

Leaving a bequest was an easy decision for me



Merle and Otus

For 15 years I've seen how the lives of so many people have been enriched by the incredible work done by Guide Dogs Victoria.

And I've been privileged to have played my own small part in that work.

It happened almost by accident. When I saw an advertisement in a local newspaper asking for temporary volunteers to foster puppies whilst their Puppy Raising families went on holiday, I applied.

I became a foster carer and was hooked - thereafter putting my name on the waiting list to look after 'reclassified' dogs. Within a few years I'd cared for 10 different companion dogs and Guide Dogs on a short term basis. And then I was approached to care for a stud dog. That's when Otus came into my life. And I've just loved being his 'mum'.

Not only has Otus become a legend in his own time – siring 44 litters, producing 220 puppies, 82 Guide Dogs, 8 Breeding Mums and 4 Stud Dogs – but he's been the most wonderful family pet, as well as being known and loved by all the doggie people in our neighbourhood.

Otus is 15 years old now and the history of Guide Dogs Victoria is filled with many amusing and endearing stories about his dedication and how he's loved his work. But more importantly, there are many stories about how his progeny have changed the lives of vision impaired Victorians, by giving them independent mobility.

How could I not want his legacy to continue?

How could I not want to keep helping to make a difference in people's lives through this wonderful work?

How could I not include Guide Dogs Victoria in my Will, as my ongoing contribution to ensuring their future?

Leaving a bequest was one of the easiest decisions I've ever made. I am also proud to be one of the founding members of the new bequest supporters group, The OTUS Fellowship.

I'd recommend it to anybody.

By Merle Atherton

PEACE OF MIND

It is a fact that nearly half of all Australians do not have a valid Will. A Will is a way to show you care about family members and friends you love and who have been important to you. Making a Will can give peace of mind, knowing that your special wishes for them have been made clear and that you've made provision for them.

YOUR HELP WILL LIVE ON IN A GUIDE DOG BEQUEST

To join our bequest supporters group, the OTUS Fellowship, all you need to do is let us know that you have left a bequest in your Will to Guide Dogs Victoria.

For a confidential discussion, contact Susan on (03) 9854 4508 or email bequests@guidedogsvictoria.com.au

