



TAILS OF THE VALLEY

Newsletter

Huon Valley Dog Walking Association

huondogwalkers@gmail.com

www.dogwalkingtas.org.au

Dogs love exploring!

As the weather starts to get a bit cooler we have some great walks coming up for you and your canine companion! There's a great mix of beach, forest and local park places in the beautiful Huon Valley which we enjoy exploring together. Check out the list on Page 5. We always have fun and our dogs make the most of being out with each other and finding lots of new scents to sniff.

If you haven't joined us for a walk yet, now is the time to start!



Member Buster—a real gentleman!

Talking of exploring, did you know that there is a new free app, **Pawsome Places**, which helps dog owners find dog-friendly things to see and do in their local area and when they are travelling?

The developer, Alex May, researched and compiled thousands of dog-friendly places around Australia including bush walks, beaches, culture, wineries and more. While he found some amazing places online, he said the best tips often come from app users.

It's free! Check it out on the Facebook User Group (www.facebook.com/groups/pawsomeplaces)

Also in this issue:

- 🐾 Fundraising results
- 🐾 Therapy Paws Tasmania
- 🐾 Seeing Eye Dogs
- 🐾 HVDWA QR code

ABOUT THE HVDWA...

The Huon Valley Dog Walking Association Inc. was started in October 2011 by a group of people who perceived the need for improved facilities for dog walking in the Huon Valley. HVDWA is a member of Tasmanian Dog Walking Clubs (www.dogwalkingtas.org.au). Contact details are on the membership form on Page 6 or find us on facebook.

The main aims of the Association are to:

- Help establish and maintain safe dog exercise areas in our towns and monitor access for dogs at local beaches and public walking tracks.
- To have social walks on a regular basis.
- To help improve the image of dogs in general through safe practices, education and training.
- To promote responsible dog ownership.



Updates

Fundraising

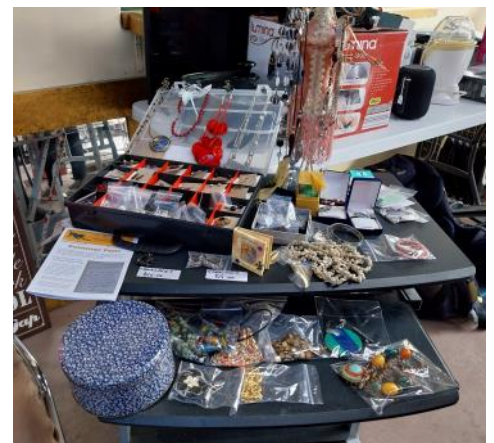
The garage sale at Cradoc Hall on 13 April raised \$878.50. Our garage sales are busy and fun events, especially when the weather is kind as it was this day. We are always amazed at the range and variety of donations. And lots of keen customers snapped up some great bargains!

An additional amount of \$520.85 was raised with a raffle with prizes of gift vouchers at Petstock, Mitre 10 and DS Café in Huonville. Congratulations to the four lucky winners who were very happy with their prizes!

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the garage sale, those who assisted during the day and to everyone who purchased raffle tickets.

Donation

As a result of these successful fundraising activities, a donation of \$600 has been made to a wonderful organization, Therapy Paws Tasmania. Read more about Therapy Paws on the next page...



QR Code You may notice above that HVDWA now has a QR Code which will provide quick access to all the information on our website: www.dogwalkingtas.org.au.

Therapy Paws Tasmania

Lisa Farrall

I was a Registered Nurse for many years in WA. With 2 children who were both in need of medical treatment for quite a few years I witnessed first hand the effect that other therapies had on both children and adults alike. Music therapy, Pet therapy, Clown Doctors, Radio Lollipop (in WA) had huge benefits for the wellbeing of the patients and their families.

On arriving here in Hobart nearly 10 years ago, my husband and I joined the Hobart Dog Obedience Club with our 2 Brittany's, Faith and young Teddy. Through this club we formed many friendships and joined the Scentwork and Tracking community. After having many discussions with these communities I was strongly encouraged to set up Therapy Paws Tasmania with another dog training colleague, Danielle Morris.



Faith, Teddy and Baloo celebrating Easter at Ambulance Tasmania

After some long weeks and months and a considerable amount of our own money, we started the business in November 2021, both of us juggling our other day jobs. In February 2022 I needed to dedicate full time hours to Therapy Paws Tas. St Helens Private Hospital were the first to take us on board and we did 2 days a week until they closed. Ambulance Tasmania were next to take us on and we have been there since December 2021.

The rest as they say is now history. We now visit everywhere from the north of the state to the south and even the west. We have 13 teams currently that have all been assessed and visit different facilities throughout each month and 4 more in training to join us soon.

The money you have so generously donated to us will be used for a visit to Ronald McDonald House, the Paediatric unit at the RHH, Headspace in Hobart and an Aged Care facility.



Monica & Louis



Teddy at Ambulance Tasmania fixed wing 2

Seeing Eye Dogs

Most of us will have seen Seeing Eye Dogs from time to time and marvelled at the ease with which they seem to guide people with impaired vision around the streets. As we are also tempted to get closer to these beautiful dogs we asked Vision Australia about the etiquette around working dogs.

Seeing Eye Dogs help people who are blind or have low vision to move through the community more freely, allowing them to maintain active and independent lives. They are trained to indicate changes in elevation eg. stairs, kerbs and drop offs that could be hazardous to their handlers, navigate around obstacles including tripping hazards, bins or poles, overhanging branches and even around people in crowds and to target and indicate objects like doors, seats and pedestrian crossing buttons.

A Seeing Eye Dog like Kirby (photo right) can often be identified by a harness, a body piece that wraps around the back and on the shoulders with a stiff metal handle off the back. When a Seeing Eye Dog is wearing a harness, they are 'working', guiding the person known as the 'handler'.

Etiquette around working dogs

When a Seeing Eye Dog is at work, they are trained to ignore distractions. They are also still dogs so it's helpful for others to be mindful and try to avoid distracting the dog.



Cassie and Neisha

Why can't you touch a Seeing Eye Dog?

Pats and cuddles from dog lovers may be well-intentioned, but they distract Seeing Eye Dogs from their important job. Never distract, feed or touch a Seeing Eye Dog at work without express permission from their handler.

Can my dog sniff or greet a Seeing Eye Dog?

If you are walking your pet dog by a Seeing Eye Dog, please keep them under control and on a leash to pass by without distraction. It's important not to let your pet dogs sniff and greet a Seeing Eye Dog while they're working to keep the team safe.

How can I help someone with a Seeing Eye Dog? If you meet someone who is blind or has low vision, remember that they may not require any assistance. The best approach is to ask the person if they would like any help, and don't assume that they do. You don't need to avoid offering help to someone with a Seeing Eye Dog, but remember that it's polite to speak directly to the person rather than their dog.

Where can Seeing Eye Dogs go in Australia? A Seeing Eye Dog can legally accompany their handler in any public space including restaurants, retail outlets, public transport, taxis, ride-share and more. There are very few exemptions to this law including with operating theatres and certain sections in zoos.

It's illegal to discriminate against a person for using a Seeing Eye Dog.

You can read more about access rights at [Rights of Seeing Eye Dogs | Seeing Eye Dogs Australia \(visionaustralia.org\)](https://www.visionaustralia.org/)

Don't forget to bring poo bags and water for your dog(s). And please take used poo bags with you! All walks commence at 10.30am unless specified and take around 1 hour.

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

Tuesday 30 April – Franklin Foreshore: Meet in the car park below Osteria @ Petty Sessions. Dogs must be on lead until we are past the Caravan Park. They can then go off lead until we reach the Wooden Boat Shed and once again there is the opportunity for a play and a swim before we return the same way.

Saturday 11 May – 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.

Thursday 23 May – Ranelagh: Meet at the car park off Marguerite Street at the Ranelagh Recreation Area. Dogs can have a great run and play in the dog exercise area.

Saturday 8 June - Peppers Road, Geeveston: Drive to Geeveston, turn onto Arve Road and follow this road, going straight ahead without taking any turnings, until you are off the tar seal and Arve Road becomes a gravel road. Take this road for another 2kms when you will see Peppers Road on the left. Park on the side of the road and then we will go for a bush walk on a nice wide road. There may be wallabies in the bush so if your dog doesn't have a good recall it might be wise to keep it on lead, otherwise the dogs can go off lead. There will be one of our banners marking the entrance to Peppers Road.

Sunday 30 June—Verona Sands: If coming from Huonville, drive south through Cygnet (turn left at roundabout) then drive south along the Channel Highway for about 14kms (keep going past the Randalls Bay turn-off) until you come to the sign for Verona Sands. Turn right into Doyle Avenue then right again into Lovering Ave, following the signs to the toilets. Park here, then go down to the beach and let the dogs off for a lovely play and swim.

Friday 12 July – Crabtree - Take the Huon Highway to the Grove Store, turn into Mountain River Road then take the first left into Crabtree Road, follow this for about 2.5 km then turn left into Cross Road, the turning for Lucaston. Park on the grass area and then walk along for about 2kms then return. This is all on lead and is another scenic walk.

Sunday 21 July —Randalls Bay: If coming from Huonville, drive south through Cygnet, turn left at the roundabout and 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 go off lead to enjoy the beach.



Off lead and under control ?

Several of our walks are 'off-lead' but please be aware that, under the Dog Control 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 2024

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