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Special points of interest:

- T Ch Fernamber Nymph CDX awarded her Companion Dog Excellent title.
- Fernamber Tambourine NRD CDX awarded Retrieving Dog of the Year by the Golden Retriever Club.
- Fernamber Lantaana TD awarded her Tracking Dog Title .
- Fernamber Lantaana TD earns the 50th Fernamber Title.
- Happy Birthday to Geoff! 50 years young!

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Fernamber Off Lead

Welcome to our Winter Issue

On Black Saturday many plans went awry, most with devastating effect. The very least of these was that our get-together to celebrate a birthday was postponed. On 25 April we finally met to wish Ashley's puppies a very happy birthday. There was cake for all, a photo opportunity and everyone got wet - some more intentionally than others! And a good time was had by all!



The Party Guests.
Happy Birthday to Bella, Scarlett, Ashton, Hudson, Benjamin and Boris!

In May a fundraiser was held for animals displaced or injured on Black Saturday. The Community Dog Walk at Whittlesea was a grand event with hundreds of dogs participating in the walk. Salutations to Trish who was the mastermind behind this event which raised \$4500!

Congratulations to T Ch Fernamber Nymph CDX who earned her Companion Dog Excellent Title in style with two Highest in Trial awards. Well done Kim and Bella!

Congratulations to Norma and Meg, Fernamber Tambourine NRD CDX who was awarded Retrieving Dog of the Year by the Golden Retriever Club of Victoria.

And congratulations to Scarlett, Fernamber Lantaana TD who was awarded Junior in Group at the Easter Festival Championship Show in April and followed this by earning her Tracking Dog title at the Golden Retriever Club Tracking Trial in May. This title was the 50th Fernamber Title earned by dogs owned and bred by Fernamber!

Four years have passed since Clive left us and I am very grateful to my friends and family. Thank you for your friendship, companionship and support.

Our condolences to the families that are sadly missing Jasper, Fletcher and Billy.



Elvis and His Band of Five Return to Australia

Five Erickson Air-Crane Helitankers, the versatile high performance helicopters, were based in Australia during the last bushfire season, including Elvis the star of the fleet. Elvis the Air-Crane gained near cult status after it helped save hundreds of homes during the NSW bushfires of 2001. Elvis earned its nickname while working for the United States National Guard in Memphis where Elvis Presley lived.

Elvis and the other Helitankers have the capacity to dump 9,000 litres of water or fire retardant at speeds and distribution ranges programmed into an onboard computer. Two innovative snorkel attachments for the Helitanker take 45 seconds or less to fill up from any freshwater or saltwater source at least 18 inches deep and have achieved the quickest turn-around times of any air

bushfire asset. Erickson Air-Cranes have battled fires in Italy, Greece, France, South Korea, Canada and Malaysia. The helicopter has worked in many more countries performing timber harvesting, construction and hydro seeding operations to keep fire-scorched hillsides from becoming mudslides. In disaster areas, the Air-Crane can transport modular containers for command posts and medical triage. It can carry in water, fuel, generators and supplies. It has a grapple that can pick up and carry away large pieces of debris from cars to whole trees to big pieces of bridges and buildings. It even has a huge basket that can carry up to sixty people for use in high-rise rescues or marine accidents.

The Air-Crane has become so versatile that disaster managers have dubbed it "the Flying Swiss Army Knife".



Elvis fighting fires in Narre Warren
Photo by Jane Fall

Robin the Duck

Extra security had to be drafted in to an historic royal palace after people said their food was being stolen.

Concert-goers who were at Hampton Court Palace, south-west London, to see the likes of Eric Clapton, complained of cakes and sandwiches going missing.

Eventually a duck was identified as the culprit after being caught on camera taking the food for her ducklings.

Organisers are now urging people to bring secure hampers and cool bags to "be on the safe side". Hampton Court Palace east front manager Mark Howarth said: "Robin

the Duck, as we've nicknamed her, lives in the East Front gardens.

"As soon as everyone has gone into the show and the music starts she appears by the picnics to see what she can raid."

One guest added: "I thought I was losing my marbles when I couldn't find the rest of our sandwiches. I was amazed that anyone here would steal food. It's such a relief to discover that it was only the palace duck. She obviously has very expensive tastes because she took all my smoked salmon sandwiches. I suppose it also explains why the duck pate was left!"



Who?

As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher.

Within minutes, the police had apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car and drove back to the store.

The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes Officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."



"That's her!"

An Epileptic's Best Friend

Peggy O'Farrell

Cooper, a 2-year-old Golden Retriever, does all the usual dog tricks: He plays fetch and tug-of-war. But his best trick is telling owner Katie Kemper to "sit" and "stay" - 15 minutes to half an hour before an epileptic seizure hits. "I don't know how he does it, but he does," says Kemper. About 2.5 million Americans have epilepsy. Children often outgrow the recurring seizures, but for some adults, the disease can be disabling and isolating. Man's best friend could be the best thing to happen to some people with epilepsy. Seizure alert dogs like Cooper don't prevent seizures, but they do give people with epilepsy the confidence to lead normal lives. Cooper's job is to warn Kemper that a seizure is on its way, keep her safe during the seizure and help her recover afterward. When Cooper senses that Kemper is going to have a

seizure, he starts whining and pawing. He barks. If she tells him to be quiet, he will for a minute or two. "Then he gets right back up and starts again," Kemper says. "It's called intelligent disobedience." If she keeps ignoring him, Cooper will jump up on her and try to make her sit or lie down. Kemper has learned to pay attention. Now when Cooper tells her she's about to have a seizure, "I listen and I sit down." During a seizure, Cooper stays by her side. If she moves violently during the episode, he'll lie on top of her to keep her from hurting herself. Cooper wears a pack that includes information for first responders about Kemper's condition, a pillow that she can use during a seizure and his "service dog" ID. Cooper is the love of her life - pretty impressive for a woman who used to be afraid of dogs.



Katie Kemper 26,
with her service dog, Cooper.

Seizure Alert Training

Cooper underwent five months of training with Amazing Tails, a service dog provider in Pennsylvania to learn how to do his job, and Kemper went to Pennsylvania for a week to train with him.

Not all dogs can become seizure alert dogs, says Siobhan Fromm, Cooper's trainer. The dogs have to have the ability to predict seizures plus the ability to alert their owner that something is about to happen, along with the intelligence and willingness to be trained as service dogs.

"We get most of our alerting dogs from shelters," Fromm says. "They are the dogs most likely to be turned into shelters. They

are annoying to live with. They are hyperactive and hyper vigilant. They do not sleep. They make everyone crazy until they have something to do. Monitoring someone 24/7 for seizure activity gives the dog something to do. They are bright and very energetic. They like to be very, very busy."

When she found Cooper, Fromm says, "he had the right look in his eye. He came out of the cage and looked me straight in the eye and introduced himself."

Dogs Sniff Out Changes

No one is quite sure how seizure alert dogs sense a seizure is on its way.

Dr. Roger Reep, an anatomist and physiologist with the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine, believes the dogs can smell changes in a person's body chemistry when seizure activity starts. The electrical activity in the brain that prompts the seizure starts up to 90 minutes before the physical signs of a seizure are apparent.

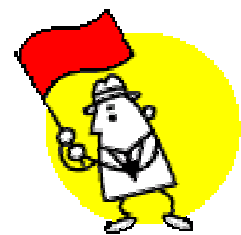
Seizures most often occur in the part of the brain that controls involuntary functions like

respiration, heartbeat and perspiration - a tie-in for the smell theory, he points out.

"We think alerting dogs can not only detect the odour but they can hook it up with some idea the person is in danger, and we think that's tied to having a close bond between the dog and the owner so the dog is motivated to protect the person's well-being," Reep says.

Unfortunately, many epilepsy sufferers can't afford service dogs. Cooper cost \$5,000.

*"The Golden Retriever
Club of Victoria's website
has had a complete
makeover!
www.grcv.org.au"*



Warning!

The Newsletter from
Fernamber Golden Retrievers

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*Golden Retrievers are
the Clever Companions*

See our previous issues at
www.fernamber.com/page9.html

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Leaving the country illegally?




Dash and Dot say,

"Because you are a dog, you are expected to bark. So bark—a lot. Your owners will be very happy to hear you protecting their house, especially late at night while they are sleeping safely in their beds.

There is no more secure feeling for a human than to keep waking up in the middle of the night and hearing your protective bark, bark, bark... "

Until next issue,

Cheryl and Golden's,

April, Teagan, Paddington & Ashley 

Noah in 2009

In the year 2009, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in the United States, and said, "Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated, and I see the end of all flesh before me.

Build another Ark and save two of every living thing along with a few good humans."

He gave Noah the blueprints, saying, "You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark.

"Noah!" He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed a building permit. I've been arguing with the inspector about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I've violated the neighborhood zoning laws by building the Ark in my yard and exceeding the height limitations. We had to go to the Development Appeal Board for a decision.

Then the Department of Transportation demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it.

Getting the wood was another problem. There's a ban on cutting local trees in order to save the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the

wood to save the owls - but no go!

When I started gathering the animals, an animal rights group sued me.

They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.

Then the EPA ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood.

I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Human Rights Commission on how many minorities I'm supposed to hire for my building crew.

Immigration and Naturalization is checking the green-card status of most of the people who want to work.

The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union workers with Ark-building experience.

To make matters worse, the IRS seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord "The government beat me to it."