

## Trainer's Reports

**O**n Wednesday, 25th August a visit was made for the purpose of completing the Partnership Evaluation for Guy and Sara. This visit completed the hand-over phase of Sara to Guy. The next planned visit will be in 6 months time to re-evaluate the partnership.

Guy and his family have stated that they are very happy with Sara, who has now become a much loved member of the family. The relationship between Guy and Sara appears to be working very well and there have been no problems. Sara appears to be in good condition both physically and emotionally and her performance of tasks is excellent. Sara's walks consist only of a short walk down the drive to the main gate. However, combined with regular play sessions several times a week with Guy's neighbour's dog, Tyro, this seems to be sufficient to maintain Sara's weight within a healthy range.

Formal trainer instruction with Ann Barnacoat commenced this month. Ann shows great enthusiasm and commitment to her new role as dog trainer and has made good progress with Barnaby's training. His performance of tasks and behaviour during public access activities are both excellent. Barnaby appears to possess both the cognitive ability and the temperament necessary for success as an assistance dog.

*Pauline Dickerson, ASDOG Trainer & Training Coordinator*



*Above: Sara calmly meets one of the horses*

*Left: Settling in with the family*

*Below: Helping Guy open the door*



*Above: Barnaby working on retrieving objects with Ann*

*Right: Barnaby & Ruby socialising with Guide Dog Newman*



**B**arnaby is keen to work for food and treats. He fetches and carries when asked, taking things from a to b and puts things in a specific place when told. He is making good progress with push, tug, and now 'lift' as in lifting the toilet seat, and lifting the footplates on the wheelchair. He is starting to tug off my jacket and shoes.

Public access training is all good so far. Doctor's and Dentist's surgeries posed no problems. Shopping centres, escalators, travelators have also been done regularly and Barnaby takes it all in his stride. School playground twice a week is also enjoyed.

The vet recently commented on Barnaby's temperament by saying she wished they were all like him! Her comment on his weight for size was "perfect".

Barnaby displays good dog park behaviour, and I have been told he's welcome at the Guide Dog socialisation days anytime. He goes to those one a month. Last time 15 dogs were there and he was very well behaved.

*.Ann Barnacoat, ASDOG Trainer*

# Newsletter

No. 32  
WINTER  
2010



The Quarterly Newsletter of Australian Support Dogs, Inc.

## From the Management Committee...

A lot has been happening at ASDOG this winter.

Our Assistance-Dog-In-Training, Sara, has been placed with her recipient, Guy, who lives on the outskirts of Sydney with his family. As you will see from the photographs, Sara is really enjoying her new country lifestyle.



Sara enjoys her new home in the country

Barnaby has been to visit her – actually Barnaby has been visiting all sorts of people and places – so many, in fact, that his official biographer, Joan, has had trouble keeping up with him! A number of his outings were public engagements and you will be able to catch up on them as well as some of his off-duty exploits in this newsletter.

Barnaby has graduated from Puppy Raising to Assistance-Dog-in-Training, and we are thrilled to tell you that our wonderful Puppy Raiser, Ann Barnacoat, is going to undertake

Barnaby's training, under the watchful and experienced eye of our Training Coordinator, Pauline Dickerson.

And some more exciting news - we are in the process of acquiring two Labrador puppies, and as soon as they are available they will go to their Puppy Raisers. More on them in our next newsletter.

Thank you all for your continued interest in ASDOG and support of our activities. As always we welcome your feedback and suggestions. Please don't hesitate to contact us, and please note that we have a new PO Box Number – P.O. Box 5492, West Chatswood NSW 1515.

**Danielle Press,**  
President, ASDOG



## Thank You...

We have received assistance and donations from the following people and organisations. Thank you all for your generosity.

- Mr and Mrs J. Almgren • Back to Eden Pty Ltd
- Judy and Gary Blackler • Helen Grant
- Inner Wheel Club of North Sydney • Neil Jones
- Lions Club of Berowra • V. Moller • Trisha Reid
- H. Tatham • Jan Wiseman

Welcome to New Members: M. and P. Hurley

Our special thanks to Moyna Smeaton of Concept Press for doing the Newsletter layout for us. Her new email address if you need a graphic designer is moynzart@skymesh.com.au

And thanks also to Belrose Bowling Club for allowing us to use one of their rooms for our monthly meetings.

## Life Membership of ASDOG

We recently extended Life Membership of ASDOG to Peter Bennett, founder, figure head and former President of ASDOG, and to Pam Livingstone, long time Treasurer and Secretary of ASDOG, and tireless supporter of ASDOG's work. Although now retired from ASDOG they still keep in touch.

Here are a few of Peter's memories from those years:

"I have fond memories of the 10 odd years I spent founding and running ASDOG and being President.

My involvement was a combination of blood, sweat and tears. Particularly when I recall the many hours spent out and about selling \$2 button badges - our only revenue source initially. There were Catja and I, Allan on crutches with Zuga, Ann and a puppy she was raising, Ian in his wheelchair, Sue with her family dog, Pam, Rita and of course our wonderful trainers. We ran the baby contest in the early days, as well, to obtain greater exposure in support of our badge selling.

Locations were as varied as Erina Shopping Town, where we enlisted the help of Erina High school students to help us sell badges, shopping centres at Blacktown, Penrith, Bonnyrigg, Forestville, St Ives Village, Merrylands, Campbelltown, Marrickville, Brookvale, Warriewood, as well as Circular Quay ferry wharf, Manly Wharf, Darling Harbour, and many other locations that escape me at the moment.

It was a real tear jerker when Bonny, our first trained assistance dog, was placed with Del Baker, who came down from Tamworth for final training with Bonny. Del commented casually that her life was about to change forever, as Bonny would open the front door for her so she could get outdoors whenever she wanted to... This of course was only the beginning of several such matchings of grateful recipients with trained assistance dogs.

Particular thanks must go to supporters like John and Yvonne Almgren, who have been there for us since the beginning.

Thank you everyone for helping to continue my original dream."

And Pam has told us:

"I remember well every dog that went through the program. Every one of them a testimony to the dedication of our small team."



Jed and Peter spectating at a car race at Bathurst recently.



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## Life on Barnaby's Paws

**A**s Barnaby's appointed biographer, I was recently privileged to have an exclusive interview with the cutest guy around these days! I enjoyed a delightful hour with him as he demonstrated his skills with his usual willingness and honesty. Here is a transcript of the way things progressed!

**Joan Minns, Barnaby's Personal Biographer and ASDOG Committee Member**

**Joan:** Hi Barnaby! I would love to hear what you think of your life as a trainee Support dog for ASDOG?

**Barnaby:** Wow, it's just great! I do love the work and the pay is, well,, 'pawfect' actually. I get a never-ending supply of Kibble which is a just reward for my helping out I think. And thank you very much for asking me. (I even have impeccable manners.)

**Joan:** You've recently celebrated your first birthday and have now graduated on to your formal training, so how does it feel to have become a big lad and be in full training for the job?

**Barnaby:** Well, it's funny you've asked me that as life was just fine as a 'puppy in training', but now that I'm a big lad it's becoming even more fun, believe me! Life is just grand as a support dog in training, and I'm having the time of my life...

I now have my own personal City Rail travel pass and can go on

*Right: Barnaby at Circular Quay  
Below: Barnaby as a work of art at the NSW Art Gallery*



trains with my trainer, which has widened our experiences no end. I am such a good boy now - I even get to go FOOD shopping! (My trainer says that as I am such a good boy, she is happy and proud to take me anywhere.) I have even experienced a bit of culture, when I recently visited the NSW Art Gallery, and everybody just adored me, so that was nice.

So, all in all, becoming a big lad is getting me to some places you'd never normally see any self respecting dog. My trainer maintains that it's my persona that does it (whatever that is - I have no idea). Whatever, I'm just having a great time. Do you have any more questions?

**Joan:** Okay Barnaby, do tell me what you do on a typical day then...

**Barnaby:** Loads of things really. I pick up my toys and other things of course, then I might fetch the TV remote for my trainer so that she can relax with a bit of TV therapy!

We do loads of training walks where I'm not supposed to even look at those tempting discarded takeaways, but I do get more Kibble in exchange so that's okay.

If we are indoors, I help out by opening/closing doors when asked and I also retrieve the phone when it rings. Of course I get even MORE kibble for being so helpful so I'm quite happy to help out...

### Update on Jedda

**W**e recently received an email update on Jedda, who you may remember went to Corrective Services NSW to be trained as a mobile phone sniffer dog. We are thrilled with Jedda's prowess at this job! This is the email from Angela West at the Department of Corrective Services, 13th August 2010:

*Jedda recently had to do a display for the Minister of Corrective Services and I told him about how Jedda came to be in our care, and he was absolutely amazed at her abilities.*

*There is a media release from Minister Costa on the Corrective Services NSW website about the mobile phone program which mentions a number of finds that Jedda made. Jedda was also on Channel Nine news on 12th August.*

*Jedda as you know is one of two K9s only in the country detecting mobile phones in Australian Prisons. Of the 20 mobile phones detected inside NSW correctional centres this past 8 months, 12 were found by Jedda.*



*She also went to Victoria and competed in the Service Dog Trials which have Police, Customs, Army, Corrections and Fire Services from all states competing in various detection categories. She came 3rd in the non narcotic detection category - this was amazing and she is just a pleasure to be around.*  
**Angela West, Department of Corrective Services**

**Excerpt from Minister Costa's Media Release 12/8/10:**

- Dawn DeLoas Correctional Centre at Silverwater - Jedda detected a mobile phone which was hidden in an accommodation wing, the phone was located 1.5 metres inside a clothes dryer air vent pipe.

To read the full Media Release go to:

[www.correctiveservices.nsw.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/206524/20100812-mobile-phone-sniffing-dogs-catch-prisoners-contraband.pdf](http://www.correctiveservices.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/206524/20100812-mobile-phone-sniffing-dogs-catch-prisoners-contraband.pdf)

I am learning new ways to help each day (I especially look out for dropped items 'cos I know that is good and gets me more wages. It's a doddle really you know...)

I'll let you in on a secret, learning to become a support dog is a smashing job and is actually a lot of fun.

**Joan:** Okay, I would like to hear from a dog's point of view more about learning to be a qualified ASDOG.

**Barnaby:** In one word, "FANTASTIC"! Of course the hours are long but the job is so much fun. I LOVE the pay and I can never get enough of it! I am loved very much and played with... plus, I get to go swimming in my spare time.

Now that I have graduated from a puppy to a big lad I have got more privileges and I look forward to my final graduation day. Meanwhile I wear my 'in training' jacket proudly.

I have to say that life is pretty good as I'm getting to go to even more places nowadays. Thank you very much for asking me about my life in training.

**Joan:** Do you think you'll have much more to learn?

**Barnaby:** I'll need to know loads more things and I am ready for it! I hear I will be learning to press buttons at traffic lights, press the light switches indoors, help with the laundry and removing clothing for my eventual recipient.

I had a chat with my friend Jade the other day and she is the REAL support dog so she knows loads of things, and she says that one day someone dropped an ENORMOUS parcel right in her lady's front doorway. Since that then meant they couldn't go out, well, Jade soon worked that one out - she pushed the parcel clear of the doorway quick as a flash!

Just like me, Jade get loads of kibble for being so clever but mostly, she just wanted to go for a lovely walk I think...

Well, it's been pawtastic telling you about my life. If we are done for now, I'd quite enjoy a little nap please?

*So it's B.F.N. with cuddles and a lick from Barnaby.*

## Out and About with Barnaby in August

Barnaby went to the Dentist's:



And to the Doctor's with friend Val, and then on to Westfield Shopping Centre



Barnaby's first attempt at using the ATM (the photo's a bit blurred - he was so quick and the photographer so excited!)



Catching up with friends, ASDOG Jade & KCC Oliver

