



Mobility Pause



How can you resist a donation to 'Boston'?

"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."

Roger Caras

When viewed in regard to Mobility Dogs' work this quotation is truly apt. The great people who unite in our vision to provide trained service dogs to New Zealanders with mobility issues – predominantly wheelchair users - all experience the personal and family benefits of sharing their lives with a Mobility Puppy. It is always a joy to hear the buzz of enthusiasm when puppy-raisers relate a new episode in their puppy's growth and development, or people they have met by being attached to a service puppy-in-training. Our recipients all report the numerous ways in which their daily lives have opened up since receiving their dogs. This spurs us on in our efforts to provide assistance dogs for more people living with mobility impairment.

In giving, we also receive from these wonderful animals which are so generous in their devotion, their forgiveness and their boundless joy in being with us.

Here's to dog-ability!

Margaret A Zubcic
Chairperson

INAUGURAL MOBILITY DOGS GOLF TOURNAMENT



The inaugural Mobility Dogs Charity Golf Tournament was the Trust's first major fundraising initiative. What a fantastic day was had by players, teams, friends and the wider Mobility Dogs family. A huge thank you to supporters, sponsors and everyone involved in the organising team, especially Mike & Jody Hogan and Blair & Michelle Smith. The spirit of the day was best exemplified by a spontaneous gesture from a member of the North Shore Club who was not playing in the tournament. One of our working teams, Michelle & 'Amber' were on the course taking team photographs.

This club member came up to Michelle and pledged \$2,000 to the Trust. Pretty amazing and we all got a huge thrill.

Twenty teams competed for "The Founder's Cup" in 4 man Ambrose format; the course was in excellent shape. The conditions were perfect until just after halfway when the fickle Auckland weather dumped a highly localised heavy rain shower, seemingly centred on the course (not a drop in the suburbs just a few kilometres away). This did nothing to dampen the spirits of the golfers as evidenced by their enthusiastic bidding at the charity auction that followed.



"Founder's Cup", Founder & Founding Dog (Bradley Mark & 'Boston') & winning team "Herbert Insurance Group"

Due to the generosity of a wonderful team of sponsors and supporters, the Charity Auction was a great success and was most ably facilitated with humour and passion by Mike Hogan and Mike Squires of Signature Golf. Several players noted that they were having a great time whilst at the same parting with their money! The Trust is delighted to announce a profit of \$22,000 which will go a long way to the development and training of dogs to be matched with potential new recipients.

"The Founder's Cup" was donated by Bradley Mark CEO, and founder, of the Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust. The



Runners up "Connell Wagner Ltd" & 'Amber'

winning team in this inaugural tournament was the "Herbert Insurance Group" (Mark Christiansen, Blair Smith, John Beckett, Ian Jagger) and runners up from "Connell Wagner Ltd" (David Allen, Carl Whitten, Karl Jones & Ben Ryder)

Planning is already underway for next year's tournament, and given the support that has been experienced this year, it is shaping up to be an even bigger and better event. Already we have had offers of assistance to help with the 2009 event – many of these offers are from people who were first introduced to Mobility Dogs at this tournament.

MEET TWO YOUNG MOBILITY DOGS SUPPORTERS



Hi, my name is Natasha and I'm 12 years old. I live in Palo Alto California, but I have New Zealand citizenship through my mum. I will become a Bat Mitzvah in January 2009. As part of my preparation I have to do a Tikun Olam project which means 'fix the world'.

I have chosen to raise money for Mobility Dogs in New Zealand because I love my Aunt's Ambassadog, 'Chance', and I think it's amazing what mobility dogs are trained to do to help physically disabled people and change their lives. I want to raise money for Mobility Dogs because there is not enough money to train more dogs for all the disabled people in New Zealand waiting for a dog.

TO RAISE MONEY I'M:

- having a homemade bake sale of lemonade, ANZAC biscuits, dog biscuits, and banana bread,
- taking orders for pavlovas, ANZAC biscuits and organic homemade dog biscuits,
- donating 10% of the money I get from my Bat Mitzvah, and
- soliciting online donations from people in New Zealand and America

So far Natasha has raised over NZ \$350 from her initiatives.

Georgia a Year 4 student at St Cuthbert's, and presently Values Rep for her class, chose Mobility Dogs as her charity project. Helen & Ambassadog 'Chance' were delighted to be invited along to the school to assist Georgia with her presentation (although on the day 'Chance' was perhaps rather more interested in the autumn leaves that had blown in onto the carpet than demonstrating his assistance dog tasks!). Subsequently we have heard that Mobility Dogs was voted the Year 3-4 Values Project for 2008. We look forward to participating in a Market Day fundraiser later in August. *Thanks Georgia for introducing Mobility Dogs to your schoolmates.*



Introducing our Canine Services Coordinator

Hello Everyone,

My name is Sian Green. (pronounced Sharn). I have recently joined the team at Mobility Dogs as the Canine Services Coordinator. I come from a primary school teaching background, am the mother of two boys and am on the Board of Trustees at my youngest son's primary school. I live in North West Auckland with my husband and children and have two pet dogs.



OUT & ABOUT IN NEWMARKET

On Saturday 12 April 2008 the Mobility Dogs team (including puppy-raisers, dog handlers, 'working teams' and volunteers) stationed themselves at two locations in Newmarket. While the purpose of this exercise was primarily to raise the profile of Mobility Dogs, of course we were delighted to exceed total donations collected on previous occasions at the same venue.

Unfortunately the temperature dropped rather during the morning shift with a little light rain falling. The dogs didn't appear to notice but Barry had to invest in a new jacket to ward off hypothermia on Nuffield Street!



TOP Barry & 'Bentley',
LEFT Margaret & 'Cam' and Brad & 'Boston'

I am very excited to be working with everyone at Mobility Dogs and am passionate about helping with the great things that Mobility Dogs do. I am basically here to ensure all things to do with the dogs goes smoothly and efficiently!

NEW website up & running

Check out www.mobilitydogs.co.nz. Our new website was launched mid February. Again thanks to Liz for so generously donating her expertise to this project. Mobility Dogs looks forward to further donations via the online donation facility!

PUPPY-RAISERS IN THE SOUTHERN LAKES DISTRICT

Mobility Dogs welcome Grant and Judy of Arrowtown to our team of volunteers as puppy-raisers to our first 'E' mobility dog, and also as Puppy Development Liaison personnel in the Southern Lakes District.

Grant and Judy come to Mobility Dogs with six years of experience in puppy-raising for Guide Dogs for the Blind headquartered in San Rafael, California. At that time they lived in Colorado and raised five puppies, four of which have graduated as working guides.

They sent an introductory letter to Mobility Dogs in November last year. "We both have a passion for being a part of the broad mission of producing these invaluable service dogs and would like very much to continue our involvement in puppy-raising in New Zealand."

In January Grant and Judy flew, at their own expense, to Auckland to visit our Team Training Camp for three days in order to familiarise themselves with the organisation, and to learn first hand the differences in raising a Mobility Dog as compared to a Guide Dog puppy.

In addition to puppy-raising they are both keen to put Mobility Dogs 'on the map' in the Queenstown area and offer their support in fundraising, seeking sponsorship and speaking to interest groups.

Our first 'E' puppy, labrador retriever

'Emmit', arrived in Arrowtown on 16 February. He was named by Gail & 'Audi' following a successful bid in a 'name the first E puppy' trademe auction last year. Gail tells us 'emit' means 'hard worker' in German (we have added the extra 'm' to clarify pronunciation). So far there is every indication 'Emmit' is working hard, as are his puppy-raisers!

Early in March Helen & 'Chance' visited Grant, Judy & 'Emmit' for two busy days. Their itinerary included a talk to pupils at Arrowtown Primary School, media interviews for the local and regional papers and a sightseeing gondola ride up to the Skyline Outlook. The weather was gorgeous and the dogs even more gorgeous, attracting much attention wherever they went.

There was much fun and fundraising at the recent Arrowtown Autumn Festival. Mobility Dogs sported the biggest banner on parade and 'Emmit' literally made money as he slept on the job – a gold coin donation for a pat. Special thanks to Marlene of 'Dreamz' luxury linen store who donated 10% of her market stall takings on the day to Mobility Dogs.

Grant and Judy provide entertaining and informative monthly updates of 'Emmit's' progress, and their puppy-raising experiences, in 'Emmit's Journal' on our website.



TOP LEFT Grant & 'Emmit' in gondola, TOP RIGHT 'Emmit' by Lake Whakatipu, BOTTOM LEFT Judy & 'Emmit' upon arrival, BOTTOM RIGHT Southern Lakes Men - Grant, 'Emmit' & 'Chance'

Same place, different name



Note the North Shore Life Centre part of our address has changed to Lion Foundation House. You will still find our office and our administrator Lorraine in the same place!

Congratulations Amy & 'Bonnie'

One of our recent recipients, Amy Hogan, has been awarded the Jubilee Trust Scholarship for 2008. The scholarship, worth \$7,500, is awarded to a student who has a physical disability and is in their final year of tertiary study. The scholarship recognises both academic achievement (in any discipline) and leadership qualities – in the field of public relations, community education, mentoring or in a governance role. Amy is planning to begin her post graduate study next year at Auckland University, with a view to completing an MA in either History or Psychology.



SINCERE THANKS to all who have made donations to Mobility Dogs since our last newsletter. We appreciate some of you wish to remain anonymous. In particular we wish to acknowledge the donation of a full puppy sponsorship from Chillisoft and donations from David Guest (Enable) and Jim & Jan Spence
DONATIONS to the Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust may be made directly online www.mobilitydogs.co.nz and at any Westpac branch.

On show on 'SHOWOFF DAY'

Mobility Dogs turned out in force to the Otara Spinal Unit's 'Showoff Day' on Saturday 23 February. Unfortunately the turnout to this event was tempered by a particularly wet and wild day. Thanks to our puppy-raisers and puppies for braving the elements to put on a good show.

Hi from 'Dyson' cruising the Hauraki Gulf over Easter. Sand, sea, surf and sun . . . what more could a mobility dog puppy in training want when chocolate eggs are off the menu?



CARDS FOR SALE

Support Mobility Dogs and purchase packs of 10 Mobility Dog cards & envelopes – five cards of each of two designs per pack – \$20
To order please contact Lorraine: (09) 448 5520 or info@mobilitydogs.co.nz



TAX CHANGES HELP DONORS

Tax rules around giving to charities effective for the 2008/9 income year include:

- The \$1890 threshold for which individuals can claim a tax rebate for cash donations to organisations such as Mobility Dogs has been removed
- Individuals will be able to claim a 33 1/3% tax rebate for donations, up to a maximum claim equal to their annual taxable income
- the removal of the 5% deduction limit on donations made by companies and Maori authorities
- the company deduction for the donations will be extended to include unlisted companies with five or fewer shareholders

For further information re these changes visit www.newzealand.govt.nz

Make a Difference Donate to Mobility Dogs

The Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust relies solely on voluntary contributions to do its work. If you would like to support Mobility Dogs, please complete and return the form below or visit our website

www.mobilitydogs.co.nz

Donations \$5 and over are eligible for tax deductions.
Thank you.



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E info@mobilitydogs.co.nz www.mobilitydogs.co.nz

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like to make a donation **Amount \$**
to continue the work of Mobility Dogs

Please send me more information about the following:

Puppy Sponsorship Leaving a Legacy

Volunteering Applying for a Mobility Dog

I enclose my cheque payable to **Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust** or

Please debit my credit card VISA Mastercard

Cardholder Name _____ Expiry _____

Card Number _____

Signature _____

Date _____