

January-May 2014

News from the Southern Lakes District Puppy Club

'I've been everywhere man

Look, listen mate, I've been everywhere in this here land....'

These are the first few lines of an iconic New Zealand folk song, 'I've Been Everywhere Man', and it could well be the SLD Mobility Dogs current theme song, as the dogs and their raisers took to the road these past few months going '*...here, there, everywhere*'.

A Grand Send-Off for *Pilot* and *Parker*

Pilot and *Parker* returned to Auckland in March for advanced training, but before departure day, their puppy raisers gave them a fun-filled send-off. *Pilot* and raisers, Kim and David Wright, travelled to Dunedin where *Pilot* took in a play and a concert and visited his fair share of coffee shops and restaurants. Then the three headed to Lake Tekapo where they met up with *Parker* and raisers, June and Eric Simpson.

At Lake Tekapo *Pilot* and *Parker* made friends at the dog park and visited St John's Observatory where they posed for numerous photos and gave their raisers the opportunity to talk about the dogs' mission and the goals of the Trust. Kim had this to say about the dogs' time at the lake:

"Pilot and Parker again were the star attraction. They even coaxed the tourists into throwing sticks into the lake for them to fetch. Needless to say, we had to tear them away from the water, tourists included."

***Coda* Goes Cruisin'**

During the months of January and February, *Coda* went road-tripping with raisers, Tony and Viv Campbell. They travelled the length of New Zealand starting in Invercargill. *Coda's* many interesting adventures included a visit to a primary school, two farm visits, swimming in Lake Rotorua, a church service, a run on the beach at Tomahawk Bay, a hospital visit and excursions to several lighthouses.

Tony and Viv have these words to say about *Coda*: *"Coda, our ten-month-old cruisy canine companion, has been travelling with us, behaving beautifully and willing to try anything, even enthusiastically climbing 250 steps up the Cape Palliser Lighthouse and sailing in style over the Cook Strait on the Kaitaki Interislander ferry. Coda loves to swim, is a bit wary of the robotic vacuum cleaner and intrigued with farm animals. A favourite activity for Coda when we're in Rotorua is to sit at the end of the jetty and watch the black swans drift by. Coda is a wonderful boy with gentle eyes and enormous paws and will be a great help to a person in need."*

Lyric Here!

Last October *Coda* and I arrived in Arrowtown and met our raisers, Tony and Viv Campbell and Grant and Judy Reid. My life with the Reids goes like this. Every day I have lessons with Grant. This is a

special time because I hear lots of nice words, get scratches behind my ears and sometimes even get a treat. Swimming is another favourite thing. Often we go to the lake or river where I fetch sticks from the water and cruise around with the ducks. The whole family, Judy, Grant, *Fleur* and I, often take walks along the lake shore and in the countryside.

Big sister Ambassador, *Fleur*, and I hang out a lot together. When Grant goes swimming at the indoor pool, *Fleur* and I lie close by on the deck and get lots of attention from the children walking by. Every day we have playtime in the park across the street, and when we were in Dunedin recently, *Fleur* showed me how to nudge the pedestrian crossing button.

Sometimes I hang out with my puppy sitter, Aunty Kathy, and we do all sorts of good stuff, like ride the bus and the gondola, wander in and out of the Queenstown shops, walk around the gardens, feed the ducks, ride hotel elevators and check out the fish at the underwater conservatory. At Aunty Kathy's house I like to run around in the garden and try to squeeze through the cat door. For some reason, it gets harder and harder to get through that darn door.

SLD Puppy Club Activities

The SLD Puppy Club meets regularly giving raisers and dogs the opportunity to work with the wheelchair, practice basic training tasks and socialise. Meetings are led by Grant with *Fleur* occasionally jumping in to demonstrate a task. Other club activities include doing puppy swaps for a few hours or for a few days giving Grant the opportunity to work one-on-one with a pup.

Once again pups and raisers marched in the Arrowtown Autumn Festival Parade. What an impressive sight; dogs at a perfect heel looking absolutely gorgeous alongside their proud raisers.

Often the raisers and pups ride the gondola to have lunch together at the Skyline buffet. During lunch the pups must be as good as gold and lie quietly under the table. After lunch, we all take a walk around the grounds and then return to the lobby to pose for tourist photos and pats.

Another socialisation for pups and humans is a ride on the TSS Earnslaw Steamship to Walter Peak Station. The pups play together in the water and on the shore while the humans picnic nearby. Again, we get lots of attention from the tourists and opportunities to talk about the dogs and their mission.

Until our next SLD update, we close this news update with best wishes for a safe winter and oodles of warm puppy cuddles.

Judy & Grant Reid, Puppy Club Raisers/Leader
Arrowtown, Southern Lakes District
New Zealand

