

A Labour and Legacy of Love

Pam and Merv Tappenden enjoy a strong association with Guide Dogs Victoria, participating in everything from volunteer and financial support to providing a loving home for one of our reclassified dogs. Pam and Merv tell us why they chose to leave a Bequest in their Will.

Pam and Merv Tappenden first became involved with Guide Dogs Victoria after attending our annual Open Day event. They began volunteering at major events and since retiring three years ago have increased their time commitment. Pam assists with administrative work while Merv enjoys walking the brood dogs.

"We saw a friend of my mother go blind late in life," says Pam. "She went from being active to living in a nursing home where she couldn't see to do craft or read a book."

"We don't have children so when writing our Wills and deciding where our money should go we wanted to leave a bequest to Guide Dogs Victoria" adds Merv.

As well as their planned gift, the Tappendens have generously sponsored six Guide Dog puppies

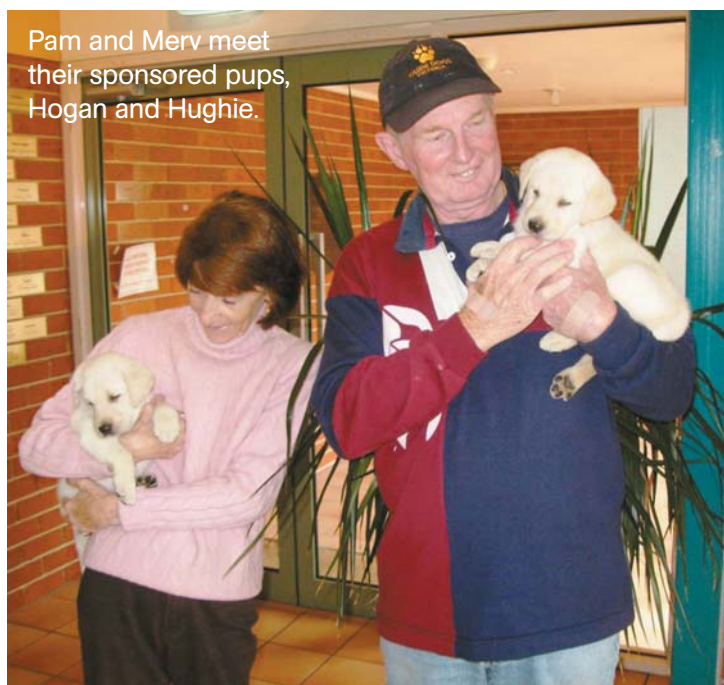
including a full sponsorship of Tarkyn, who will soon return to our training centre for assessment. "We were so proud when we heard that the first dog we sponsored, Daikin, passed his assessment and graduated as a Guide Dog," said Merv. Their other sponsored dogs are also doing well. Barrett is currently in training and puppies Hogan and Hughie have gone to their new Puppy Raising homes. Last but certainly not least, Clarke wasn't quite ready for life as a Guide Dog and was re-classified. He now enjoys life at home with Pam and Merv and frequently joins them on their visits to Guide Dogs Victoria for volunteer duties.

"When we thought about it we decided that we wouldn't wait until we died to begin donating to Guide Dogs Victoria," explains Merv. "By donating now we can see firsthand how our money is helping others."

Every newsletter we publish our 'Wish List' (see opposite page). This list contains important items that we lack the funds to purchase without assistance. Recently the Breeding Centre asked for a steam cleaner to help reduce the incidence of gastrointestinal illness in puppies. Merv and Pam again extended their generosity to purchase the steam cleaner. "The Breeding Manager was so thrilled when we agreed to grant the wish," says Pam.

"Through our involvement with Guide Dogs Victoria we have realised just how little government funding there is for this vital service," continues Merv. "The money we donate now and that we have bequeathed to Guide Dogs Victoria in the future helps to give people with vision impairment the confidence to lead full and active lives."

If you are interested in information on leaving a legacy in your Will to Guide Dogs Victoria, please contact our Bequest Office on (03) 9854 4417. ● ●



Pam and Merv meet their sponsored pups, Hogan and Hughie.