



TAILS OF THE VALLEY

Newsletter

Huon Valley Dog Walking Association

huondogwalkers@gmail.com

www.dogwalkingtas.org.au

On the move again!

Now that the holidays are over, it's time to get out and enjoy walking with our dogs again. Apart from the well known health benefits of walking your dog, it's a great way to meet new people and share information about all things dog. And we can all do with a change of scenery in these challenging times.

The walks program will commence in mid-February with a visit to Kent Beach in Dover. Details of all the walks between February and April are on Page 8. As you will see on Pages 4 and 5 new doggy members Helen and Mandy are delighted with the variety of walks and love exploring new places and meeting new friends. So we look forward to seeing you all soon!

In this issue you can read about Zara's experience on the new pet flight service between Tasmania and other States.

There is also an update on the petition seeking to end government funding of greyhound racing in Tasmania. HVDWA has joined with the RSPCA and a number of other animal welfare organisations to ask the government to end the taxpayer subsidy of the industry and change the plight of greyhounds. See page 3 for further information.



Tara (left) and Zari (above) are both rehomed racing greyhounds

Celebrating Christmas & 10th Anniversary of HVDWA!

In early December 2021, members of HVDWA gathered for the annual Christmas Party and also to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the HVDWA. A very special thanks to our hosts. While it was a bit cool and windy and occasionally showers threatened, every one had a great time, especially the dogs who loved the pond and space to run around and play. Around 20 dogs and not a growl all afternoon!

We were delighted that a number of special guests were able to attend. They included Tanzi Lewis, Hobart Dog Walking Association and Tony Walch, Kingborough Dog Walking Association, both of whom provided valuable advice and assistance during the formation of HVDWA. Some early members of the club also attended.



A lovely walk in Copper Alley Bay before the party

A Certificate of Appreciation from The Dogs' Homes of Tasmania thanked HVDWA for fund raising efforts during those 10 years (right)



Member No 1 had the pleasure of cutting the special 10 year birthday cake



Hogging the ball



Willow after exploring the pond



Listening attentively to the President's welcome



Party dogs



Parties can be so exhausting

Petition against cruelty to greyhounds

People sometimes gaze at their dogs and say 'if only he/she could talk"! It's true of course that they can't in any conventional human sense of the word. But any dog lover knows they are supremely effective communicators in their own doggy way. When it comes to things that affect their welfare we have to be their advocates. In the last few years greyhounds have joined the brigade of labradors and poodle crosses and bitzers etc and become frequent and welcome participants in the thriving scene at the local dog parks, beaches and cafes. Now a loud call is going out for dog owners to mobilise in large numbers and take ten seconds to make a stand on behalf of the goofy newcomers and their unfortunate brethren still languishing in Tasmania's all too often lethal dog racing 'industry'.

A petition to State Parliament was launched last month with the support of the RSPCA, the Companion Animal Network of Australia, The Dogs' Homes of Tasmania (Tasmanian Canine Defence League) and several other dog advocacy organisations.

There is nothing radical about the petition. It simply calls on the State Government and the Labor Opposition to stop providing taxpayer money to prop up dog racing. The petition has rapidly become the most popular on the Parliamentary petitions website with over 3,000 signatures. The target is 12,000 by the cut-off date of June 9, which would make it the biggest petition ever in Tasmania. With so many dog lovers in Tasmania (well over 40 per cent of households contain a dog) the numbers support the objective.

Greyhounds are no different to any other canine. It's their rotten luck that they run fast, so some people like to bet on them for fun. As anyone who has encountered one at the dog park knows, they're friendly, goofy and laid-back and make ideal pets. The majority of doting pet lovers agree that in 2022 there is no good reason why the greyhound breed should continue to be the permanent underdog of the canine world, discriminated against, and singled out for a short, miserable, often painful life shuffled around between locations and trainers and even exported overseas in pursuit of a last shabby buck or two.

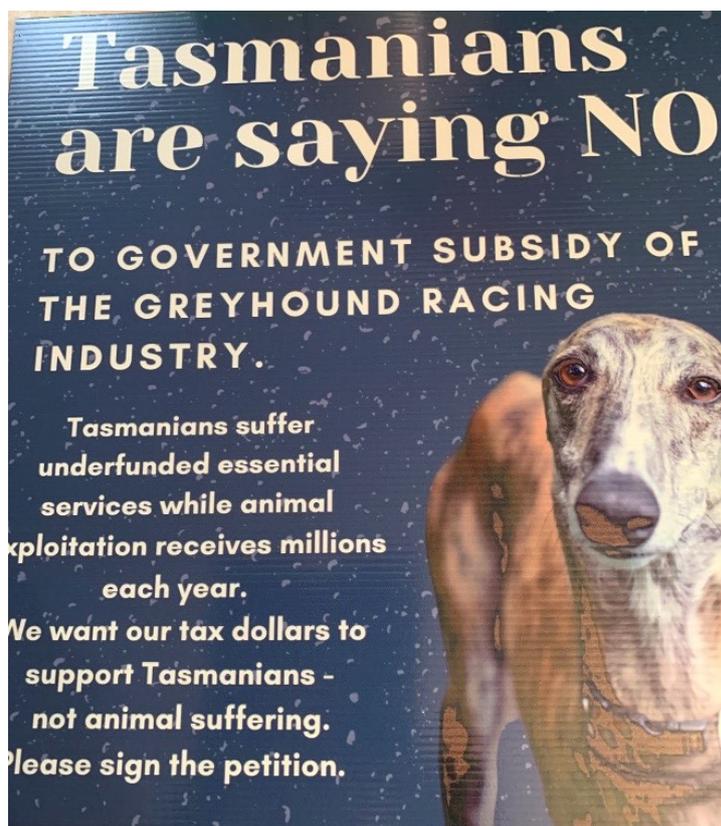
If you've looked closely at a greyhound you'll have spotted the delicacy of the limbs and the fact that you can see daylight through them, along with the fine tracery of blood vessels. Just picture what happens if six or eight of these dogs collide into each other or a barrier at 70 km/h. Last year the Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds reported 171 track deaths and a staggering 10,198 injuries. It's not widely known that Tasmania actually props up this carnage with our hard earned taxpayer dollars. It is the last straw in the minds of many. And it has people signing and spreading the word....

The petition can be found at <https://haepetitions.parliament.tas.gov.au/haepet/Home/TermsAndConditions/98>

Volunteer to help: Greyhound Rehabilitation Enthusiasts Association of Tas. (GREAT) on Facebook or email huondogwalkers@gmail.com



Collecting signatures at Cygnet Market with help from Huckleberry and Suzie



New Dogs on the Block!

Hello! Allow us to introduce ourselves. We are Helen, an 11 year old Golden Retriever and Amanda (Mandy), a 6 year old Beaglier, and we are very happy to be living in the Huon Valley here in Tasmania. We arrived from Perth in Western Australia in late September 2021 and it has been an interesting, challenging and fun time learning how to live in a quite different place than we've been used to. Fortunately, we trust our human friends Alison and Evan have made the right decision for this next stage of our lives and so far so good!

Evan and Alison left for Tasmania before us as they were driving across the Nullabor Plain and thought we, and that 21 year old cat Peach who lives with us, wouldn't enjoy the long trip so much. We have to say they were actually right and we got to have a wonderful couple of weeks staying with Chris and Gavin who live at Cottesloe Beach and we had such a lovely time there. Thanks Chris and Gav for making us feel so at home, taking us on such lovely walks by the beach and giving us lots of cuddles!

We'd like to share with you a couple of things we have experienced since leaving Perth Airport on the morning of 24 September.

We guess the most momentous thing was flying on a plane directly from Perth to Hobart and being quite surprised at how cold it was on our arrival. After lots of cuddles, kisses (yeech!) and more cuddles, Evan and Alison drove us to our new home in Ranelagh.

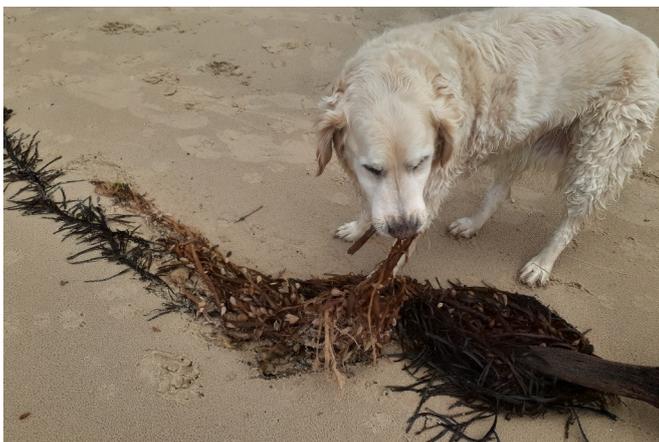
We were amazed to find we were being driven through light snow drifts on our way to our new home! We had never seen such a thing in our lives before and wondered if perhaps we had arrived in an altogether new country! Turns out Tasmania is a lot colder than WA and we have to say we are rather enjoying that fact.

It is so nice to be able to spend such a lot of time outside during the summer and to sleep indoors with fresh air and not the continual hum of an air conditioner.

We also want to acknowledge that Evan and Alison were very smart becoming members of the Huon Valley Dog Walking Association (HVDWA) in October. We were made to feel so welcome and it has meant we have been able to enjoy some very lovely off-lead walks at Randalls Bay, Geeveston and Verona Sands with lots of other dog friends of all shapes and sizes.



Mandy and Helen at Perth Airport



Helen sampling the seaweed at Verona Sands.....



.....while Mandy is just enjoying the sunshine

Helen is a particularly social dog who loves to spend time with other dogs and humans so is in her element. Mandy is a little shy and not so quick to make friends but is finding the regular dog walks and opportunities to socialize is really assisting her in working on her social skills and interactions with other dogs. Alison and Evan have also taken us on a number of occasions to the dog-friendly area at Kingston Beach and we just love it there!

And on top of all this we were so excited to be invited to a Christmas Party and celebration of the 10 year anniversary of the HVDWA in December.

It was so much fun, there were yummy doggie treats supplied, so many dogs all running around and having the best time and we understand there was even a cake for our human friends shaped like a doggie bone!

All in all we'd just like to say that we are really enjoying our new life here in Tasmania and the variety of interesting walks and outings we've had so far.

We are really looking forward to this year and continuing to meet such kind people who look after their dogs so well and obviously care about them so much.



Enjoying Kingston Beach!



Time for a rest before our next adventure

And now, as you can see, we're a bit tired, so we'd better have a quick snooze before Evan and Alison take us for our daily walk down to the river close by – there is so much to sniff and see there we can't wait!

Welcome to Tasmania Helen, Mandy, Alison and Evan!



Saturday 2 April
10.00am - 2.00pm
Cradoc Hall, Channel Highway,
Cradoc

As always, the HVDWA is raising funds for our own projects to benefit facilities for dogs around the Huon and to help worthy Tasmanian charities that support dogs in need.

Please help us by visiting our Garage Sale—always a great bargain to be had.

Donations of suitable items are welcome
Call 0424 504 043 for further information

First class for jet-setting Zara!

Zara has always been an intrepid traveller. Like most dogs she loves car travel and she has previously made several voyages across Bass Strait on the Spirit of Tasmania. Now she can add flight to her passport!

At this point we should explain that Zara will turn 17 on 25 April this year! She is a mixed breed of Chihuahua, Australian Terrier and Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and came from a pet shop at about 11 weeks of age in the old days when that was where you got a dog. She has lived in 5 different houses, including this new one in Tasmania, which is by far her favourite.



On 3rd January David arranged with Fiona ("Fi") of PawMobile to take Zara to Essendon Fields airport for check in for her flight to Hobart. Once there she met all her travelling companions in the Club Lounge before being placed into her pet suite (which is a one off purchase if you do not already have your own). Prior to boarding treats and toys were provided to the guests before they were transferred onto the executive twin engine propeller plane for the journey to Tassie.

It appears Zara was not too distraught by the flight and Fi informed Genevieve on arrival that Zara relaxed and slept throughout the journey. She was perfectly fine after disembarking at Cambridge Airport, although the look on her face in the photo perhaps reflects her antipathy towards captivity.



Ready to go



Safe arrival in Hobart

Pawmobile was the company that organised this executive travel and although the fare was not budget priced the one off purchase of the cage was included, so that any future trips will not be as expensive. There is a 10% discount for seniors and the seniors get to sit behind Fi, who accompanies the guests over the Strait.

Fi looked after Zara exceptionally well. We were lucky to get Zara on a flight to Hobart as the flight is usually to Devonport but when that occurs Fi takes the dogs to their various destinations in Tasmania by road. Hopefully, more Hobart flights will be offered – both ways! A great service!!!



FIRST WALKS FOR 2022!

ALL WALKS COMMENCE AT 10.30AM unless specified.

Don't forget to bring poo bags and water for your dog(s). And please take used poo bags with you! Each walk takes around 1 hour.

If the weather looks inclement on walk day, please check our Facebook page or website www.dogwalkingtas.org.au

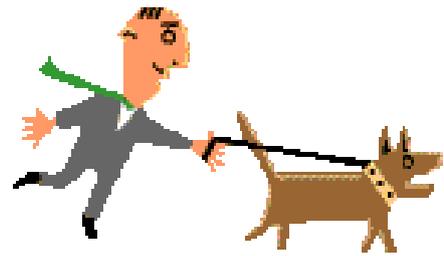
Saturday 19 February, KENT BEACH, DOVER. Take the Huon Highway south from Huonville to Dover, drive through the township and turn down Kent Road (on your left) then proceed past the Caravan Park until you come to a sign on the right-hand side of the road which says "Dog Exercise Area". Park near here then dogs can go off lead along a lovely beach. The beach is rather close to the road so if your dog does not have a good recall you may prefer to keep it on lead.

Tuesday 8 March, CALVERT PARK, JUDBURY. Turn off at the Huonville Bridge and follow the Glen Huon Road for about 21kms until you come to another bridge at Judbury. Once over this bridge you will see the entrance to Calvert Park on your left, turn in and park here. This is an on-lead walk which includes a very scenic walk next to the river.

Saturday 19 March, Copper Alley Bay. Drive into Cygnet and proceed through the town and the roundabout, keeping the Service Station on your left. Go past the Yacht Club and drive for about 4kms when you will come to a bridge. Once over the bridge turn left into Nichols Road and drive down to the water's edge. This is an on-lead walk which is very pretty and popular.

Sunday 10 April, HERITAGE PARK, GEEVESTON. Meet at the main car park behind the Town Hall, walk across Heritage Park to the Platypus Walk, then follow the river as far as the steps at the end of the walk. We then ascend the steps to cross the road, taking care at the top of the steps as the footpath is narrow. Across the road, continue to walk along the river bank and around Memorial Park to the RSL. Pass the RSL and return across the road, down the steps and back along Platypus Walk until we reach the fenced dog walking area where all dogs can go off lead and run and play. We might even see a platypus!

Thursday 28 April, RANDALLS BAY. If coming from Huonville drive through Cygnet (turn left at the roundabout) then drive south along the Channel Highway until you come to the turnoff to Randalls Bay. Drive down the hill and park near the barbecue area. Dogs must be on lead until we are past the barbecue area then they can be off lead for a nice run and a swim.



Note: As at time of publication COVID-19 restrictions apply. For further information refer to <https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au/>

Off lead and under control ?

Several of our walks are 'off-lead' but please be aware that , under the Dog Act, it is the owners responsibility to keep their dog under control and in sight at all times.

We love to see our dogs running free and playing together but sometimes there maybe a distraction or situation where your dog is not responding to you as he/she normally would and needs to go back on the lead. You may need to put your dog on a lead if he or she:

- Has poor recall
- Has a habit of running off out of your sight
- Is aggressive or upsetting other dogs
- Is behaving in a way that endangers itself or others
- Any other situation where you feel that you don't have control of your dog.

In addition to putting a dog on lead for the behaviours outlined, it is an owners prerogative to have their dog on lead during any of the walks if they feel it is in the best interest of the dog.

We hope this information helps you and your dog to have a fun and relaxing walk.

New Members Welcome

If you'd like to become a member, simply fill out this form and send it to the address below or, join us on a walk and deliver it personally!

Membership Application/Renewal form Huon Valley Dog Walking Association (Inc)

To October 2022

Member No (if known).....

Name (s).....

Address

Dog(s) Name(s).....

Phone(s).....

Email (Please print).....

Amount tendered \$..... subscription for

\$20.00 Single Membership OR \$25.00 Family Membership

My Dog(s) vaccination is current (Yes/No).....

You and your dog(s) participate in Huon Valley Dog Walking Association walks and activities at your own risk. The responsibility for your safety and the safety of your dog rests with you as a responsible member of the Association.

Signed: Date: _ / _ / _ _ _

Enquiries to: PO Box 186, Huonville, Tas 7109
Ph: 0424 504 043 or email: huondogwalkers@gmail.com

Pay: Huon Valley Dog Walking Association (Inc.)

Cash/Cheque/ EFT BSB – 633000 Account No – 144419819

Reference is your surname: _____ or your membership number if you have one.

**Please forward this form with payment to the above address if paying by post.
A receipt and membership card will be issued for new members.**

TOV