

# Listen Up!

## Hearing Dogs

SUMMER - 2012 • ISSUE 30



## Welcome to the Summer Edition

**We hope you had a great Christmas and New Year and are enjoying the summer sun – when it shows itself!**

We have some staff changes at Hearing Dogs and welcome Rod Warne, as our new Groundskeeper and Kennel Assistant, as we farewell Jess Erb after four years.

In this issue we celebrate some of our volunteers without whom we couldn't provide this valuable service. We also announce our new Patron and keep you up to date with our Dogs in Training.



## Introducing Russell and Mac

**When I was first interviewed by Clare in June 2010, I did not expect to obtain a "Hearing Dog" so soon.**

However, I was summoned to New Plymouth the following August where I was introduced to Mac. He was called Mac because he was thrown from a moving car outside McDonalds in New Plymouth (originally Big Mac) and was taken to the Pound where the Hearing Dog staff found him dirty, dishevelled and very

frightened. After receiving much love and attention from the team he passed all the assessments and proved very capable, hence he was matched up with me.

I have had a number of dogs over time and any dog I got had to be very resilient and robust as I spend a lot of time in the mountains at a Lodge we have there. I had never had an inside dog before and my training with Mac was a steep learning curve. I said I wanted a medium-sized dog, but the trainer felt Mac and I would match. I've never really been a fan of small dogs before, but they sure grow on you.

Mac is brilliant around the house as I don't always hear if there is someone at the door or if the telephone is ringing. He is a very dedicated worker who takes his sound work seriously.

He passed his first annual assessment with flying colours and Clare was

really impressed with his behaviour in public. Mac comes with me almost everywhere and being a small town it is not unusual for a child

or someone to call out to him when we are out and about.

He loves playing with the grandchildren who are not short of finding new tricks for Mac to perform.

Mac is a very faithful companion and also has time to be a real dog as well as being a working dog.



(Photo by Edith Leigh)

(Photo by Edith Leigh)



# Socialisers Annette and Chris

**Annette and partner Chris from New Plymouth have been involved with Hearing Dogs since 2005. Annette strongly believes in contributing with time and deeds to the local community to help make it a better place to live.**

They read about Hearing Dogs and being animal lovers they contacted the National Office and Training Centre to offer their support. With Annette working shifts as an Air New Zealand flight attendant, and Chris being semi-retired, they are perfectly suited to being Hearing Dogs socialisers.

Having always had dogs, their home is open plan with a fully enclosed section which is ideal. The first Hearing Dog in Training who went to them at weekends was Charm (a Shih Tzu). Charm didn't successfully complete the training and so the lucky fallen angel became their much loved pet, along with their slightly overweight Siamese cat Oscar, who Annette says is the real star of the show and keeps all the dogs in line. Chris's daughter Thea, and her fiancé, Scott with their three children (aged four months to eight years), visit regularly with their Border Collie sheep dog.

It's great for Hearing Dogs who are in training to be in a family environment with other animals and children.



Over the summer they have had the gorgeous Frodo and standard poodle Sophie living with them. Annette says it is really interesting when there are three or more dogs in the house - the 'pack' mentality really kicks in and Oscar the cat knows it's time to retreat up onto the kitchen bench for a bit of peace and quiet.

I asked Annette if it was difficult to give the dogs back after having them in their home. "We see our role as foster parents, as being here to ensure a safe, loving and caring environment to help reinforce the Hearing Dogs training," she replied. "Our lovely furry friends have an important job and as such are only ever passing through our home, but each one makes our lives richer."

## We celebrate 10 years with volunteer Russell Lewin



Clare McLaughlin (General Manager) presents Russell with a certificate of appreciation for 10 years' service with Hearing Dogs. Russell lives in Auckland and is a public speaker for Hearing Dogs giving presentations to clubs and groups all around the greater Auckland area. He has raised a lot of money for our organisation and is always a willing volunteer and incredibly generous with his time and support.

## How you can help...



### Please get in touch if you would like to help.

Socialisers generally need to be in the New Plymouth area, however we can always use volunteers in all areas for fundraising and helping us at events.

Our annual raffle tickets will be on sale soon.

If you have the internet you can also help us raise money by doing 'Buzz the People'

surveys by email. Every time you complete a survey we receive \$1.00 and they only take a few minutes to complete.

Buzz runs surveys for all sorts of organisations ranging from Government departments to ad agencies and media companies. You can unsubscribe at any time and they never use your details for any promotional offers.

**Sign up at: [www.buzzthepeople.co.nz](http://www.buzzthepeople.co.nz)**

## Hearing Dogs has a new Patron

**We are delighted to announce that His Excellency Lieutenant General The Right Honourable Sir Jerry Mateparae, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand has become our organisation's Patron.**



Governor-General, Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae, said he was looking forward to working with the Hearing Dogs Trust: "The Hearing Dogs Trust provides a valuable service in our community with one in ten New Zealanders suffering from hearing loss that affects their daily lives. With more Hearing Dogs in the community, it helps raise awareness and educate people about Deafness. If the community is informed, it breaks down barriers and helps Deaf people to integrate better into all aspects of society."





## In Training with Terry

### Sasha

Sasha the Cocker Spaniel is doing very well in training and all going well she will complete her final assessments and we hope to have her placed with a recipient in March.



### Frodo

Our delightful little Frodo is now 10 months old and is ready to start his training. He has had a wonderful Christmas holiday with Sophie at our socialisers Annette and Chris.



### Timmy

This little guy is an 18 month old Shih Tzu who just loves attention and is very calm and placid. He came from a family in Auckland and is progressing really well with his training.



### Sophie

This gorgeous poodle was gifted to Hearing Dogs from a family who has just had twins and felt they had their hands full and couldn't provide all the attention Sophie required. Sophie is on probation and will be assessed for suitability in the next few weeks.



## Jess is moving on

**After four years with Hearing Dogs, Jess our Groundskeeper and Kennel Assistant, has decided to study Vet Nursing at Massey.**



While we will miss Jess, we wish her all the best with her studies as she embarks on her new career.

*Jess on the new ride on mower.*

*Jess in Snoopy outfit after completing the 5km walk at the Auckland Marathon last year.*



*Jess with Muffin.*



## A new home for Ella

**Dylan was born profoundly Deaf in both ears. However this was only discovered at the beginning of last year, and in June 2011, Dylan was fitted with a Cochlear Implant in his left ear.**

Dylan's Mum and Dad noticed how positively Dylan reacted around dogs and decided a dog especially for Dylan would make a brilliant Christmas and 2nd birthday present for their little boy after such a life-changing year.

They wanted a young dog with a great temperament that was already trained, vaccinated and de-sexed, and needing a new home. They decided to contact Hearing Dogs. "It just made sense and felt right that we should look for a special dog for Dylan," says Dylan's Mother Jo.

As luck would have it, we were looking for a new home for Ella. We always like to find good homes for the dogs that aren't successful in completing the training programme, and we really felt this was the perfect home for Ella. Ella is thirteen months old and while she was doing very well with her 'sound work' training she loved to bark at people, and as Hearing Dogs have rights of Public Access, she didn't



*Terry with Dylan and Ella*

pass the 'out in the general public' test to a satisfactory level.

Dylan had just woken up from an afternoon nap when Clare and Terry from Hearing Dogs arrived in Glen Innes, Auckland with Ella after the long drive from New Plymouth. The brilliant smile on Dylan's face said it all, and Ella seemed very happy with her new home and instantly bonded with Dylan (especially after Dylan started throwing her the ball).

**Six weeks on and Dylan and Ella are reported to have become best buddies.**

You might see Dylan in the March annual appeal for the National Foundation for the Deaf.



## Help us to keep up our good work

We receive no government funding and rely on the generosity of the public, sponsors and volunteers like you.

Each Hearing Dog costs about \$13,500 to train and are gifted to recipients.



**Thank you for your help . . . it is much appreciated**

Your name

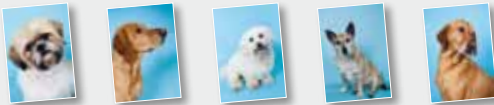
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I would like to make a donation to Hearing Dogs of:

\$

### Pack of 5 Blank cards and envelopes \$10.00



I would like  pack(s) of 5 Blank cards

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### Merchandise Sale (While stocks last)



I would like to purchase:

Bag(s) @ \$3.00 each (were \$6.00)

\$

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\$

Everyday cards @ \$1.00 each (were \$2.00)

\$

Writing pad @ \$1.00 each (were \$2.00)

\$

Total amount (a contribution towards postage is appreciated)

\$

Cheque enclosed (please make cheques payable to Hearing Dogs)

OR please debit my credit card

VISA

Mastercard

Card No.

Name

Expiry

Signature

Donations of \$5 or more are tax-deductible. We will send a receipt to the address provided



Listen Up is the official newsletter of Hearing Dogs NZ Charitable Trust

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**Our mission** is to enhance the independence and well-being of Deaf and Hearing Impaired New Zealanders through the provision of specially trained Hearing Dogs to internationally recognised standards.

