and learning the foundations of her future work. Her confidence and enthusiasm are already shining through as she discovers the world of training.

Milton - Milton has reached an exciting milestone, moving on from the Puppy Program and into formal Assistance Dog training. His growing maturity, improved obedience and ability to adapt to new environments have prepared him well for this next stage. We look forward to following Milton as his training journey continues and his skills develop.

These little glimpses are just the beginning. By becoming a monthly member of Lions Assistance Dogs, you can receive regular updates and follow our dogs as they grow, learn and take each step towards changing someone's life. Click the hyperlink below to get started.

[Join our Monthly Membership](#)



Ashwin



Alfie



Quinn



Izzy



Milton

MEET OUR NEWEST RECRUITS!



MERRAN

Sponsored and named by
Lions Club of Millmerran Inc



OGGY

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



CHAMP

Sponsored and named by
Lions Club of Goolwa Inc



CHARLI

Sponsored and named by
Lions Club of Charles Sturt Woodville Hindmarsh Inc



EDEN

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



ROLLIE

Sponsored and named by
The Pickles Family



ROSIE

Sponsored and named by
Ray and Karena



DEAKIN

Sponsored and named by
Lions Club of Melbourne Deaf and Hard of Hearing Inc



DOUGAL

Sponsored and named
by **Marjorie**



RADAR

Sponsored and named by
Lions Club of Robe Inc



CONNIE

Sponsored and named by
Karen



MELVIN

IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Melvins time in the Puppy Program has come to an end, but that means an exciting start to his full-time training begins! We cannot wait to see how he progresses.

Accreditations



Jojo

Hearing Assistance Dog Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Catherine McAuley Society
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Upper Coomera Inc
- Fostered by Robert & Jacqui, Lenara & Daniel



Tully

Psychiatric Assistance Dog Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Tully Inc
- Delivery supported by Friends & Family
- Fostered by Tanya



Taz

Hearing Assistance Dog Gumhaven Kennels

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Cathie Bonny Hills Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Canberra Brindabella Inc
- Fostered by Gordon & Jacqui



Lilla

Psychiatric Assistance Dog Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Yankalilla & District Inc
- Delivery supported by Friends & Family
- Fostered by Linda & Reg, Naomi



Pappy

Hearing Assistance Dog Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Devonport Mersey Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Whyalla Inc
- Fostered by Maxine & Paul



Murray

Psychiatric Assistance Dog Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Renmark
- Delivery supported by Friends & Family
- Fostered by Mary-Jane & James, Nadine & Jasmine, Trish & Graeme



Bobby

Hearing Assistance Dog Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Elernmore Vale Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Southport Inc
- Fostered by Martina & Trilby



Robbie

Hearing Assistance Dog Gumhaven Kennels

- Sponsored and named by Faye, Robert & Sydney
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Helensvale Inc
- Fostered by Mary-Jane & James



Bruno

Hearing Assistance Dog

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Carnegie Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Elizabeth Playford Inc
- Fostered by Jacki

20 DOGS[”] DELIVERED YTD!

As of the end of August
Lions Assistance Dogs has
delivered 20 Assistance
Dogs this year!





An update on our redevelopment.

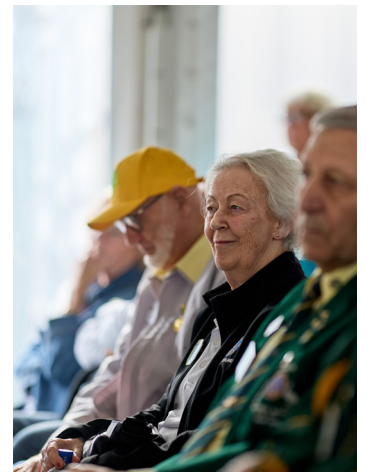
As many of you may have read in our May edition of the newsletter, we shared the exciting first steps of our redevelopment campaign and the Sod-Turning Ceremony held on 21st May 2026 to celebrate this significant milestone. The ceremony marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Lions Assistance Dogs, as we look towards redeveloping our National Training Centre.

Following the Sod-Turning Ceremony, we officially relocated our operations from the National Training Centre to a temporary Operations Centre in Hahndorf, just five minutes down the road. This temporary relocation will be our home for approximately two and a half years while redevelopment takes place at our existing site. The new Operations Centre provides additional space for our teams and has created a fresh new working environment for us to continue our services from.

While it may seem like a big change, being so close to our Centre has allowed us to maintain many of the routines and facilities that are important to our Assistance Dogs in training. Our dogs continue to be cared for at the existing facility under the supervision of our Kennel Manager, James, allowing our staff to remain connected to the dogs while our wider operations take place from Hahndorf. This arrangement has provided a smooth transition and an ideal solution while construction gets underway.

Although there is still a long road ahead, it is incredibly exciting to see the redevelopment move from an idea into something tangible. Every stage of this process brings us one step closer to a purpose-built National Training Centre that will help increase our capacity, strengthen our programs and ultimately support more people through the life-changing work of our Assistance Dogs.

For a closer look at where this journey began, turn to the next 2 pages for more photos from our Sod-Turning Ceremony. These additional photos captured from our friends at Sweet Lime Photography (sweetlimephoto.com.au), show some of the special moments shared with our Lions community, supporters, volunteers and guests as we celebrated this important milestone together.







An update on our **Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program**

This quarter, we're celebrating the wonderful progress of two Labradoodles making their way through our Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program, **Ayla and Incus**.

Ayla joined the Training Centre full-time in May, settling into kennel life without a moment's hesitation. Her happy-go-lucky, eager-to-please nature made an instant impression, and it wasn't long before she was placed into the Psychiatric Assistance Dog program, a perfect match for her temperament. One of her recent highlights was attending the 2026 MD Lions Convention at the Adelaide Showgrounds, where she confidently greeted countless people and wasn't fazed by loudspeakers, microphones, or even a giant lion! Since then, Ayla has moved into our

Bed & Breakfast Program and has been steadily building her public access skills through busier locations including Hahndorf, Mount Barker and Stirling. She's taken beautifully to her uniform and is making lovely progress on her foundation tasks, the button push, 'Up', 'Chin' and 'Get Help', whilst also working on the patience and stillness that don't always come naturally to a young, energetic pup. She's now reaching an exciting milestone, beginning her first ventures into low-level indoor environments.

Incus has settled into training life with plenty of personality and classic Labradoodle enthusiasm. Always keen for a game of fetch and a trip to the dog park, Incus has grown steadily more confident on outings, learning to stay calm and focused even when something exciting crosses his path. He's taken to his uniform with pride, walking beautifully through shops, cafés and busy streets while calmly ignoring people and other dogs. A real highlight for Incus was visiting a local school to present

to two Year 5/6 classes, sitting patiently through the talk before demonstrating his 'Chin' task. A task that helps comfort his recipient during moments of anxiety. In the Training Centre, he's mastered the button push for 'Get Help' and is now working towards his next challenge: learning to pick up a walking stick.

Both dogs still have plenty of training ahead of them before they're ready to graduate, but their progress so far reflects the dedication, patience and heart that goes into every stage of the journey. We couldn't be prouder of how far Ayla and Incus have come, and we can't wait to share their next milestones with you.

**You can read
more about
our Psychiatric
Assistance Dog
program here**

lionsassistedogs.com.au/

RAY & CLOVER

Medical Assistance Dog Program

For Ray, life with type 1 diabetes once meant relying on blood tests and a Continuous Glucose Monitor (CGM) that wasn't always accurate or convenient. Sixteen months ago, that changed when Diabetic Alert Dog Clover came into his life, and today, he trusts her nose more than the technology itself.

Clover's mornings start with a waggy tail and a check-in at the end of the bed, followed by a walk and, when possible, an off-lead run with her doggy friends. But it's her quiet vigilance that makes the biggest difference. Clover can detect changes in Ray's blood glucose levels from another room, often alerting him before his CGM does. One night, she woke him at 1am, frantically alerting to an unexpectedly high reading, allowing him to respond quickly and settle back to sleep with minimal disruption.

Beyond the alerts, Clover has drawn Ray further into his community, sparking conversations in the supermarket, smiles in the street, and curious questions from strangers marvelling at what she can do.

"I expected we were just getting a dog," Ray reflects, "but Clover is so much more. She's a companion who loves to be by my side and has saved my bacon by alerting me to changes in my BGL, sometimes loudly, sometimes forcefully, but always meaningfully."

For Ray, an Assistance Dog isn't a "tap and go" solution, it's a partner for the whole journey. As he puts it: "An assistance dog is not just a dog, they are an amazing partnership." Lions Assistance Dogs could not be prouder of the role that Clover has taken on, a true representative of the life changing work our Assistance Dogs are capable of.





Hearing Assistance Dog Program

MEET TILLY

In May, Tilly entered the Bed & Breakfast Program, quickly settling into a more relaxed routine that has done wonders for her overall confidence. Her sound work took off just as quickly progressing from each stage of her training at speed, confidently locating sounds and alerting with a one-paw touch, all while handling her first indoor public outings with real professionalism.

By June, Tilly had reached the halfway point of her full-time training, progressing to learning all legs of her sound work, where she runs to locate a sound, alerts with a one-paw touch, and leads her trainer back to the source, a sequence she picked up so well that extra challenges, like hiding around corners or working with her trainer's back turned were added to keep her sharp. She was also introduced to "touch, drop," the foundation of her future smoke alarm response. Her outings ramped up too, confidently navigating busier locations like Marion and Burnside shopping centres, where she walked calmly past other Assistance Dogs without so much as a second glance, and even enjoyed a relaxed coffee outing along the way.



This July, Tilly reached a wonderful milestone, her very first public demonstration, showing off her sound work skills in front of visitors to the Operations Centre with real confidence. She also visited a local aged care facility, bringing smiles to residents, and has now begun learning her all-important smoke alarm response, alerting with a paw touch before dropping to the ground.

With her expected delivery approaching in September, Tilly's growth this quarter has been nothing short of remarkable. From her earliest steps in sound work to confidently handling crowded shopping centres and community visits, she has shown the focus and warmth of an exceptional Assistance Dog.

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**OLD BRANDING
MUST GO!**

LAP THE MAP 2026



Save the date and join us this November as we collectively Lap the Map of Australia to raise much-needed funds for Lions Assistance Dogs, Medical Assistance Dog program, providing Diabetic Alert Dogs to Australians with type 1 diabetes, free of charge. More details to come.

Scan the QR code or visit the website to learn more.

www.lapthemap.com.au



lapthemaplions



Lap The Map



Safewill

Safewill free online webinar Friday 4th September, 11am AEST

In the lead up to the free Will campaign, Safewill will be holding a free online webinar, presented by their Principal Solicitor, **Matthew Wyndham**. The webinar will be an extensive guide to Wills & Estate Planning.

Register for the webinar with the link below.

<https://events.humanitix.com/getting-your-affairs-in-order-free-wills-and-estate-planning-webinar?c=lad>





The Joys of Puppy Caring

A story from Maxine and Paul.

For Maxine and Paul, Puppy Caring feels like the perfect combination of their love for Lions, dogs and making a difference. When Maxine and Paul moved to Victor Harbor in 2023, they quickly enquired about becoming Puppy Carers. For Maxine, the program already held a special place in her Lions journey. As President of the Lions Club of Canberra Belconnen Inc, she had worked closely with a recipient and their Hearing Assistance Dog. Their role as Puppy Carers begins when the puppies are just eight weeks old. From there, Maxine and Paul help introduce them to the world, building confidence through outings, socialisation, training and everyday experiences.

"Watching the puppies develop and grow in confidence is one of the most rewarding parts. They quickly develop their own personalities, and it is exciting to watch them achieve something new. It is very much like being a parent, you get that exciting feeling when they finally do something for the first time."

Puppy Pre-school has been one of their favourite parts of the journey. While the puppies learn, so do their carers, and there is the added bonus of watching the pup's littermates catch up each week. After caring for four puppies, Maxine and Paul have learned that every puppy is different. Their advice? Be patient, listen to your trainer and never underestimate the importance of a good routine. The puppies certainly keep things entertaining. Their current puppy, Ana, has a particular talent for making them laugh. Her favourite game involves an old water bottle with a stone inside, which she races around the room, before disappearing under the furniture. According to Maxine and Paul, there have been plenty of "belly laugh" moments

The hardest part is, of course, saying goodbye. After 10–12 months of 24/7 care, handing a puppy back for advanced training is bound to be emotional. Yet for Maxine and Paul, the sadness is matched by an enormous sense of pride. Seeing a puppy they have cared for from eight weeks old progress through training and prepare to change someone's life means the world.

So, what would Maxine and Paul say to anyone thinking about becoming a Puppy Carer? Start with a family conversation and be honest about the commitment. Puppies need time, structure, socialisation and plenty of opportunities to experience the world. You also need to be prepared for the occasional accident, the early routines and resisting those irresistible puppy eyes when they ask to share your breakfast! But you are never on your own. With guidance from the Puppy Training team, you become part of something much bigger: helping prepare a puppy for a future where they can change someone's life.

If you want to get involved or learn more about our Puppy Program;

Head to

www.lionsassistancedogs.com.au

Or contact us at

info@lionsassistancedogs.com.au

08 8388 7836



2026 Lions District Conventions

As District Convention season approaches, our team is looking forward to attending several conventions where we can share the impact of our programs, reconnect with familiar faces and introduce Lions Assistance Dogs to members who may be learning about our organisation for the first time. This year, we will be attending:

Q3 Convention (6–8 November) at the Logan Entertainment Centre.

C2 Convention (23–25 October) at The Civic & Arts Theatre.

V5 Convention (16–18 October) at the Dorset Gardens Hotel.

V2 Convention (6–8 November) at Norlane ARC.

If you would like to see us at your District Convention, please get in touch at

info@lionsassisteddogs.com.au



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