

# Listen Up!

## Hearing Dogs



### 2021 - What A Year!

As we come to the close of 2021 and reflect on the past year we feel filled with pride at what we have achieved. We have a small staff of really dedicated people and a big team of exceptional volunteers who together make the cogs of the organisation keep moving, even through a pandemic!

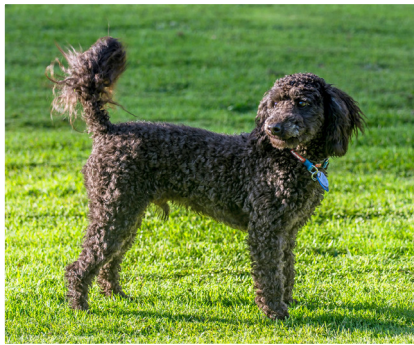
**Coming up in 2022 ...** Hearo who is a fully trained Hearing Dog will finally be able to be united with his eager recipient Howard. Sadly due to COVID restrictions in Auckland we have not been able to place him this year. Playful Jordy will be into his training 'boots & all' in the new year alongside the loveable Fergus. Puppies in socialising

Balti, Liz, Maisie & Libby are all doing well with their in-home preparation and we can't wait for them to be old enough to come into the training programme.

**We have some pretty exciting news to share -** please turn the page to read an article written by Australian Lions man Tony Fawcett to find out all about it!

**A BIG thank you to - you!** Thank you for following our progress, sharing our news, volunteering, donating and supporting us. We can't wait to see what the new year will bring for Hearing Dogs New Zealand.

# thank you!



HEARO

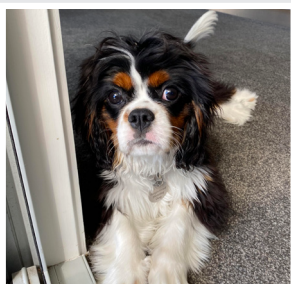


JORDY

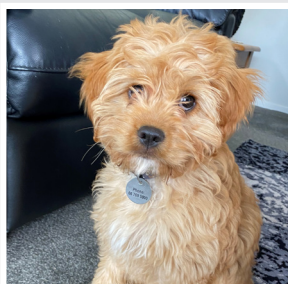


FERGUS

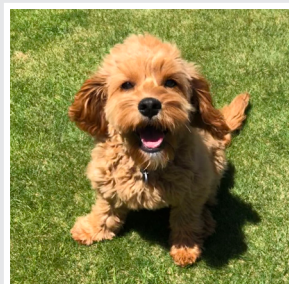
PUPPIES IN SOCIALISING



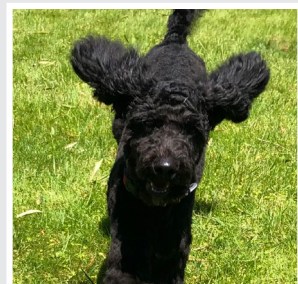
Balti



Liz



Maisie



Libby



# Lions and Hearing Dogs unite to enrich the lives of Deaf and Hearing Impaired New Zealanders

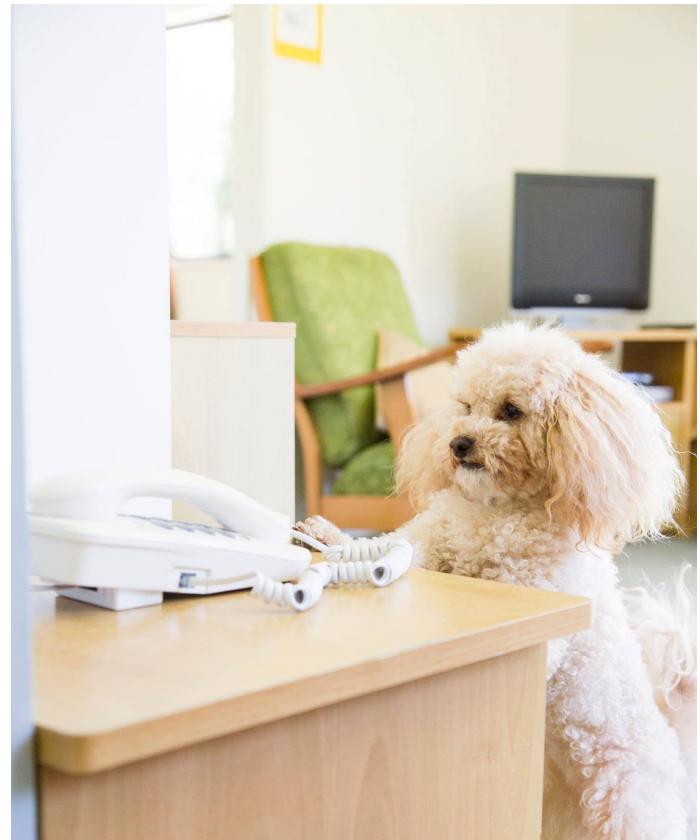
New Zealand Lions have become part of an exciting venture to aid the country's hearing impaired. **Earlier this year Lions teamed with national body Hearing Dogs NZ to support them in training hearing dogs for the deaf and hearing impaired.** Like guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs are both companions and invaluable day-to-day support animals.

They are trained to notify their owner to sounds they wouldn't otherwise hear, such as responding to doorbells, text messages, timers, smoke alarms, alarm clocks and baby monitors. They do this by gently pawing the recipient and indicating the source of the sound. In dangerous situations they drop to the floor to alert the person.

**With about 900,000 New Zealanders suffering some form of hearing loss, the role of hearing dogs is becoming ever more important.** In their initial time with a recipient, training is vital - and this is where Lions will help.

## Rostered volunteers

It's envisaged that volunteering Lions clubs will provide rostered members to visit several times a week for short periods to run through a series of home training exercises with the dog and the recipient.



The new partnership is based on a long-running and highly successful model that operates between Australian Lions clubs and the Australian Lions Hearing Dogs organisation. This NZ equivalent sprang from a tour PDG Louise Knapman took last year of Hearing Dogs headquarters in New Plymouth where she saw the dogs in action.

**"I was just so impressed with what they were doing,"** says Louise, recently appointed MD202 Hearing Coordinator. "I discovered the relationship that exists in Australia and talked to Clare Mclaughlin, Hearing Dogs New Zealand general manager, and we thought it would be a really good thing for both parties."



Lions Clubs New Zealand  
*Kia Manaaki / We Serve*





Since the initial announcement, Louise has been inundated with support from New Zealand Lions. “Right from Past International Directors to your regular Lions the feedback has been super positive,” she says. “It’s still early days but I’ve had quite a few members say **‘if a dog comes to our district I’ll be happy to get involved’**. I’ve also had zone chairs from other districts contact me because they are so excited and want to promote it.”



Ruby

## *“With a growing number suffering hearing loss, these clever canines have a big role to play”*

### **Win-win project**

Likewise, Clare Mclaughlin has welcomed the union, seeing it as a win-win situation with huge community benefits. It’s envisaged that after a year-long program to educate Lions on the workings of the co-operation, clubs will be approached to take part in training when a dog is placed in their area. Clare is hopeful Lions might also be involved in other ways. “We might for instance have a recipient who is not well and just needs a Lion to pop around and have a cup of tea with them - a bit of emotional support,” she says. “And we might have someone who applies for a Hearing Dog but has a hole in their fence, and the local Lions club might be able to help fix it.”

### **Lions logo**

The big promotional-plus is that Lions-supported Hearing Dogs will wear jackets emblazoned with the Lions logo as they go about their duties.

Established in 1998 and based in New Plymouth, Hearing Dogs sources its animals New Zealand wide, from private owners, breeders and rescue centres. The dogs have special rights in law, such as being allowed on public transport and into shops and other public places. They are gifted to their new owners but remain the property of Hearing Dogs NZ

### **Mass promotion**

Over the next Lions year, Louise plans to visit as many conventions and district cabinet meetings as possible to explain the project and get clubs and members on board. “This year will be all about information,” she says. “Once we have got everybody informed on what we are trying to do we will work on the next stage.”

**- Tony Fawcett**



## Can you help?

**Yes, I would like to support Hearing Dogs NZ**

Tick to receive emails from Hearing Dogs NZ

Name

Address

Postcode

Email

**Yes, I would like to make a one off donation**

Amount

\$

**Yes, I would like to sponsor a puppy monthly**

Amount

\$

We will send you a Puppy Sponsorship pack.

### How would you like to donate?

**Direct Debit** Hearing Dogs, Bank Account # 12 3026 0086096 00

**Credit card** Visa  Mastercard

Card No.

Name

Expiry

Signature

TICK for receipt

Donations of \$5 or more are tax deductible. Receipts can be sent upon request.

### Via our Website?

Scan the QR Code to donate directly through our website

# Get Involved!

## Scan QR Code

To find out how you can get involved with Hearing Dogs.



@HearingDogsNZ

Follow us on facebook for updates, cute dog pictures and the latest Hearing Dogs news.



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

**Maisie** - Bringing in the paper for socialisers Shirley & Colin



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

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