

# THE WOOFER



NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB  
ESTABLISHED 2005

July – August– September 2021

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Welcome to this third edition of the Woofers for 2021. In this newsletter, I want to take the opportunity to tell you about the new NDTC Executive Committee for 2021/2022, elected at the Annual General Meeting of NDTC Branch of Animal Welfare League, held via Zoom in July.

First introductions and a warm welcome go to Val McCauley, who has taken on the job of Vice President, and also to Kay Davidson who accepted the role of Work Health and Safety Officer. Though both these ladies are new to our Executive Committee, Val and Kay's smiling faces should be well known to you all. Kay is an Obedience Instructor and Val volunteers each week on the sign-in desk with Carol. I am delighted that they have taken on extra responsibilities for us.

Sincere thanks and congratulations go to re-elected members of the NDTC Executive Committee, who continue to give 'behind the scenes' time and effort to their voluntary positions:

Peter Nelipa: Treasurer

Jean Page: Chief Instructor

Yve Robinson: Deputy Chief Instructor

Carol Hellmers: Secretary/Publicity Officer/Covid Safety Officer

There are other people too, who help us from time to time and who also deserve accolades. In particular Rosy Williams, our official photographer who is tireless in her efforts to capture the wonderful images that you see on Facebook and in the Woofers; Jo Barrett, who helps each week with the setup of the Nata Oval; and Graham Pinney who helps at the monthly Dalmeny Markets, where NDTC sells all manner of donated goodies.

Sadly, NDTC is temporarily unable to offer you the dog training I know you look forward to each week. It may feel like 'doom and gloom' right now, but thinking positively about this year, we have been able to complete 2 x Agility Competitions, 2 x Rally O Competitions and register more than 80 handlers in the Obedience training program. That's a big improvement on 2020! None of which would have been possible without the amazing dedication of the NDTC Instructor team – Jean Page, Yve Robinson, Peter Nelipa, Kay Davidson, Kathryn McKellar, Pam Rowley and guest Instructor Amanda Doust. All have been working under extremely challenging conditions again this year.

NSW Covid restrictions permitting, there is still time to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Handlers Day, help those currently in Green Class achieve their goals, and maybe even enjoy the Dogs Christmas Party in December. We will keep you posted on developments and advise you of necessary changes to our timetable.

These are indeed 'interesting' times in which we live! All of us on the Executive Committee appreciate that, for the time being, we each need to put our own health and wellbeing as top priority. Please know that your support and attendance at dog training is key to yours and our success. I hope you are able to practice your training skills at home and when on walks with your dog. We will see you on return to Nata Oval soon.

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> Steve Genner	<b>Secretary/Publicity</b> Carol Hellmers	<b>Treasurer</b> Peter Nelipa	<b>WHS Officer</b> Kay Davidson
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#### **Vice President**

Val McCauley

#### **Chief Instructor**

Jean Page

#### **Deputy Chief Instructor**

Yve Robinson

#### **Guest Instructor:** Amanda Doust

#### **Equipment Officer (Interim)**

Yve Robinson

#### **Registration Assistant**

Val McCauley

#### **Instructors**

Peter Nelipa (Obedience/Agility)

Kathryn McKellar (Obedience/Agility)

Pam Rowley (Rally O)

Kay Davidson (Obedience)

#### **Agility Trailer**

Peter Nelipa

#### **Woofers Editors**

Yve Robinson

Carol Hellmers

#### **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**

As an organisation we have been able so far to continue our training program, even though due to the Covid restrictions we have had to curtail the numbers of handlers joining the beginners class. This has made extra work for Instructors and Volunteers, and huge thanks goes to them all for trying to carry on our tradition of being a very friendly and efficiently organised group. Now we are in lock-down and unable to continue until further notice. I urge you all to continue training your dog so that when we finally do get the go ahead we can start our regular activities again.

Now is the time to consolidate those exercises and put them into practice around the home and when out on the allowable exercise walk. Practice the figure of eight exercise using the hills hoist and a garden stake as the posts. If unable to get out to the dog park, put Fido on the lead and through a routine as if you were in class in your own garden, making sure you vary the times etc. If you have other family members get some help from them and teach them how to examine the dog for the Stand for Examination exercise. For fun, play Hide and Seek with your dog finding hidden toys, balls, food. You might have a Soccer dog! Using a big ball teach your pet to bring the ball back by pushing it with its nose, and then you can kick it again. For those of you who take part in our Agility class make a couple of low jumps with bricks and broom sticks or tomato stakes. Weavers can be made with tomato stakes, A big cardboard box with holes cut in it makes a tunnel, a Hula Hoop can be held for the dog to jump through. Be inventive and try and vary the games.

Retrieving dogs can be occupied by teaching them to fetch any kind of harmless object, balls, toys, old socks, dumbbells, newspapers, leads, slippers. Teach the dog to hold the object in its mouth until you ask it to give to you. Sniffer dogs love the game of finding small treats under empty flower pots, boxes, under trees in the garden. This game can also be used to teach food refusal. Drop a treat in the grass, put Fido on the lead and walk him around the area, coming closer and closer. When the dog makes a dive for the food, use a firm command of "Leave It" or "Off". You may think this is a futile exercise but it is one that has helped to save many dogs from harm. Such a lot of old fish, tackle and hooks are left on the beaches. They can cause not only gastric upsets and possible poisonings, but stomach operations to remove harmful objects.

We will be back as soon as the lockdown is lifted. Messages will be sent to everyone when we can start again. Meantime keep smiling and stay safe.

Yve Robinson - Acting Chief Instructor.

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How lucky we are living in Narooma! We may be in lockdown but can still enjoy our lovely surroundings, as can our four-legged best friends. I found the following poem in one of my dog books, and am sure you have all watched yours or a friends dog enjoying the feeling of freedom on a free beach run.

### **Pete at the Seashore**

I ran along the yellow sand and made the sea gulls fly  
I chased them down the water's edge, I chased the to the sky.  
I ran so hard I ran so fast I left the spray behind,  
I chased the flying flecks of foam and I outran the wind.

An airplane sailing overhead climbed when it heard me bark  
I yelped and leapt right at the sun until the sky grew dark.  
Some little children on the beach threw sticks and ran with me  
O Master let us go again and play beside the sea.

Author: Don Marquis

## MEET THE INSTRUCTOR- PAM ROWLEY

Hello, my name is Pam. I am from the UK, moving to Australia in 2009. We lived in Canberra for several years and bought a block of land in recent years not far from Narooma, on which we built a beautiful straw bale home. We keep cool in the summer and toasty warm in the winter, no big bills for us!

I have had a few dogs, several cats and also chickens over the years. Whilst living on a smallholding in Wales I had huge joy in bottle feeding and nurturing an abandoned lamb – one of the joys of my life. Lammy (not original I know) eventually went to live with a neighbours flock, needing to be with her own kind. Upsetting for me, but best for her.

I came to Narooma Dog Training Club with Rollo five years ago, commencing in green class and making our way up to black class over time. Along the way we were introduced to rally obedience and I have been an advocate ever since. I was smitten by the opportunity to train my gorgeous dog even further than I thought possible. I might add that training of the handler in rally is just as important, unless your dog can read and interpret the rally signs of course!

Rollo's training has gone from strength to strength. He has obtained his Community Companion Dog Certificate in Obedience from the Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC). We stepped away from traditional obedience a couple of years ago and took up the challenge of trialing in rally obedience, obtaining Novice, Advanced and Excellent titles. Our latest challenge to gain the Masters title is underway. We are looking forward to gaining a further six passes once Covid restrictions allow rally trials to commence again. Attending dog trials in either obedience, rally obedience, agility/jumping (and plenty of other dog sports) is a great way of meeting and making friends with like-minded people.

After retiring last year from my job in Canberra, I at last felt time was more on my side to get involved in guiding handlers (and their beautiful dogs) in rally obedience. I now set up rally courses in weeks alternating with agility for those handlers who are keen to spend some extra time with rally. This has evolved to now also giving 'bite size' lessons incorporated within obedience classes. I thoroughly enjoy seeing handlers realise just how much they can learn and have fun with their dogs.

Thank you, Narooma Dog Training Club in particular Yve Robinson, for your support and encouragement in allowing me to take the lead in rally obedience training.



Pam giving Rally O instruction to handlers and a demonstration with Rollo

## INTRODUCING OUR VICE-PRESIDENT - VAL McCAULEY

My name is Val McCauley and most of you will know me from helping our Secretary, Carol on the sign in and registration desk each Saturday.

I have been a long-standing member of the Narooma Dog Training Club since its inception and have recently been elected as Vice-President of the Narooma Dog Training Club Branch of Animal Welfare League, as well as helping out on training days.

When arriving in Narooma from Sydney over 20 years ago, my first task was to find someone to help train my very wayward dog, Wooffa. I was lucky enough to hear of Yve Robinson who at that time was training on her 5 acre property. With her help and patience, Wooffa became a champion dog achieving black class. Wooffa passed away over 10 years ago now, and shortly after Shadow came into my life. He is supposed to be a cavoodle, but seems to have very little poodle in him! Again, another dog in desperate need of training! He has improved tremendously and although still a little bit aggressive on occasions, has done well to get into red class, and won awards for both Agility and Rally O.

Shadow has been my backbone over the last two years, with the death of a loved one, bushfires and Covid. Without him my life would have been very different. Shadow loves his daily walks on the beach or along the bike track at Dalmeny. During this difficult time, we have all lost some days of training, but I do hope that you continue on with doing some training with your dog on your daily walks too. Keep safe everyone and look forward to seeing you all back again when we are allowed.



Vale: Wooffa



Val and Shadow at Nata Oval



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

## WELCOME TO NEW HANDLERS – AUGUST/SEPTEMBER GREEN CLASS

|                    |          |                            |
|--------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| Simone Hunt        | Kylo     | Beagle                     |
| Michael Davis      | Evie     | Chihuahua                  |
| Kate Le Bars       | Lee Loo  | Koolie                     |
| Elisabeth Newfield | Kai      | Koolie                     |
| Alisha Cowley      | Raven    | Koolie                     |
| Sheree Everson     | Maverick | Koolie                     |
| Sally Pryor        | Pepper   | German Shorthaired Pointer |
| Jenny Ruhno        | Taffy    | Bearded Collie             |
| Kelly Daly         | Shadow   | Red Heeler x               |
| Nicki Endt         | Steve    | Labrador x Mastiff         |
| Susan Cochran      | Reggie   | Cavoodle                   |
| Patricia Pearson   | Chad     | German Shepherd            |

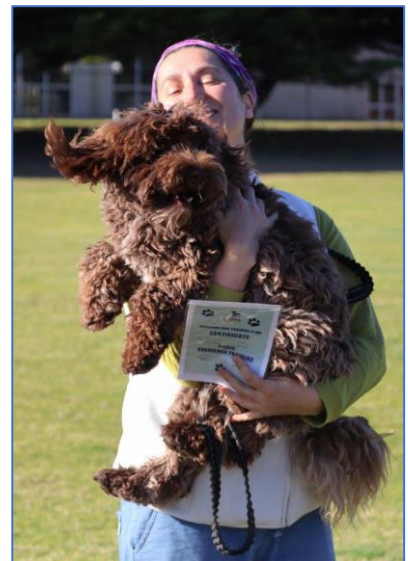
Thank you for choosing to train your dog with us. **Please note:** Adjustments will be made to the timetable for your program, to make up for dates cancelled due to Covid lockdown. More details soon.

### CERTIFICATE TIME

Thanks to Rosy Williams for these photos of proud handlers from the June/July Green Class, who gained their Certificate of Basic Training Skills.



Left: Geoff and Nessie Right: Peter and Summer



Ria and Cookie



Left: Elizabeth and Audrey Right: Jessica and Hero

## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION!

Blue Class to Yellow Class  
Martin Oswin and Ella  
Carol Hellmers and Cheska

Yellow Class to Red Class  
Alan Hudson and Molly



## COMPETITION RESULTS

### NDTC 2nd<sup>t</sup> Rally O Competition – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

|                 |                             |        |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Michelle Arneson and Scooby | 87 pts |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Kay Davidson and Bella      | 82 pts |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Peter Nelipa and Bobby      | 81pts  |

### Agility – 2<sup>nd</sup> round – Country Link Competition - 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021

|                 |                              |           |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Kathryn McKellar and Suzie Q | 5 faults  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Peter Nelipa and Bobby       | 10 faults |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Pam Rowley and Rollo         | 10 faults |

### Agility – 2nd round – NDTC Competition - 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021

#### OFF LEAD

|                 |                              |             |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Peter Nelipa and Bobby       | clear round |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Pam Rowley and Rollo         | clear round |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Kathryn McKellar and Suzie Q | clear round |

#### ON LEAD

|                 |                         |           |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Graham Pinney and Bowie | 10 faults |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|

Left to Right: Peter and Bobby, Pam and Rollo, Kath and Suzie Q



## **TRAINING HINT - Be aware of “negative” associative learning**

Your dog runs away. You call him with the word “Come” and he ignores you. When he finally wanders back you punish him for running away. The next time you call him to “Come” he will stay away, because he associates the word “Come” with unpleasant things.

The word “Come” should always be happy, pleasant and welcoming and should only be used for Recalls. Putting your dog back on the lead and confining him to the car, or removing him from the park straight away is a negative punishment. Of course, you need to let him know that running away is not acceptable so you must put him back on the lead, but keep him beside you without talking, stroking, patting, or treating - ignore him while you calm down. If you have a dog which constantly runs away then be positive, buy a very long lunge lead, let him roam away on that, and practice calling “Come” before he reaches the end of the lead. If your dog still doesn’t return to you, guide him back to you with lots of praise and a treat. Using the words “Off You Go” (or something similar) release the dog again, let him wander again, and repeat the exercise over and over again. Eventually you will have a dog who always returns when called. Be patient.

## **2021 CALENDAR**

**CORRECT AS AT 1 SEPTEMBER 2021 – SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

*September 17 Friday 7pm, Ordinary Meeting – Narooma Men’s Shed TBC*

September 18 2pm Obedience

**Rally O included in class – 2:00pm Blue, 2.30pm Yellow, 3pm Red/Black**

September 25 2pm Obedience

3.30pm Agility

October 2 **LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY WEEKEND – NO CLASSES  
(DLS TIME BEGINS)**

October 9 2pm Obedience (NEW GREEN CLASS)

3.30pm Agility

*October 15 Friday 7pm, Ordinary Meeting – Narooma Men’s Shed TBC*

October 16 2pm Obedience

3.30pm Agility

October 23 2pm Obedience

3.30pm – **2<sup>ND</sup> HANDLERS DAY**

October 30 2pm Obedience

**Rally O included in class – 2:00pm Blue, 2.30pm Yellow, 3pm Red/Black**

3.30pm Agility

November 6 **Forest Car Rally on NATA OVAL TBC**

OR 2pm Obedience (possible 2<sup>ND</sup> HANDLERS DAY if required)

November 13 2pm Obedience

**3.30pm Rally O**

*November 19 Friday 7pm, Ordinary Meeting - Narooma Mens Shed TBC*

November 20 2pm Obedience

3.30pm Agility

November 27 2pm Obedience

3.30pm Agility

December 4 **DOGS CHRISTMAS PARTY – DETAILS TBC**