

THE WOOFER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 2005



JULY – AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2019

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to all our new handlers and their four-legged companions, we hope that you both enjoy time spent at training and make new friends.

On 26th July we held our AGM at Narooma Golf Club. It was well attended by branch members and we welcomed the visitors from Head Office who joined us for a convivial meal before the meeting commenced. Mark Slater CEO AWL NSW, Helen Powderly Branch Liaison Officer, Patricia Hoson Support Officer and Brandon Cowan Foster Care Coordinator outlined their positions and advised us of any changes at Kemps Creek (AWL Head Office).

All positions of the Executive were filled. There was one change in the Chief Instructors role. Yve Robinson stepped down from that position after many years of dedicated service and accepted the position of Deputy Chief Instructor. Our long-standing member and experienced instructor Jean Page was elected unopposed, and now fills the position of Chief Instructor and we all wish her well. Mark Slater then presented Jean with a Certificate of Merit recognising her dedication to animal welfare.

Both Yve and Jean were thanked by everyone for their years of service and presentations of flowers were made to them both by Helen Powderly.

Mark Slater CEO was very informative regarding the progress AWL NSW has made in streamlining its working environment in Sydney and the forwarding looking initiative they have organised to help animals in country areas. They have purchased a mobile veterinary clinic which will tour the branches offering advice, consultations, and de-sexing services. This will assist people in regional areas who may be unable to access such services. We wish them well in this new venture. They will be visiting our area sometime in the future.

Our inaugural indoor Information Session, minus dogs, was well patronised and we received positive feedback from handlers at the informal social afternoon tea that followed.

Progress on our discussions with the Narooma Mens Shed Executive concerning the formation of a Community Hub for various organisations to use are ongoing. This Community Hub would provide us with a venue to hold meetings, educational presentations and storage for our equipment. A letter of support from us has been sent to the President of the Narooma Mens Shed.

Cheers,
Steve Genner - President



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

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

President Steve Genner	Secretary Carol Hellmers	Treasurer Peter Nelipa	WHS Officer John Low
Chief Instructor Jean Page	Instructors Carol Low (Obedience/Rally O) Peter Nelipa (Obedience/Agility) Kathryn McKellar (Obedience/Agility)		Canine Examiner Peter Nelipa
Deputy Chief Instructor Yve Robinson	Agility Trailer Peter Nelipa		First Aid Carol Low
Equipment Officer Ruth Watson	Registration Assistant Val McCauley		Woofers Editors Yve Robinson, Carol Hellmers
Equipment Assistant Carol Low			Photographer Rosy Williams

<u>Dog Training Enquiries:</u>	0458 953 281
<u>New registrations:</u>	1.30pm, 1st Saturday of every month.
<u>Training times:</u>	Every Saturday, weather permitting. Obedience - Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced: 2pm - 3pm Agility - Beginners and Advanced: 3.30pm - 4.30pm Rally O Training: 3.30pm – 4.30pm as per the Calendar
<u>Bad Weather?</u>	If in doubt, ring Jean – 4473 7776 or Carol – 0458 953 281

RULES

- All dogs to be kept on lead in class unless told otherwise 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 as they are not covered by insurance.
- Handlers are advised to consult their medical professional regarding tetanus injections.
- Public liability, in case of accidents or incidents, when owning a dog is recommended.
- All members are asked to wear their name badges to class.
- Members are asked to wear appropriate footwear - high heels, sandals and thongs are not suitable when training a dog.
- Please remember the NATA Oval is open to the public, so clean up all dog droppings.
- Lessons will start at the advertised times – if late, you will miss part of the lesson.
- Be a good club member - read the notice board, listen to announcements and practice exercises between weekly lessons.
- Please remember that all Instructors and other workers are volunteers. It will help the club run smoothly if you offer assistance when required.
- A first aid kit is available at the ground. See your Instructor if you require assistance.
- 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 2019

Annual registration fees are:

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

Ground fees for Obedience: \$3.00 per dog per lesson. Agility: \$3.00 per dog per lesson.

Agility and Obedience together: \$5.00 per dog. Rally Training – No charge for registered handlers

FROM THE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

I must introduce myself now that I have accepted the position of Chief Instructor. My name is Jean Page and I am the owner of two white Maltese crossbred little dogs one of whom, called Fifi, is a rescue dog from AWL. The other, Geppetto, I inherited from my son. I joined the Narooma Dog Training Club many years ago, when I adopted my first rescue dog Jessie from the AWL. Since then I have rescued and trained two other dogs, Morgan, a Rottweiler crossbreed and Harry a terrier. Previously I have worked in dog kennels and my husband and I bred Rottweilers. I was also an Assistant Welfare Officer and Carer for the AWL Eurobodalla Branch, caring for and re-homing over 200 hundred puppies and dogs. I trained as an Instructor with Yve and have been instructing and volunteering for the AWL and Narooma Dog Training Club since 2004.

It is, and has been since inception, the policy of this dog training organisation that metal check or choker chains (collars) together with metal leads are not to be used when training. They are training aids which were originally used by ANKC registered dog clubs when dog training became popular and recognised as an official sport. Very few clubs now use them as Officials and Handlers have come to realise that they are dangerous and can damage a dogs' trachea, cutting into the delicate neck skin making it sore and bleed. Imagine how you would feel if someone put a chain round your neck and dragged you about a paddock expecting you to walk quietly beside them. Chains are detrimental to loose lead walking because the dog tries to rid itself of the chain by pulling away from you. Consequently the chain tightens, the dog pulls more and it tightens more, the situation becomes worse. Positive reinforcement and patience using lures and rewards work so much better for the handler and especially the dog. Head halters and half check collars are both very good for use in training. They are only meant to be used for a short time. As your dog progresses up into the higher classes the use of head halters and half check collars becomes less necessary, and you can change into using normal flat cloth collars. Treats are used freely in the lower classes to lure your dog into performing different exercises. Once your dog has learnt what you request then they are gradually phased out so that by the time you reach the higher classes your dog will do what you ask without treats. Verbal praise and patting etc. can then take over.

Occasionally during the year we have to find a new location for training, as the Nata Oval is occupied by other Council endorsed activities. August the 3rd was one of those days so we decided to run an Information Session followed by an informal chat and afternoon tea. I, as the new Chief Instructor gave the audience a talk to introduce myself and explain my background and experience. Yve then gave a talk about communication between dog and handler, handler and dog. This involved a couple of demonstrations on commands, signals, body language and how dogs do not speak verbally but use sounds i.e. whining, barking etc. to communicate with us. We can and should learn to watch their body language, just as they instinctively watch and learn ours. The emphasis was on signals and their important use in training a happy dog. With the co-operation of two brave members of the audience to show the lack of communication between most handlers and dogs, Yve gave two demonstrations on teaching the "Sit" and "Heeling". These caused much laughter and showed the audience how important hand signals and praise are. Dogs are very clever but they are not mind readers and need to be shown and praised constantly. Repeating words constantly, nagging and getting cross with your dog achieves nothing. The dog just switches off, you give up training, and neither of you enjoy the training session. In so many instances handlers stop attending training sessions, dogs are called stupid, and they spend the rest of their lives confined to back gardens.

We then broke for a very welcome cuppa and informal chat with instructors and other handlers. Thanks to everyone who attended, special thanks to Sue, Carol and Peter for arranging the venue, afternoon tea and setting up the hall. The afternoon was voted a success, no doubt there will more of these Information Sessions in the future.

Jean Page - Chief Instructor

PROMOTIONS JULY 2019

From Green to Blue Class

Jane Moxen and Rex
Julie Hinchley and Sandy
Joe Hubbard and Pixie
Lois Irwin and Lucy
Daiva Ceicys and Gidget

From Blue to Yellow

Jason Davison and Minka
Olivia Scott and Vyla
Alexis Swadling and Rocky
John Joseph and Rickie



L to R: Sally and Clyde, Chelsea and Jax

PROMOTIONS AUGUST 2019

From Green to Blue

Natalie Barnett and Zoe
River Bockland and Jezy
Chelsea Curry and Jax
Kim Bodin and Walter
Sally Ritchie and Clyde

Lois and Lucy who are thrilled to be promoted



L to R: Jason and Minka,
Jane and Rex, Daiva and
Gidget all promoted

2nd AGILITY COMPETITION RESULTS 2019

Country Link

- 1st Katherine McKellar and Suzie Q
- 2nd Pam Rowley and Rollo
- 3rd Michelle Arneson and Scooby

NDTC Agility

- 1st Pam Rowley and Rollo
- 2nd Carol Trevanion and Squizle
- 3rd Kate Le Bars and Hepburn

3rd RALLY OBEDIENCE COMPETITION 2019

Yellow Class

- 1st Steve Genner and Monty

Red Class

- 1st Kate le Bars and Heburn
- 2nd Bob Mettam with Brianna
- 3rd Lyndal Jenkins with Snoop Dog

Black Class

- 1st Pam Rolley and Rollo
- 1st Carol Low and Lazzie
- 2nd Val McCauley and Shadow
- 3rd Peter Nelipa and Bobby

Hepburn on the dog walk with Kate



Val and Shadow, Peter with Bobby



Left to Right: Kate and Hepburn, Bob and Brianna, Lyndal and Snoop Dog

Smiles all round!
Pam and Rollo



ANKC TRIAL RESULTS

Carol Low and Trixie obtained their Rally O Novice title.
Jan Boyce and Jasper have started Tracking, and passed
their Tracking Tests 2 at the Victorian State Tracking Trial

Jan and Jasper receive their award!



TRAINING HINTS

LURES are used to persuade your dog to perform an action.

For example: You are teaching your dog to SIT, holding a lure, usually some sort of food. You show it to the dog, lift it up and over the dog's head, and the dog sits.

Then the dog gets the lure.

TREATS can be food, but also patting your dog, telling it how smart it is, or letting it chew on a special toy are also treats. Food treats are used as lures when you teach a new exercise. Once the dog has fully learned the new exercise, hand signal and command and is performing it constantly, food treats can be used occasionally and finally phased out. Physical praise (patting) and verbal praise are used in its place.

TIMING. This is probably the most difficult thing for a handler to learn.

For example: You are teaching the dog the DOWN exercise and start with your dog sitting beside you. Once again a lure (food) is used. You show it to the dog and slowly move your hand down towards the ground luring him to follow the food. Once the dog is down, it then gets the food (lure), is released and asked to SIT. He does not get another treat for sitting because you are now teaching him the DOWN.

PRAISE. Everyone likes praise and that certainly is the case with any animal you are trying to train.

For example: You go to your local club and decide to have a gamble on the pokies. Your stake is \$50. You start playing and now and again you might get a small jackpot, but gradually the stake gets smaller until finally, because you want the really big Jackpot, you keep playing until all you stake and any small winnings you may have won are gone. A No Winner, you turn away in disgust and tell yourself "that's it", I won't waste any more time or money doing this. Now, unless you are an obsessed gambler who can't stop, you never do that again. That is exactly how your dog feels when it doesn't get any PRAISE. Your dog decides not to do what you have asked, because there is no reward (PRAISE), all they get is abuse when they do something wrong. Eventually the dog just switches off totally, you get frustrated, stop coming to training and the dog gets left to its own devices.

**A well-trained dog will make no attempt to share your lunch.
He will just make you feel so guilty that you cannot enjoy it.**

Helen Thomson

GET TO KNOW YOUR EXECUTIVE

At the last Annual General Meeting of our AWL Branch, elections were held for positions on the Executive Committee. We thought you might like to know who your new representatives are:

Steve Genner – President
Peter Nelipa – Vice President/Treasurer
Carol Hellmers – Secretary
John Low – Work, Health and Safety Officer
Jean Page – Chief Instructor
Yve Robinson – Deputy Chief Instructor



Left to Right Front Row: Brandon Cowan, Patricia Hoson (AWL Head Office),
Jean Page with Certificate (Chief Instructor), Yve Robinon with flowers (Deputy Chief Instructor)
Left to Right Back Row: Helen Powderly (AWL Head Office)
Steve Genner (President), Mark Slater (AWL Head Office)

CAN YOU HELP?

Our Agility Trailer is looking for a new home.
It needs to be under cover in a garage, preferably locked, and accessible most Saturday afternoons.
If you can help, or know of anyone who might have room to house the trailer,
please contact Carol on 0458 953 281

NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB 2019 CALENDAR
CORRECT AS AT 1 SEPTEMBER 2019 – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- September 7 **New Registrations**, Obedience, Agility
September 14 Obedience, 2ND HANDLERS DAY - NO AGILITY
September 21 Obedience, Agility
September 28 Obedience, Agility, Rally O Training
- October 5 **LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY WEEKEND – NO TRAINING OR AGILITY**
October 12 **New Registrations**, Obedience, Agility
*October 18 **Friday 7pm, Ordinary Meeting Uniting Church Hall Narooma***
October 19 Obedience, 3RD HANDLERS DAY - NO AGILITY
- October 26 Obedience, Agility, Rally O Training
- November 2 **New Registrations**, Obedience, Agility
November 9 3RD AGILITY COMPETITION and COUNTRY LINK
*November 15 **Friday 7pm, Ordinary Meeting***
November 16 Obedience, Agility
November 23 Obedience, Agility, Rally O
November 30 Obedience, Agility
- December 7 **DOGS and HANDLERS CHRISTMAS PARTY**
2-4pm Nata Oval
For you, your dog and your family to enjoy
Wet weather venue – Uniting Church Hall, Wagonga Street – no dogs please)

NEW FACES!

