

THE WOOFER



NEWSLETTER OF THE
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 2005

January – February – March 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first issue of the Woofers Newsletter in 2021.

After a rainy first Saturday, we were delighted to kick start our program on Saturday 13th February with a full complement of twelve new handlers starting Green Class for the first time. I was pleased to be able to meet most of you on the day. Ahead of you is a program that runs across 2 months – Feb/March (weather permitting). Once you have completed this basic training, you will be ready to move into Blue Class, making way for a batch of new handlers and their dogs – the April/May intake. You will be able to participate in Rally O, and if your dog is over 9 months old, the Agility program too.

It was also lovely to be able to welcome back friends and their dogs from the last year's programs. These handlers have returned to continue in the Obedience, Agility and Rally O programs, some at higher levels than last year.

Exciting news – fabulous new Agility equipment arrived in January and was unpacked by our two Agility Instructors. This gear is light weight in construction, colourful and very attractive. We anticipate a lot of interest, not just from you, but also from the community and travelers who often stop and watch our agility participants in action – and ask questions about NDTC programs.

In 2020 we made a few changes to the way our programs were run, some of which are required to remain in place – hand sanitiser is now the norm and so is social distancing. We thank you all for taking care of each other in this way. Not only is this “keeping us safe”, but it ensures that we can continue to offer canine education to the community. Sadly Covid-19 still lurks in the background of all our lives but with a solid Covid Safety Plan in place, and regular monitoring undertaken by both the NDTC Secretary and Chief Instructor, we are confident that we will be able to enjoy a safe and happy 2021.

Steve Genner - President

*Photo: Steve Genner with
Carol Hellmers (Secretary)*



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 Kathryn McKellar
Chief Instructor Jean Page	Instructors Peter Nelipa (Obedience/Agility) Kathryn McKellar (Obedience/Agility) Pam Rowley (Rally)		
Deputy Chief Instructor Yve Robinson	Agility Trailer Peter Nelipa		
Equipment Officer (Interim) Yve Robinson	Registration Assistant Valerie McCauley		Woofers Editors Yve Robinson, Carol Hellmers
Equipment Assistant VACANT	Photographer Rosy Williams		

Dog Training Enquiries: 0458 953 281

Training times: Every Saturday, weather permitting.
Obedience: 2pm - 3pm
Agility: 3.30pm - 4.30pm as per the Calendar
Rally: 3.30pm – 4.30pm as per the Calendar

Bad Weather: After midday 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 2021

Annual registration fees are:

\$40 Adult, \$25 Concession/Junior (over 9 and under 18 years), \$60 Family (any family combination).
Lesson Fees - Obedience: \$3.00 per dog. Agility: \$3.00 per dog. Rally: \$3.00 per dog. Agility/
Obedience combined: \$5.00 per dog. Rally/Obedience combined: \$5.00 per dog

FROM THE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

The weather was determined not to co-operate with our first training day this year - unfortunately it is one thing we have no control over. The NDTC Secretary and I make a considered decision at noon each Saturday, whether or not we will be able to run classes in adverse weather. Several of our handlers travel long distances from areas outside Narooma to attend classes. We try our best to give them notice of cancellations before they start their journey, which could for some take up to an hour. When possible, an email is quickly sent to all handlers and notice of cancellation is also posted on the NDTC Facebook page. Please find us on Facebook, then Like and Follow us so that you receive any cancellation information promptly.

As mentioned by the President we have made changes in class structures this year - the Blue Class has been re-introduced. Green (new Handlers) Class will move to Blue Class once they have attended their two month course. Handlers who attend Blue Class and Yellow Class are eligible for promotion to a more advanced class by their Instructor at the end of each month. Promotion will only apply if the Instructor and myself as Chief Instructor, are confident that both handler and dog are ready to move up in the training program. If you miss the last Saturday of the month, then promotion will be assessed at a Handlers Day. (Please refer to the Calendar on the back page for these days). Promotion from Red Class to Black Class requires marks to be obtained on all three Handlers Days, in any one calendar year.

Reminder - It is imperative that you all wear your name badge to training. Most handlers find that leaving it in the car until they next attend is the best way. Your ID is important in order to assist your trainer and for safety purposes. For many people, it is the only form of ID they wear when out on Nata Oval.

All our Instructors and Secretarial staff are volunteers, so if you can help them in any small way (perhaps carry a water bucket to class, or stay after class for a couple of minutes to help pack up tables and equipment) your assistance is much appreciated.

Most of all I hope you and your four-legged friend enjoy themselves while you spend time with us at the Nata Oval.

Jean Page - Chief Instructor

FEBRUARY/MARCH GREEN CLASS HANDLERS

Alanna Bromage	Jedda	Chihuahua x
Glen Baston	Shadow	Kelpie
Susanna Chung	Ginger	Wolfhound
Janet Douglass	Rosie	Cavoodle
Morgan French	Snitch	Black Labrador
Jacque Jones	Pip	Jack Russell
Marilyn Mills	Bear	Red Cattle Dog
Martin Oswin	Ella	Labrador
Richard Parker	Miffy	Maltese
Wayne Perry	Odessa	Great Dane
Jane Simmonds	Buddy	Black Labrador
Karel Vine	Rosie	Red Cattle Dog



Left to Right – Martin and Ella, Morgan and Snitch, Jean Page, Wayne and Odessa



Left to Right – Alanna and Jemma, Jacquie and Pip, Richard and Miffy, Janet and Rosie



Left to Right – Glen and Shadow, Marilyn and Bear, Susanna and Ginger

REPORT ON RALLY OBEDIENCE

If you and your dog have learnt some basic obedience skills then Rally could be another enjoyable form of training for you and your best friend. Everyone from Blue to Black Classes can learn and enjoy some skillful dog handling.

Rally has a relaxed atmosphere and provides an environment where the handler can encourage their dog by talking and rewarding by voice. The course is set out with numbered stations. Dog and handler navigate the course by following the numbers and carrying out the exercise shown at each of the stations.

If you want to have more fun at NDTC then come and give Rally a try. We will be happy to show you how to navigate the course, and help you to promote a positive relationship between dog and owner.

I hope this explanation will help and that you will join in.

It is a discipline suitable for all types and breeds of dogs. It takes place after the regular obedience classes every fortnight from 3.30pm to 4.30pm.

Dates of classes are listed in the calendar which is printed on the back page of this Woofers. As with all training it can be cancelled in bad weather. Please refer to our Facebook page if in doubt.

Pam Rowley
Instructor, Rally Obedience



Instructor Pam Rowley watches handler Jessica, who is also being watched!

HANDLER NEWS

Congratulations to Pam Rowley and Rollo who entered the Rally Excellent trials held at Bermagui in February. They won 1st Place and a pass, with the top mark of 100 at one trial. Just to explain how fierce the competition is, Pam and Rollo achieved 99 out of 100 in the second trial but were not placed in the top three. Pam is well on her way to achieving the Rally Excellent title. She and Rollo need one more pass to gain this 5th and final pass for the title.

BARKING DOGS

A PROBLEM THAT IS VERY COMMON

Owning a barking dog can become a big problem. Barking can be extremely annoying for you and your neighbours. The most important thing to remember is that if you own a vocal dog, raising your voice and shouting loudly at it will achieve the opposite effect. The dog will appreciate you joining in with it and bark louder, shouting loudly is definitely a NO, NO.

Dogs bark for many different reasons. They are letting us all know how they feel in the only way they can. They can be excited, playful, worried, fearful, lonely, demanding and territorial. Different breeds of dogs may instinctively be more vocal than others. It is up to us as owners to try and find out the cause of constant barking and then it can be remedied.

If left on their own all day, without having been exercised before you have left for work, dogs get lonely and bark because they are miserable, they are after all pack animals and love company. If you are unable to walk them before work, then maybe a five minute game of ball, a pat and a big bone plus a cheery goodbye “see you later” could be the answer. Always check the dog has adequate water and shade. At night dogs can be taught to sleep inside. If necessary, they can be tethered, given a comfortable bed and access to water. It is always wise to teach your dog to stay inside at night - not only does this eliminate it barking at possums, cats and strange noises, but it is extra protection for you. Any policeman will tell you that intruders are not likely to enter your house if there is a dog barking inside. Backyards don't get stolen, only items left around outside.

Kelpies are generally fairly excitable, they are high energy animals and need plenty of exercise, lots of training and they love agility exercises. If you own one, as soon as you can, join in the Rally Obedience and Agility training, They, with other working dogs, Coolies, Border Collies, German Shepherds, Terriers, Poodles, Cattle Dogs and many crossbreeds need the stimulation to stay happy and healthy. It's also rewarding for owners and great fun.

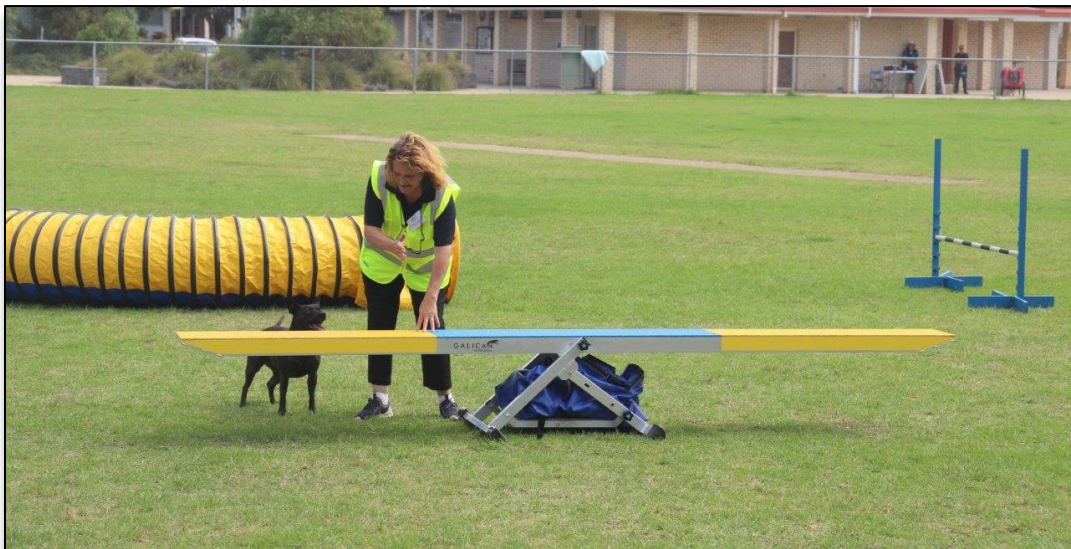
Fearful dogs need training on a loose lead, they do not need reassuring every time they shy away, lunge or growl at anything. They need you as the owner to stay calm, turn them away from other dogs or people they might be re-acting towards and give them a quiet command for example “Sit” plus a treat. Your dog will eventually learn to “Sit” without being asked when another dog or strange person enters its personal space. If you are in the habit of patting, pulling the dog into you on a tight lead once again that will have the effect of you reinforcing the dogs fear.

Demanding, pushy dogs need you to ignore them. When you come home, walk past them, no pats until you have put away groceries or changed, made a cuppa. Then you can call them and say hello. If you follow this rule they will learn to take their place in your household where you are the pack leader. Territorial dogs who rush to the fence, run the fence, bark at neighbours in the back garden, defend the front door, should be trained to stop when asked. We probably all want our dogs to alert us, but sometimes they can get overly enthusiastic. Call them to you, reward them after a command to change the pattern and bring them inside. Get them to sit at doors when people knock and if necessary put them on lead. Also Sit/Stay before opening the door. Once again training is the answer. Learn to read your dogs different barks and above all keep calm when changing behaviours.

AGILITY REPORT

New equipment for our Agility program has arrived and handlers are learning how to assemble it safely and are beginning their practice on these three new pieces - the Dog Walk, A-Frame (Scramble) and See-Saw. We will now be able to use these items in our in-house competitions, as well as the inter-club competition called Country Link. The new pieces of equipment are much lighter, extremely well engineered, and more versatile - it will be a lot quicker and easier to change heights for different sized dogs and to load and unload onto the trailer. We are very grateful to Kath McKellar who spent a lot of time researching prices and availability of equipment, and to Peter Nelipa who is in charge of the agility trailer. And a very big thank you to everyone who helped with our fundraising efforts that enabled us to make this purchase. Handlers attending classes can be proud that their monies have been reinvested into equipment that will be enjoyed by many for many years to come. A BIG THANK YOU to you all.

Yve Robinson – Deputy Chief Instructor



THE SEE-SAW



THE A FRAME/SCRAMBLE (behind) and DOG WALK (in front)



*Bowie tried out the new Dog Walk
(A Frame/Scramble in the background)*



Shadow gets a refresher on the new See-Saw



*Joc secures the new equipment
on the trailer*



*Many hands make light work!
Thanks to the two Peters.*

REMBRANCE DAY FOR WAR ANIMALS

At 10.30am on Wednesday 24th February, Narooma RSL held an Animals in War Remembrance Day in the grounds of Club Narooma. The ceremony was heart felt and poignant. Those who attended listened quietly to guest speaker and veterinary expert Geraldine Hunt-Hutchison, as she spoke of the value and importance of animals in our lives. Stories were shared of the bravery of some particular animals, especially dogs and horses, who lost their lives when serving active duty with the Australian armed forces. Animal lovers and animal organisations were present including WIRES, the Eurobodalla and Narooma Dog Training Club Animal Welfare Branches, local Vet Kate Le Bars, students from Narooma High School and many others. Robin Scott-Charlton led the Narooma Community Choir who sang Ave Maria as wreaths were laid on the memorial adorned by purple poppies. A solo trumpet played The Last Post as everyone bowed their head for a minute silence. Carol Hellmers (AWL NDTC Branch Secretary) together Clare Hooper (Co-President of AWL Eurobodalla Branch) laid a beautiful wreath, prepared by Rachael at “Twig and Blossom” florist and gift shop, Narooma. The 24th February is now gazetted as an official day of remembrance, so we hope you can join us next year. Special thanks to Rosy Williams took many photos of the occasion – these two are just a small selection:



Left – Clare Hooper, Right – Carol Hellmers

Memorial to all War Animals at Club Narooma

A DOG'S PHILOSOPHY

Every snack you make,
Every meal you make,
Every bite you take,
I'LL BE WATCHING YOU.

Author Unknown

NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB 2021 CALENDAR

CORRECT AS AT 1 FEBRUARY – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

February	RETURNING HANDLERS REGISTRATION RENEWAL FEES DUE THIS MONTH
February 6	New Registrations - Obedience ONLY
February 13	Obedience, Agility
February 19	Friday 7pm. Ordinary Meeting - ZOOM
February 20	Obedience, Rally
February 27	Obedience, Agility
March 6	Obedience, Agility
March 13	Obedience, Rally
March 19	Friday 7pm, Ordinary Meeting - ZOOM
March 20	Obedience, Rally
March 27	Obedience - <u>1ST RALLY O COMPETITION</u>
April 3	EASTER PUBLIC HOLIDAY WEEKEND – NO CLASSES
April 10	New Registrations - Obedience, Agility
April 16	Friday 7pm, Ordinary Meeting - ZOOM
April 17	Obedience, Agility
April 24	Obedience - <u>1ST AGILITY COMPETITION and COUNTRY LINK</u>
May 1	Obedience, Rally
May 8	Obedience, Agility
May 14	Friday 7pm, Ordinary Meeting - ZOOM
May 15	Obedience, Rally
May 22	Obedience - <u>1ST HANDLERS DAY</u>
May 29	TBA - Obedience, Agility (Annual Buskers Competition)
June 5	New Registrations - Obedience, Rally
June 12	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY WEEKEND - NO CLASSES
June 18	Friday 7pm, Ordinary Meeting - ZOOM
June 19	Obedience, Rally
June 26	Obedience - <u>2ND RALLY O COMPETITION</u>
July 3	Obedience, Agility
July 10	Obedience, Agility
July 16	Friday 7pm, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Venue TBC
July 17	Obedience - <u>2ND AGILITY COMPETITION and COUNTRY LINK</u>
July 24	Obedience, Rally
July 31	Obedience, Rally



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