

May 2025

# NEWSLETTER

LATEST NEWS FROM AUSTRALIAN LIONS HEARING DOGS



MEET  
CLYDE:  
P.06



P.08 Check out **Pinky's** progress as a **Hearing Assistance Dog!**



P.09 Read about our **Merch Flash Sale!**





# CEO UPDATE

is working 24/7 looking after future Assistance Dogs, and our Puppy Team are criss-crossing across the State looking after all of our volunteer placements.

Even with all of this activity, ALHD is always trying to improve our processes and programs to ensure that we have the highest quality Assistance Dogs out there. With this in mind, we have two major changes coming over the next couple of months to keep an eye on. The first is the development of distance puppy caring, where we will look for volunteers interstate who will have the opportunity to care for our puppies and receive support via virtual means. We have seen this occur at training centres overseas with great success and look forward to

giving our great supporters who live outside of SA the chance to participate actively in the program. The second major announcement is that we will change our name to reflect how we have evolved over 45 years. Australian Lions Hearing Dogs will be known as Lions Assistance Dogs as of 1 July 2025. Our programs and support won't change, but it will make it easier for those who could benefit from our services to find us and start the process to partnering with an Assistance Dog in the future. More information will be released shortly, but until then, thank you for your continued support.

Yours in service,  
David Horne

The Training Centre is a flurry of activity as we edge closer to the middle of the year. Already we have placed 16 dogs to date across all three programs this year and that number will grow dramatically over the next couple of months.

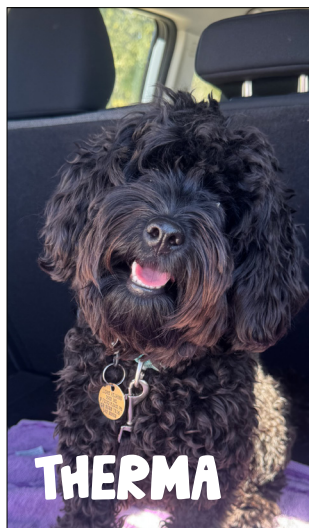
It isn't just our Trainers who are busy, with new puppies on the ground and another litter only a week away, our Breeding team



JOJO



HARVEY



THERMA



SALLY

## MADDIE'S LITTER

An update on these four stars!

Over the past couple of months we have seen Maddie's litter of Jojo, Harvey, Therma and Sally grow both physically and in character. Through trials and tribulations, each pup has made new discoveries about the exciting (and sometimes scary) world around them and they have shown us time and time again what they are capable of.

Harvey has had a period of ups and downs, building on his amazing confidence week by week. Sally has shown how adaptable she is learning new skills and becoming comfortable with different training equipment (e.g. canny collar). Jojo has continued to be a pillar of support settling into new environments and spreading her joy and love. And lastly Therma, whilst sometimes cheeky, has made progress adjusting to different environments and stimulants, even going as far as to attending our Pups in the Park community event and standing out as a celebrity!

We send montly updates out to our regular donors on these four incredible trainees. To sign up visit,

<https://lionshearingdogs.com.au/donate/>

# MEET OUR NEWEST RECRUITS!



**MURRAY**

Sponsored and named by  
**Lions Club of Renmark**



**HOLDEN**

Sponsored and named by  
**Holden FX-HZ Car Club**



**LEON**

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



**PEPPER**

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



**MALLEY**

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



**GIBSON**

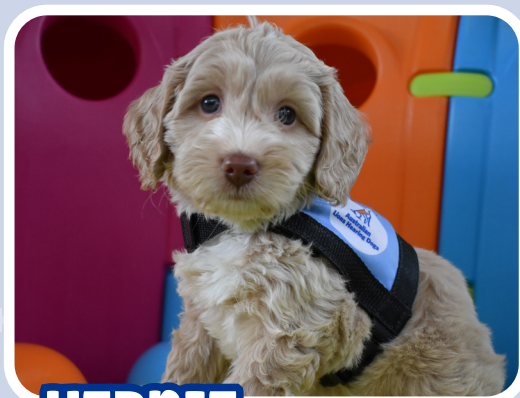
Sponsored and named by  
**Faye, Robert, and Sydney**



**HARRY**

Sponsored and named by  
**Lions 201N1 Zone 6**

Our beautiful new little puppy  
Tenterfield Terrier eager to start!



**HERBIE**

Sponsored and named by  
**Lions Club of Townsville  
Cleveland Bay**

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT -

Little Herbie has had a wonderful first few months discovering the big wide world. He has just had his second round of vaccinations and has begun exploring his surrounds. He has also been mastering his obedience skills, clearly showing how intelligent he is and how far ahead of the curve he is.

**POPPYS LITTER**

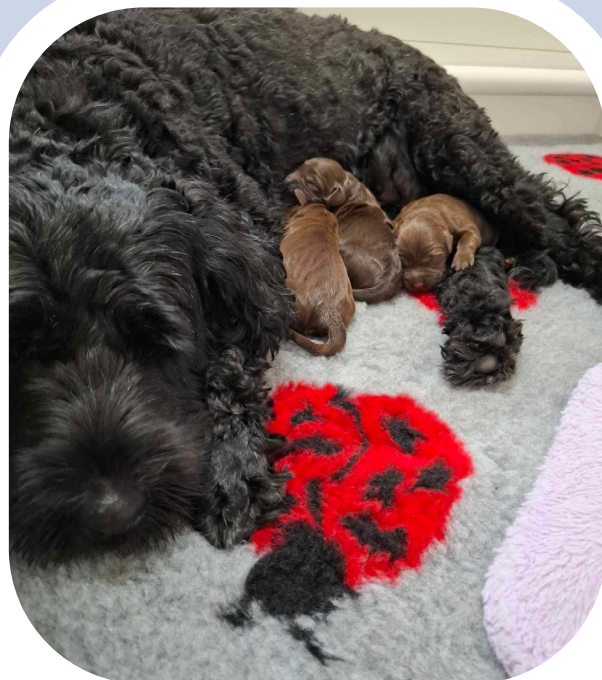


# NEWEST FACES AT THE BREEDING CENTRE!

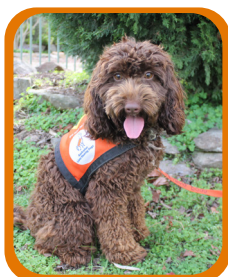
On Wednesday the 30th of April, we were blessed with three new little bundles of joy.

Guardian dog Bonnie delivered her second litter, this time consisting of two girls and one boy.

A significant difference from her last litter of eleven, Bonnie, will now be retired and enjoy the rest of her life stress-free as a successful mother of many Assistance Dogs!



## ACCREDITATIONS



### JENNY

#### ALHD Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Bathurst Inc
- Delivery supported by Friends and Family
- Fostered by Zlatko



### ZIVA

#### ALHD Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Modbury Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Rye Inc
- Fostered by Chris and Barrie



### FENBY

#### ALHD Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Mission Beach Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Inverell Inc
- Fostered by Nikki



### COLLEEN

#### ALHD Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Traralgon Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Wangaratta Inc
- Fostered by Mia



### CAS

#### ALHD Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Darwin Casuarina Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Athelstone-Rostrevor Inc
- Fostered by Jenn



### MISHA

#### ALHD Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Healesville Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Kallangur Inc
- Fostered by Jan & John / Ute & Tony



### LEAH

#### ALHD Breeding Program

- Lions Club of Taillem Bend Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Mount Eliza Inc
- Fostered by Lyn + Simon & Gordon + Jacqui



### GUMPY

#### ALHD Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by Lions Club of Robe & District Inc
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Beerwah Inc
- Fostered by Margie & Dave



### JEM

#### ALHD Breeding Program

- Sponsored and named by SA Power Networks Employee Foundation
- Delivery supported by Lions Club of Kwinana Inc
- Fostered by Chelsea & Tahnee



# MALLEY'S JOURNEY SO FAR!

**From the eyes of his volunteer puppy foster carers, Lauren and Ruby!**

Malley is a cheeky little toddler; he can be a goofball but remains very wise and is an old soul at heart. Malley loves to have fun and if he isn't getting the attention he wants, he likes to create it! When he gets tired or worried, he is very quick to have a cuddle. He picks things up very quickly and loves to be stimulated. He loves people, going on outings like dropping off and picking up his human brother from school and his ALHD trainee sister, Luna. Malley is growing so quickly! He is changing every day and is constantly learning. Everyone gets such a kick out of teaching him new things or watching him discover the world. It is like being the proud mum of a newborn all over again. We also see lots of pride and satisfaction from the kids in helping Malley to learn and grow.

Malley offers comfort and joy to everyone, while he has certainly made it harder to get things done (as most pups do), the time of cuddles and play is welcomed by our family. Malley helps add some extra connection for us all, he gives a purpose and understanding that; responsibility, help, and charity goes beyond our own lives and that we can make an impact on someone else's life, through what we are giving to Malley now, is in the aid of a future recipient. No puppy is perfect, there have been times that are more challenging – e.g. going through his nippy stage. But, adapting to offer more attention and stimulation in these times has been instrumental in enforcing the idea that behaviours are just a window to emotions and needs. Malley loves to learn. He is so quick to listen and engage when we do any training with him. He picks up new commands seamlessly and is incredibly responsive to positive reinforcement, as sometimes he does not respond well if he thinks he has done something wrong, so encouraging positivity is what gives the best results.

Our children have grown in confidence and self-awareness as well as their empathy for others because of Malley. They are learning that care and responsibility goes beyond themselves and what it means when someone relies on you for their needs. Overall, looking after Malley and seeing his growth has been the most rewarding experience anyone can ask for.

If you too are local to the Verdun training centre and are interested in raising a pup like Malley, visit;

<https://lionshearingdogs.com.au/puppy-socialisation/>





# MEET CLYDE!

## **A superstar from our Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program!**

When we talk about dedication, we think of Clyde. A beautiful, kind, and caring Border Terrier, Clyde is part of our Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program and has recently been placed to a loving recipient in Queensland.

As Clyde was a part of the Psychiatric Assistance Dog Program, his training differed from the Hearing and Medical Assistance Dog Programs. Psychiatric Assistance Dogs assist individuals with psychiatric conditions like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and anxiety by providing deep pressure therapy, interrupting distress behaviours, and retrieving items or pressing an emergency button.

**The Psychiatric Assistance Dog program is extremely important for veterans living with PTSD. These specially trained dogs provide life-changing support by helping Veterans manage symptoms such as anxiety, flashbacks, and hypervigilance.**

Clyde's journey through the program has been nothing short of impressive. His trainer Hamish, describes Clyde as smart, eager-to-please and a dog that's always ready to work. One of the most notable aspects of Clyde's character throughout his training was his attention to detail. He was highly-attuned to body language and quick to respond whenever support was needed. These characteristics make for a very reliable Assistance Dog and prove why he was successful and now happily placed with his Recipient!

Before Clyde was delivered, he was required to pass a task assessment, which he absolutely aced with flying colours. It included four distinct tasks, that had been reinforced with him during training. These included placing both paws on Hamish when he scratches his head (a tick), pressing an emergency button on command, jumping onto his lap for comfort, and retrieving dropped items, such as keys and placing them in his hand. Clyde really refined these skills in training thanks to the amazing work from Hamish, but when it came time to shine it was all Clyde, and he really showed why he deserves the title of an Assistance Dog. Whilst we are all sad to see him leave the training centre, we are incredibly proud of him and have the utmost faith in this future!



**Clyde has been a pleasure to train. He's intelligent, eager to learn, and has a great work ethic, which has made his progress smooth and rewarding.**

**- Clyde's Trainer  
Hamish**





# MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DOG PROGRAM



## Her journey these past few months!

Pippa has spent the past couple of months working on settling in around the centre and with her training. In training, Pippa has shown great adaptability, where she was initially slow to pick up scent training, her trainer, Nick, switched to using an aerator tin and she has excelled with this new form of equipment. She has been on plenty of outings, even attending the national Lions convention in Victoria and has continued to shine, progressing further each day.



## What has changed for Zena!

It has been quite an eventful past couple of months for Zena, full of big changes. The decision was made to switch Zena from the Hearing Assistance Dog Program to the Medical Assistance Program, due to her high drive and love of retrieve. With this change it has proved to be incredibly beneficial. Zena loves nothing more than having a job to do and is now learning all three tasks required to become a Medical Assistance Dog and is not only absolutely loving it but excelling at it each day.



## YAKKA

### Recently placed, providing joy and support to his recipient!

Yakka has by far had the most exciting past couple of months. He started by passing his Public Access Test at Marion Shopping Centre here in Adelaide, which was a huge achievement and never in doubt from any of our team. He proved why he deserves to be an Assistance Dog, through navigating busy public spaces with lots of stimulation and distractions, completing with ease and confidence.

From here he went on to pass his Task Assessment. This involved him showing off all his hard work and dedication in training by demonstrating his three key tasks he will complete regularly as a Medical Assistance Dog. These include; pressing an emergency button, retrieving a Hypo kit or retrieving help from someone else in the household if required.

Yakka even had the chance on an outing to visit a childcare centre and help educate young children about the importance and effectiveness of Assistance Dogs, and again to no surprise he did this like an absolute pro. It all came to an exciting end of one chapter and the opportunity for another at the start of April. Yakka was delivered to his recipient where he has continued to shine changing their world, committed to being a pillar of support.



# HEARING ASSISTANCE DOG PROGRAM - PINKY



## **Pinky's journey through February, month 4 of training!**

In the month of February, Pinky started tackling the outside world a little bit more. She continued to go on outings as she usually does but started to be introduced to some busier environments. This can be a little overstimulating for dogs at first, but Pinky remained consistent in her devotion and really understood how she had to hold herself when in uniform and working. Her obedience skills were excellent and she faced these scary and distracting environments without a second thought.

## **Pinky's journey through March, month 5 of training!**

Following on from February, building on these environmental skills, the focus switched to preparing Pinky for her Public Access Test. The PAT is an essential test where Pinky is walked by a different handler to her regular trainer, being Sarah, and is assessed by our Program Director Darren. It is an evaluation on her responses to the environment. To ensure she has what it takes to be an accredited Assistance Dog.

With the increase in outings to busier environments she was also being prepared for her Sound Assessment, where she was refining her responses and actions to all sounds a Hearing Assistance Dog may experience. This was a busy month for Pinky but she again showed her incredible courage.



## **Pinky's journey through April, month 6 of training!**

After the big month of March, to no surprise Pinky had passed both her Public Access Test and her Sound Assessment. With this achievement also came the exciting next step in her journey as a Hearing Assistance Dog. She was officially offered to her recipient and they immediately said yes! Knowing that Pinky would be an exceptional choice for them. With this exciting news it just came down to refining her skills and confidence throughout the month.

One chapter closes and another opens for Pinky. Everyone here is so proud of her. We are sad to see her leave soon but know full well she is going to be amazing!





# FLASH SALE MERCHANDISE

## BUY A BAG, GET A TAG!

Until the end of June, when you purchase either a jute or calico bag from our website, you'll receive a free assorted key tag with your order!

It's the perfect time to grab a stylish and practical bag and score a little extra surprise - our way of saying thank you for your support.

Hurry - offer ends 30th June or while stocks last.



## END OF FINANCIAL YEAR SALE!

Until the end of June, you will find many merchandise items for sale on our website.

See our updated price list to know which of our items will be discounted and what the new prices will be!

We will also have new goodies available, including. Different items for your furry friends, and the release of our 2026 calendar!

To check out more of our merch and see our full range of stock, please head to our website: <https://lionshearingdogs.com.au/shop/>



BAGS (CALICO/JUTE) - ~~\$8~~ NOW \$6!  
BAMBOO TRAVEL CUP - ~~\$12~~ NOW \$10!  
BUCKET HAT OR CAP - ~~\$15~~ NOW \$13!  
SOCKS (BUSINESS & COMPRESSION) - ~~\$10~~  
TEA TOWELS - ~~\$12~~ NOW \$8!  
NOW \$10!





# PUPS Park

## AN EVENT OF NETWORKING AND COMMUNITY!

Held locally in Mount Barker, we hosted an 'Open Day' style event for the public to come through and learn about our organisation, our dogs, and the different programs we run, whilst also having the opportunity to meet and learn about our sponsors who make us possible. It was an amazing success where everyone got to mingle and meet each other, as did all the stunning pups!





# NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK



**National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering and will be next held on 19-25 May 2025.**

We commemorate this special week as one of the most important weeks in our calendar year. It is an annual celebration of the individuals who go above and beyond to help a cause in which they believe in. For us here at ALHD we cannot do what we do without the help of those who so selfishly lend their time and commitment towards us.

We highlight this event as a key point of celebration each year and we encourage everybody to do what they can for their local community.

Please contact our team if you have any questions regarding our volunteering opportunities, at **info@lionshearingdogs.com.au** or **08 8388 7836** for more information.

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