

# dogtales



*This is the official newsletter from the Dogs' Homes of Tasmania operated by the Tasmanian Canine Defence League*

**Dear Friends, Welcome to the first quarterly edition of *e-dogtales!* We are continuing to share stories and photos of our wonderful Dogs' Homes Dogs, just as we do in the midyear issue. We hope you enjoy the Spring edition ...**

## **FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER : DAVID PETERS**

The past eighteen months have been particularly challenging for our organisation. In common with many charitable bodies, it has been a difficult period to raise the funds needed to cover the costs of our operations.

The Board has been developing a strategy to improve our fundraising capacity whilst minimising costs in a way that doesn't impact negatively on the dogs in our care. New fundraising initiatives will be announced in the near future.

In the meantime, it has been necessary to reduce working hours at our Hobart and Burnie homes in the short term. The co-operation and input of our employees into the decisions as to how this restructure could be best achieved have been of great assistance. The Board will regularly review our staffing levels in line with our fundraising results with a view to restoring staff hours as soon as possible.

It is a difficult time in the economy generally and the Dogs' Homes have to adapt to changing circumstances. We are confident that we are a viable and resilient animal welfare organisation that has a strong future, not the least because of the dedication of our staff and volunteers, and the generosity of our supporters.

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## **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT : TONI DALE**

Volunteer at Hobart Dogs Home for 29 years!  
Foster Carer for Greyhound Rescue

Member of Dogs' Homes of Tasmania Auxiliary  
Attends the Hobart home regularly to groom dogs .. for their comfort



## **A REMARKABLE RECOVERY!**

This is about a male Border collie who came from the Dogs' Home about four years ago. He had been picked up by the Council Animal Control Officer and he had been hit by a car. He had an injury to one of his front legs and was suffering from chronic diarrhoea.

His appearance suggested he had lived outside without shelter, with a matted coat and weighing only 16 kgs. He slept under the car or under bushes for the first twelve months or so when outside, even though he had his own trampoline bed. It seems he had never enjoyed a walk on a lead and he was reactive to other dogs. He seemed agitated and constantly chewed one back foot.

This dog, now known as Jordie, has just gained his FIFTH Australian National Kennel Council Obedience Title, making his owner one of the proudest in Hobart. To have come so far from such wretched beginnings truly is amazing. He loves people, still has the odd issue with other dogs, but is a demo dog for the Beginner Classes at a Dog Club, showing new members what they can achieve with their dog. His coat is magnificent, he no longer chews his foot, he has a dog friend to share his home with and he is a very much loved member of his household.

Every dog deserves a second chance - and this one personifies that!



Jordie and his best friend  
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## **WONDERFUL BURNIE VOLUNTEERS**

Rose and Pam are two wonderful volunteers who organised a donation bin to be installed at Wynyard Woolworths last year.

Every Sunday they call into the Burnie home with lots of donated items such as a large quantity of canned food, dry food, blankets, dog coats, even washing powder! Rose has a very soft spot for our house cat Fergie and makes sure she is also well looked after by providing her with specialised tinned food. Just recently she went out of her way to bring Fergie some wallaby mince designed specifically for cats. Of course Fergie loved it and is always at the ready when Rose and Pam arrive.

Pam and Rose recently held two barbecues at Bunnings, Burnie, and raised \$695 and \$722 for us on these occasions. Last year they held a craft stall outside Wynyard Woolworths raising approximately \$1600, with all funds raised again donated to us.

Pam adopted Max from the Burnie Home last year and he is doing really well. He is now a major part of Pam's life.

We are extremely lucky to have these two dedicated volunteers contributing regularly to the Home and providing our dogs with much needed items. Pam reported that they are averaging around 40 kg of dry and 40 cans of tinned food each week for which we are extremely grateful.

Rose always asks me what else we need and ensures it is delivered the following Sunday.

PTO for photo!



## **BUSTER'S HEALING POWERS**

Buster was one of a litter of dogs surrendered when homes could not be found for them.

“This dog came into our lives when we were in more pain than anyone can imagine. Our beautiful, perfect, first-born son had just died suddenly, and our whole world was empty and dark. We spent weeks not knowing which way was up, but at some point we knew we wanted to get a dog.

The next few weeks we spent almost every day at the pound looking for a new best friend. Someone to love, care for, someone to help us grieve, to show us that there was still love in our hearts.”

So it was that this border collie x went home, and over the next 3 years, Buster became more than a friend and pet ... he went everywhere with his new owners. Most of all he sat by their sides for the darkest days of their loss until they began to see there was love in the world again.



When a second child was born, Buster gave no indication that he was put out, but tolerated all manner of toddler treatment. Recently, when a family member crashed his bike in the bush, causing a broken collarbone, Buster stayed by his side until help arrived, barking to aid the rescuers searching for them.

“He truly is man’s best friend in so many ways and the most caring, intelligent dog we’ve ever known. Thank you for all the work you do, and for allowing us the opportunity to find Buster – our lives will never be the same.” Lucy & Ky

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### MAREMMA MEERA’S WONDERFUL RESCUE

Recently the Hobart Home received many phone calls from members of the public about a Maremma at large at the Risdon Brook Dam. A Clarence Council Animal Control Officer had previously shown us a photo of a Maremma that had been at large since summer in the Otago Bay area, where residents were feeding her, but could not get close enough to restrain her. A concerned visitor to the Dam had been able to take her photo so we were able to confirm it was the same dog. Tasmanian Lost Pet Register on Facebook was also receiving many reports of sightings.

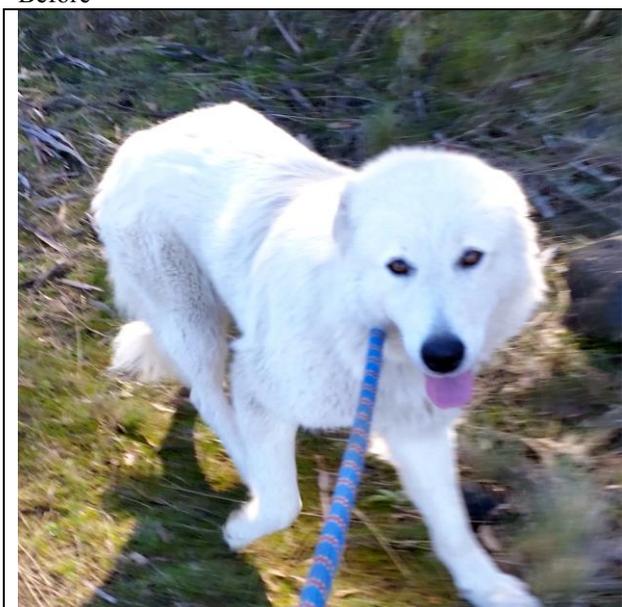
It had become apparent that the dog now known as Meera, was shy of men. When a visiting couple, Keith and Lyn, reported to Clarence Council that they were standing near the sleeping dog, it was time to take action. The Council Officer took food, a bowl and a lead and met a female staff member from the Home. Keith and Lyn were half around the dam near the sleeping dog. Our intrepid staff member slowly approached and Meera rolled on her back for a belly scratch and wagged her tail. With the aid of some meat, she was finally caught on a lead. This caused her to panic and it took a few attempts to get her up to the track. Keith and Lyn stayed close by through the whole ordeal and kept approaching walkers away until she was safe. It was a very slow walk back as Meera was truly exhausted.

When the party reached the ute, Keith picked her up and gently put her in the back on a thick padded dog bed (donated by a school the day before!). The dog showed enormous gratitude to Keith and Lyn, and was then brought to the Home. She appeared to have no visible injuries and no microchip! Meera lay beside her rescuer and was soon snoring with her head on a warm lap.

Meera has now travelled to Victoria Maremma Rescue. Our corporate helpers Telstra are paying for her flights and one of their staff members is paying for her desexing and grooming.

What a heart warming example of our caring public, Council and Dogs Home staff!

Before



After

