

# dogtales



2008 | Newsletter

**Welcome to dogtales. We begin with three good news tales from Kaisa, Slipper's family and Happy. We hope you enjoy this edition and when you have read it, you may like to pass it on to a friend.**

## **From Kaisa Paine of Dodges Ferry.**

Hi Guys, remember me, Kaisa (aka Violet)? My name is native American and means "wrapped in fur". I now live on 3 acres at Dodges Ferry and have my own yard with a nice kennel, sunshade and even my own pool! I have a big brother, a husky x shepherd - we get along most of the time, but occasionally have some issues. The kids Emma and Dylan love me to bits and I walk them to school and back every morning and afternoon. My mum works in a butcher's shop, so I have an endless supply of marrow bones and meat.

Thanks for all the trouble you took getting me from Devonport down to the Hobart Dogs' Home for my new family. Keep up the great work.

- Kaisa



## **From Happy Ryan of Lonsdale**

Hi all at the Dogs' Home - hope you had a good Christmas. I had a great time with lots of visitors and loads of presents under the tree. I've been a very good boy and got lots of presents including a soccer ball and some treats to help me learn things my owners want me to do. But my favorite present is "Marshall" - a blue and white gangly doll. He doesn't look quite the same as he once did - one of his feet fell off after a bit of chewing and he looks dirtier than he once did. Every morning we sleep together in the sun out the back next to the bird aviary.

I thought you might like a photo of me. Good luck to all and I hope you get a new family this year.

Three weeks ago, Chad, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel cross and former Dogs' Home resident, was in need of another home. A Happy ending was in sight for Chad when the Ryan family invited him to live with them.



## **From Slipper Scott and Us**

Slipper has been good for my 60 year old ego. She attracts comments, particularly from women.

"How cute" is the usual comment. "Thank you," I reply. "Not you, the dog!" - another disappointment. Slipper joined our family in 2007 after the death of our 13 yo border collie Cleo.

I went to the Hobart Home in search of another border collie type, but I met Slipper or Ginger Meggs as she was then known. She was a ratty little terrier, bald down the length of her back but with eyes as deep as a sink hole and a perky energy - who could resist. I took my wife back the following day and we had our one-to-one with Slipper; I picked her up a week later.

In between bossing us around she sings, plays, entertains and charms us. She gets me plenty of attention when I'm walking her. Not bad for 5.4kgs of terrier of unspecified lineage.



# E D U C A T I O N P R O G R A M M E

The Dogs Homes of Tasmania has been caring for lost, abandoned and unwanted dogs in Tasmania since 1950. We currently operate Homes in Hobart, Burnie and Devonport and receive about 5,000 dogs each year. While this rescue role remains important, we are increasing our commitment to preventative strategies in the hope there will be an ever decreasing need for our services.

Desexing and microchipping all dogs offered for adoption, promoting desexing and microchipping in the community and lobbying for legislative changes are preventative strategies we have successfully undertaken over the last several years. Our latest move is on the educational front.

Anne Boxhall was appointed our Education Officer in 2005; and has since developed and run the Humane Beings Programme for schools. With a \$24,000 grant from the Tasmanian Community Trust Fund, she has delivered the programme to 3,500 students at the Hobart, Burnie and Devonport Dogs' Homes and at schools in the south of the state.

The Humane Beings Programme



*Anne Boxhall and Robyn Manser outside the new Education Building*

is presented to students and aims to develop an understanding of responsibility, commitment, patience and empathy. We hope that through this programme, future generations will give their dogs the commitment and care we see as their right.

The big news this year is we are in the final stages of completion of a purpose-built classroom at our Hobart Home. Till now, the classes have been run in the Home's staffroom in less than satisfactory circumstances. The new facility at Hobart and the expansion of the programme to our two northern Dogs' Homes is a measure of our confidence in the Humane Beings programme and our ongoing

commitment to education as a preventative strategy. Anne has trained volunteer presenters in the south and in the north. The Hobart Education Building itself stands in one of our six exercise yards and is to be a multipurpose building. When not in use with school visits, it will be used for dog training sessions for the public, a meeting venue and as a rest facility for our volunteers. Please take the time to inspect our building when next at the Hobart Dogs' Home. The official opening is planned for late 2008. We would like to thank Anne and other Humane Beings' presenters for their dedication to this important work.



*Anne Boxhall our Education Officer and volunteer with her Dogs' Home dogs Riley and Rosie  
- Photo Courtesy of the Mercury*

## ***Devonport's 40th***

The Devonport Dogs' Home celebrates 40 years of operation, this year. We sincerely thank everyone who has adopted a dog and given him/her a caring home and supported with financial contribution or by volunteering their time. We wish to thank the Devonport City Council for their support, from the early years up to the present. We also thank our wonderful staff who are so dedicated to the dogs in our care.

# V O L U N T E E R S

Dogs provide loyalty, companionship, security and assistance and they confer psychological and physical health benefits on their human carers. Despite all this, dogs are abused, neglected and abandoned by many – hence the need for our Dogs' Homes.

Many people display almost canine-like loyalty and caring for dogs in need. Some donate much needed money, others remember us in their Will. A third group donate generously of their time and effort to perform many tasks that are vital for the wellbeing of dogs in our care. Volunteers walk and socialise our dogs, they do work in our gardens and laundry, train our dogs and the dogs adopted from our Homes. They fold pamphlets, rattle collection tins, build fences, and bath and groom neglected dogs.

Without the efforts of hundreds of committed volunteers, our Homes simply could not function adequately. We are now highly organised on the volunteer front, largely due to the excellent efforts of our (volunteer) Volunteer Coordinator, Wendy Harvey. Volunteers now have a brief OH&S induction as is required of an organisation such as ours. To have uniformity of practice and good training outcomes for dogs, orientation sessions for dog walkers are held regularly at all three Homes. The "all fours on the floor" programme is a recent initiative involving volunteers, that aims to teach untrained dogs basic manners to assist them getting a new home and a new life. Once inducted and orientated, volunteer dog walkers attend as they are able. This contribution is of great importance as some dogs have waited for more than twelve months at our Homes before catching someone's eye – without regular exercise and social contact they would not cope with such a lengthy stay.

## **Hobart Dogs' Home**



Jennifer, Lee and Andrea

Toni Dale attends the Home to bath and groom matted and neglected dogs. Matting can be so severe that dogs are unable to move or function normally and it is a major welfare concern. In severe cases, a dog may need to be anaesthetised and shorn. Toni's grooming skill most often saves the dog from this trauma.

Jennifer, Lee, Andrea (pictured) and Dorothy Keats have been walking dogs at the Hobart Home for many, many years and attend a number of times each week.

Pat Rogers is a long term dog walker and is President of the TCDL Auxiliary, which comprises a number of women in the Hobart area who raise much needed funds through fairs, garage sales, raffles and other events. These funds are used for special purchases for dogs in our three Homes - over \$90,000 has been raised in the last 20 years.



Maureen and Trish (above)

## **Devonport Dogs' Home**

Maureen Brown and Trish Coldhill have been volunteering at the Devonport Dogs' Home for more than 12 months and spend at least 10 hours a week walking dogs helping with washing and spending time with quiet and timid dogs. Maureen is the Devonport volunteer coordinator while Trish baths and grooms our canine residents. Both ladies assist with our button day and other fundraising activities.

## **Burnie Dogs' Home**



Lynda

Dot McGuinness and Lynda Dick have been volunteers at the Burnie Home for the last 20 months. Both ladies assist bathing dogs, cleaning and gardening - they have spent countless hours transforming all the gardens at the home and have both donated many offcuts of plants. The place is just a glowing as a result.

Lynda loves grooming dogs and prides herself on keeping our washing and drying up to date.

Our thanks goes to all the volunteer men and women who's collective outstanding efforts make such a difference. Anyone wishing to support our work as a volunteer should contact the relevant Volunteer Co-ordinator through their nearest TCDL Dogs' Home.

## M I S S G L A D Y S R A W S O N

**M**iss Gladys Rawson BEM founded the Tasmanian Canine Defence League in 1950 after seeing the poor treatment meted out to farm and pet dogs in Tasmania. In a time when animals were seen as little more than commodities, she endured scorn and ridicule and overcame many obstacles to open our first Dogs' Home in 1950 in South Hobart. Miss Rawson remained a formidable advocate on behalf of dogs and other animals in Tasmania and a very active member of the TCDL till failing health forced her retirement in 1984. She passed away in 2000. In recognition of her pioneering work in the animal welfare field and her contribution to the



state of Tasmania, she has been selected for inclusion in the 2008 Tasmanian Honour Role of Women.

Her vision and work remains alive today through the activities of the Dogs' Homes of Tasmania.

## M E M B E R S H I P

The Dogs' Homes of Tasmania is the operating name of the Tasmanian Canine Defence League (TCDL). Dog loving members of the public are urged to consider TCDL membership on either an annual or a lifetime basis (\$25 or \$200 respectively). Membership holds no specific obligations for

the member other than to act with care and respect for all dogs and to encourage others to do like-wise. Members are however eligible to attend and vote at our Annual General Meeting and more importantly it registers your concern for the welfare of dogs in Tasmania. When the TCDL

lobbies federal, state and local government seeking a better deal for dogs, the number of members we represent helps determine the outcome. As a member you will receive our newsletters and you will sleep well at night knowing you are doing your bit for man's best friend.

## C O N T A C T D E T A I L S

Please send all correspondence, subscriptions and donations to us at  
P.O. Box 7, Lindisfarne Tas 7015

Burnie Dogs' Home  
170 Stowport Road  
Stowport  
Ph 6431 6199

Devonport Dogs' Home  
Spreyton Park Racecourse  
Spreyton  
Ph 6427 2178

Hobart Dogs' Home  
101 Scotts Road  
Risdon Vale  
Ph 6243 5177

Visit us on [www.dogshomesoftas.com.au](http://www.dogshomesoftas.com.au) for more information.

***Also, our Dogs' Homes Calendar for 2009 will be on sale from October until sold out. Please buy a calendar from the Dogs' Homes, Combined Charities Card Shop and selected outlets to support the Dogs' Homes dogs.***