

# THE WOOFER



NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB  
ESTABLISHED 2005

JANUARY – FEBRUARY – MARCH – APRIL 2020

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends

It is difficult to know what to write for this first edition of the Woofers for 2020. Normally I would give a hearty welcome to you all and greetings for a happy new year. But so far, 2020 has been far from normal. Firstly, we had the horrific bushfire season which devastated many local families and businesses; then torrential but much needed rain arrived, hindering recovery efforts and impacting the number of visitors to our lovely area; and now the Covid-19 virus. Probably, like me, you are all wondering when will life return to some sense of normality, so that we go back to the things we love doing. Hopefully, soon!

Like many other socially responsible organisations, Narooma Dog Training Club has ceased activities for the time being. Our last training day took place on March 14. I'd like to thank everyone for taking extra precautions on that day, and for your ongoing patience and understanding as we take this necessary break from activities. April is usually a quiet month in the NDTC calendar, as it contains both Easter and Anzac holiday long weekends. NDTC does not run any training programs on public holiday weekends, as usually there are lots of other events happening that people like to attend. So looking at the plus side, you will only be missing 2 training days in April. With sensible social distancing and adherence to the strong health messages around us, we might be able to resume our training afternoons the first week in May. HOWEVER, this will entirely depend on directives that we receive both from the NSW and Federal Governments, and from our own head office, the NSW Animal Welfare League.

Meantime, here are some tips to keep you and your pet happy and busy:

- Take a walk in the fresh air, but remember to keep a distance of 1.5mtr from other friends you might meet who are also out exercising their dog.
- Practice the training you have learned to date, in your own back garden of course.
- Teach your dog a new trick. Remember the principles of praise and reward.
- Play a new game with your pet – there are plenty of ideas to be found on the web for both indoor and outdoor games.
- Research online and learn about dog behaviour.
- Build a closer bond with your pooch by observing its behaviour and your responses.

Above all, stay well. Wash your hands often, reduce social contact, follow the 1.5mtr distance rule, and try to enjoy the solitude that this situation brings.

Kind regards,

Steve Genner – President

## **ABOUT NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB**

**Training starts at 2pm.** Instructors have other jobs before that time, such as registration, health check of dogs, safety check on the grounds, selling equipment etc. **Where possible, your arrival by 1.45pm will enable us to start all classes on time.**

### **AWL NSW Narooma Dog Training Club – Branch Executive Committee & Key Personnel**

<b>President</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>WHS Officer (Interim)</b>
Steve Genner	Carol Hellmers	Peter Nelipa	Kathryn McKellar
<b>Chief Instructor</b>		<b>Instructors</b>	<b>Canine Examiner</b>
Jean Page		Jean Page, Yve Robinson (Rally O)	Peter Nelipa
<b>Deputy Chief Instructor</b>		Peter Nelipa (Obedience/Agility)	
Yve Robinson		Kathryn McKellar (Obedience/Agility)	
<b>Equipment Officer (Interim)</b>		<b>Agility Trailer</b>	<b>Woofers Editors</b>
Yve Robinson		Peter Nelipa	Yve Robinson, Carol Hellmers
<b>Equipment Assistant</b>		<b>Registration Assistant</b>	<b>Photographer</b>
VACANT		Valerie McCauley	Rosy Williams

Dog Training Enquiries: 0458 953 281

New registrations: 1.30pm, 1st Saturday of every month.

Training times: Every Saturday, weather permitting.  
Obedience - Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced: 2pm - 3pm  
Agility - Beginners and Advanced: 3.30pm - 4.30pm as per Calendar  
Rally O Training: 3.30pm – 4.30pm as per Calendar

Bad Weather? If in doubt, ring Jean – 4473 7776 or Carol – 0458 953 281

### **NDTC RULES**

- All dogs to be kept on lead in class, unless requested by the Instructor.
- All handlers agree to be responsible for the behavior of their own dog, both ON or OFF lead.
- Children are welcome, but must be under direct parental supervision at all times. Please note children are not covered by AWL insurance.
- Handlers are advised to consult their medical professional regarding tetanus injections.
- NDTC recommends that dog owners hold Public liability, in case of accidents or incidents.
- All members are asked to wear their name badges to all NDTC classes.
- Members are asked to wear appropriate footwear - high heels, sandals and thongs are not suitable when training a dog.
- Lessons will start at the advertised times – if late, you will miss part of the lesson.
- Be a good NDTC member - read the notice board, listen to announcements and practice exercises between weekly lessons.
- Please remember that all Instructors and other NDTC workers are volunteers. Please be respectful of their generosity. It will help the NDTC run more smoothly if you offer assistance when required.
- A first aid kit is available at the ground. See your Instructor if you require assistance.
- Nata Oval is open to the public, so please clean up all dog droppings.
- NDTC conducts a risk assessment of the training area and removes any offending material before classes commence. Nata Oval is a drug, alcohol and smoke free area.

### **FEES for 2020**

Annual registration fees are:

\$40 Adult, \$25 Concession/Junior (over 9 and under 18 years), \$60 Family (any combination).

Lesson Fees - Obedience: \$3.00 per dog. Agility: \$3.00 per dog. Rally O: \$3.00 per dog.

Agility/Obedience combined: \$5.00 per dog. Rally O/Obedience combined: \$5.00 per dog

## **FROM THE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR**

What a muddled start we have all had to 2020 training. On the back page of this Woofers you will find a revised calendar for this year. Already we have had to change a couple of things on the program and now all our activities, including Branch meetings, have been cancelled until further notice. This will mean that the various competitions we would normally hold throughout the year will be modified, possibly even cancelled. So please bear with us if things are a bit disrupted. The main thing we all have to concentrate on, is staying well and keeping ourselves and our dogs fit.

Walks with your dog in the fresh air (providing you don't stop and chat to all the neighbours) are going to be very beneficial. They offer the opportunity to practice the heeling skills you have learnt and taught to your dog. Think about a short routine such as loose lead heeling and automatic sits when you stop walking to cross roads. Change your routine too, so you don't get bored and your dog stays alert - walk a different route now and again. There are many walks around the Narooma area, so give yourself and your dog a change of scene and new experience. If you live on property make sure your dog walks with you on lead at least once a day. If coming into town for essentials, how about bringing your dog with you so that you can exercise/walk some of the cycleway. A trip to the dog beach is always appreciated as there are lots of seagulls to chase, holes to dig and waves to jump, plus you get your exercise in at the same time. If you meet other dog owners then the dogs can socialize, whilst we still maintain our social distance. Better still keep walking and chat whilst moving.

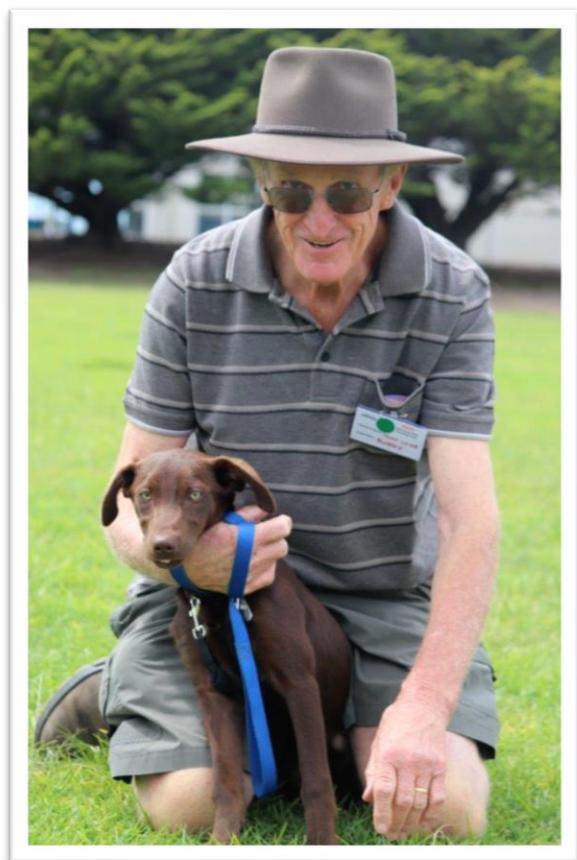
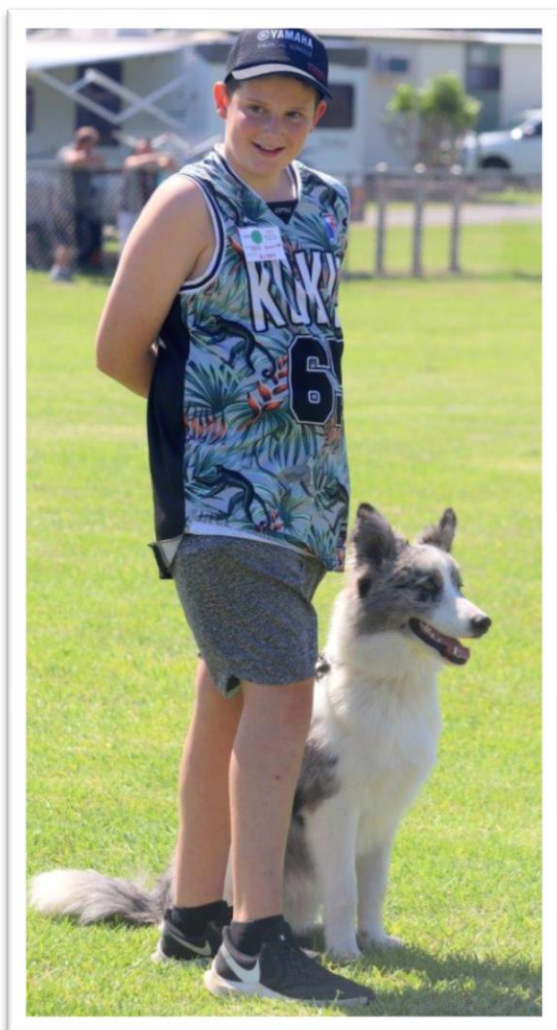
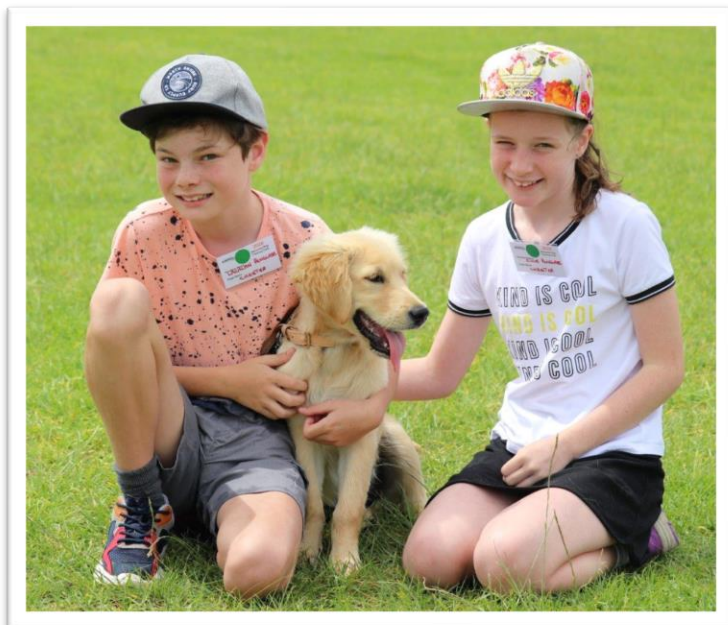
At home, show other household members how to examine your dog for "Stands" and "Stand for Examination". If you have a long lead, or can join two or three together, you can have fun calling your dog in on a long lead "Recall". When your dog has returned to you and been praised, let it go again to sniff etc. and then call again. For those of you who have ball focused dogs, this is a good game for the beach - using the long lead put your dog on a "Sit Stay". Move a few feet away and bury the ball in the sand. Walk back to your dog and give a release command, then persuade your dog to return and give you the ball. Don't forget to praise! If your dog doesn't want to give the ball back to you, reel him in like a fish and take the ball. Remember it is your ball. If he still refuses to give you the ball, then show him another one, now he has to decide which one! Generally speaking, your dog will drop the old ball for the new one. Once your dog returns the ball regularly, start moving further away, and hiding it in different places. Try burying different objects, toys, dog biscuits, sticks etc. Make training a game that your dog will enjoy. Use your imagination and play hide and seek by hiding behind rock and bushes. We are so lucky in this part of the world that we do have beaches that are not closed and where we can let our dogs explore. All out in the fresh air where viruses are not likely to lurk.

Whilst we are restricted in our social movements, now is a good time to get out those dog books and have a good read. Use the internet to look up well known trainers such as Ian Dunbar, Martin Mackenzie, Pamela S. Dennison, Patricia B. McConnell PhD and Turid Rugaas, to name a few. A site to look up is *Brain Training for Dogs* which may give you some ideas to try, always remembering to be patient and use rewards. Maybe your interest is in Rally Obedience, Agility, Sniffer or Earth Dogs. Look up Crufts and watch the Obedience, Agility, and Rally O competitions. There is so much information around, and we can always learn something new that might help us relate to our dogs and help with training.

For our part, NDTC is posting regularly to its Facebook page and updates on when we might recommence will be listed as soon as we are given the all clear by our Head Office, NSW Animal Welfare League. Do all please stay safe and make the most of enjoying the company of your dog who is immune to the virus. If you need expert help, most veterinary practices are staying open, but a good idea to always phone ahead and check, they will have some social distancing rules in place.

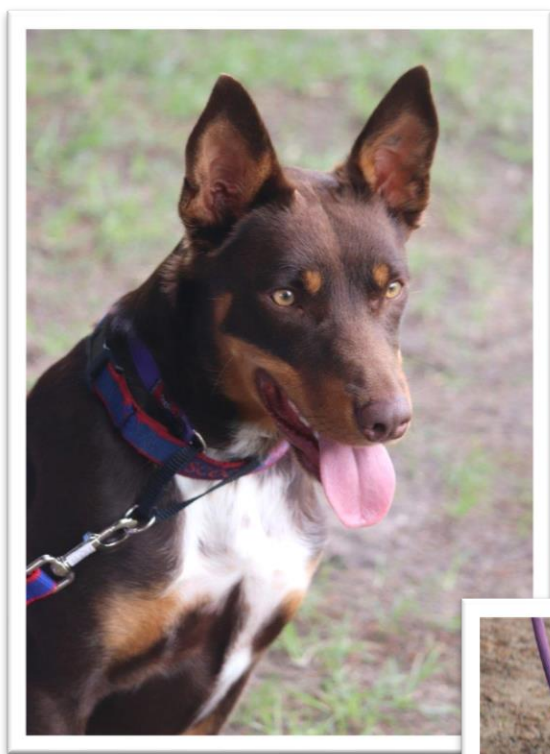
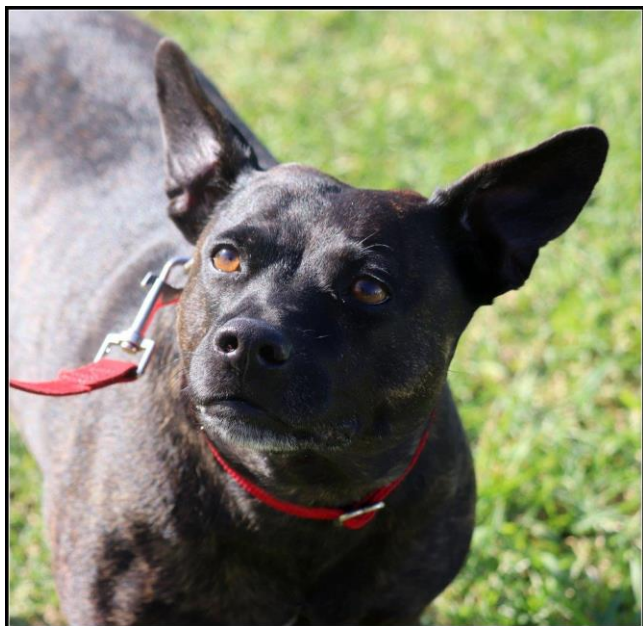
Be well - Jean Page, Chief Instructor.

**SOME NEW FRIENDS THIS YEAR**



## POOCH PORTRAITS

With Special Thanks to Rosy Williams for these and other photos in Woofer.



## **HANDLER NEWS**

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations are due to Nina Balas and Imogen. After a horrific start to 2020, in which they nearly lost their home in the bush fires, Nina and Imogen had wonderful success at the February Trials held at Bermagui Dickinson Oval. They both excelled themselves, taking out 1st place Advanced A class Rally Obedience. Bravo!



A delighted Nina  
with Imogen

### **And**

Congratulations are also in order for Pam Rowley and Rollo. They also competed in the February Sapphire Coast Kennel Obedience Club Trials and were awarded the first of five passes needed to gain the Rally Obedience Excellence Title. Well done!

### **GET WELL SOON**

Ann Smith, wife of Paul, owner of Danni, a West Highland White terrier who was in Yellow Class, is recovering from a triple by-pass operation. Paul is busy with taking care of Ann during her convalescence and Danni is keeping a watchful eye too. We all wish Ann a very speedy recovery and look forward to seeing Paul with Danni again later in the year.

### **VALE**

Missy, whom many of you will remember won the fancy dress competition as the Lion Dog at the 2019 *Dogs Day Out*, was diagnosed last year with incurable bone cancer. Sadly Missy died peacefully in February and is now resting on Wayne Perry's property. Our condolences to Wayne and his wife. Missy was a big, gentle girl and is sorely missed in the Yellow Class.

### **WORDS OF WISDOM**

**"Dogs come into our lives to teach us about love.**

**They depart to teach us about loss.**

**A new dog never replaces an old dog.**

**It merely expands the heart"**

**Unknown Author**

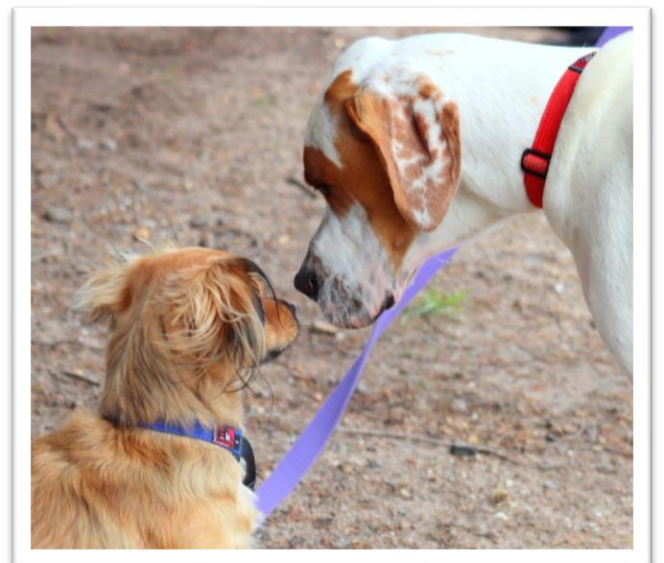
## **FUNDRAISING**

So far this year we have had our NDTC fundraising activities curtailed. First the bush fires meant that all markets and agricultural district shows were cancelled. Ironically the rain put a stop to the January Dalmeny Markets, and now these and other markets are closed until further notices. We were lucky enough to run a successful stall at the Dalmeny Markets in February before the shutdown.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who contributed and helped me organise that market, and everyone for your support with purchases. Apart from funds raised through registrations and class fees each week, this is the only other source of income for our Branch. The monies we raise are used to purchase and upgrade our equipment, and allow us to donate to AWL Head Office requests for help – such as the Drought Appeal and the recent Bushfire Appeal to assist native animals through WIRES.

While we are in lock-down I would like to ask any of you who have a particular skill not to forget us. If you are clever with handcrafts, making jams, pickles or potting up plants and would like to help us, all contributions will be gratefully received, once this crisis has passed. Eventually we will be able to reconvene such social activities and stock in hand will be vital. Even saving a few small 250g jars is a very welcome contribution. Please ring me, Yve on 44763900 if you would like to help for future markets.

## **MAKING FRIENDS**



AWL NSW Narooma Dog Training Club Branch is on Facebook! Please LIKE and SHARE

### **WORDS OF WISDOM**

**“No matter how little money and how few possessions you own,  
having a dog makes us feel rich”**

**Louis Sabin**

**”A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself”**

**Josh Billing**

**“Money can buy you a fine dog, but only love can make her wag her tail”**

**Kinky Friedman**

### **TICK SEASON WARNING!**

One of our handlers has reminded us that ticks are around, even though it has been so dry. Now we have finally had some good rain, they will raise their nasty ugly heads again in large numbers. Ticks appear to like sunshine and showers. As we all know there are several different kinds of tick, none of them particularly pleasant either for animals or humans. Bush, cattle, dog and paralysis ticks can all latch themselves on to us and our pets. The Paralysis Tick is particularly virulent and many cats and dogs do not recover from their bites unless they have quick veterinary treatment. There are several different medications available which need to be administered on a regular basis. Some owners who have bought a puppy tend to forget that it is constantly growing, and don't increase medication dosage with weight increase. If in doubt, consult your vet who will advise you on weight and dosages. If your dog shows any signs of distress after being bitten by any kind of tick, a trip to the vets should be taken immediately.

### **HOT WEATHER WARNING!**

Last month we learned of two dogs who had died due partly to the hot weather. Both of them were black short muzzled dogs - one a Staffordshire Terrier and the other a Boston Terrier. They died of heart attacks - one of them had been running after the car (this is a form of exercising dogs which is quite dangerous and in fact is illegal). The other had been on a very long walk in the middle of the day. This type of dog can have breathing problems, so extra care should be taken if you own a terrier style dog with a broad, squashed up face. Always keep in mind the age of your dog, its weight, its colour, and the outside temperature when exercising them, especially on hot days.

Our pets can suffer extreme distress at the height of the summer. Cats are generally very clever in finding themselves the coolest spot in the garden or indoors, but many dogs who are outside dwellers are not so lucky. If your dog is an outside dog, it is necessary to make sure it has always got a shady spot or kennel on a veranda. Plenty of fresh water is an absolute must - some lovely owners invest in a child's paddling pool so that their dogs can cool off in heat wave conditions. Many owners get their dogs coat clipped during the summer months. If you do this, remember that dogs can also get sunburnt the same as humans. Walking in the midday sun is not a good idea. The best times for walking dogs are early in the morning (before breakfast) or when the sun has gone down in the evening.

## NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB 2020 CALENDAR

**CORRECT AS AT APRIL 2020**

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**PLEASE READ THE NOTICEBOARD AND CHECK FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES**

March 7	<b>New Registrations, Obedience, Agility</b>
March 14	Obedience, Agility
<i>March 20</i>	<i>Friday 7pm, Ordinary Meeting - CANCELLED</i>
March 21	CANCELLED
March 28	<u>1ST RALLY O COMPETITION</u> - <b>CANCELLED</b>
April 4	<b>CANCELLED</b>
April 11	<b>EASTER PUBLIC HOLIDAY WEEKEND – NO TRAINING OR AGILITY</b>
<i>April 12</i>	<i>Friday 7pm, Ordinary Meeting - CANCELLED</i>
April 18	<b>CANCELLED</b>
April 25	<b>ANZAC DAY – NO OBEDIENCE OR AGILITY OR RALLY O</b>

### ALL SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION

May 2	<b>New Registrations, Obedience, Agility</b>
May 9	Obedience, Agility
<i>May 15</i>	<i>Friday 7pm, Ordinary Meeting</i>
May 16	Obedience, Agility
May 23	Obedience, Agility
May 30	Obedience, Rally O Training
June 6	<b>QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY WEEKEND - NO TRAINING OR AGILITY</b>
June 13	<b>New Registrations, Obedience, Rally O Training</b>
<i>June 19</i>	<i>Friday 7pm, Ordinary Meeting</i>
June 20	<u>1ST HANDLERS DAY – NO AGILITY</u>
June 27	Obedience, <u>1ST RALLY O COMPETITION</u> (Yellow/Red/Black classes)

## WELCOME BACK!

We are thrilled to see Obedience/Agility Instructor Peter Nelipa back with NDTC after his wonderful recovery from major surgery. Pictures with his much loved and trusty companion Bobbie!

