

# THE WOOFER

ESTABLISHED 2005

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB



April – May – June 2022

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to this second edition of the Woofers Newsletter for 2022. There is plenty to talk about in this issue – a list of new handlers who have recently joined us, promotions and awards, plus important information that will help you with your dog training program and more – so read on!

First some sad news – Jean Page recently stepped down from the position of Chief Instructor due to ill health. It is unlikely that she will return in the near future, so I'm sure you will join me now in wishing her a steady recovery. My sincere thanks to Jean on behalf of the Committee of NDTC and from you all, for her dedication and work across the past seven years, first as Deputy Instructor and from 2018, Chief Instructor. It has been a bumpy few years, to say the least! Fortunately for us, Yve Robinson has stepped up and taken on the job to keep us on track. Yve has many, many years experience as a Chief Instructor, not just with NDTC, so I can assure you that your training programs are in good hands.

Since I last wrote we have had 24 new handlers register for the Green Class program. The April/May group nearly got washed out with those huge rains in April. In all 6 lessons were achieved, as May weather cheered up and gave us crisp, but sunny days – perfect for obedience training. It remains to be seen how many of the 8 lessons the June/July group can achieve - it is a fact of life, that we can't control the weather.

I'm pleased to report that the much-loved Agility program started in April, and there is more to come in June and July. The NDTC Calendar on the back gives details. Also the Rally O program, within class time, is going really well. Pam Rowley and her dog Rollo are Rally O experts, having just achieved their Rally Masters Title.

Behind the scenes, NDTC has been working on a project that will we hope, in the long term, result in a permanent home for the agility trailer, our growing amount of training equipment and archives, and provide a focal point in Narooma for canine activities. My heartfelt thanks to Kate Le Bars, Geraldine Hunt, Peter Nelipa and Carol Hellmers for taking on this project. When we have some firm details we will definitely let you know all about it!

Till next issue, enjoy your training and your dog.

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

<b>President</b> Steve Genner	<b>Secretary/Publicity</b> Carol Hellmers	<b>Treasurer</b> Peter Nelipa	<b>WHS Officer</b> Kay Davidson
<b>Vice President</b> Val McCauley			
<b>Chief Instructor</b> Retired	<b>Instructors</b> Peter Nelipa (Obedience/Agility)		
<b>Deputy Chief Instructor</b> Yve Robinson	Kathryn McKellar (Obedience/Agility) Pam Rowley (Obedience/Rally O)	Kay Davidson (Obedience)	
<b>Guest Instructors:</b> Amanda Doust, Geoff Chivall			
<b>Equipment Officer</b> Vacant	<b>Agility Trailer</b> Peter Nelipa	<b>Woofers Editors</b> Yve Robinson	
<b>Registration Assistant</b> Val McCauley	<b>Photographer</b> Rosy Williams	Carol Hellmers	

Dog Training Enquiries: 0458 953 281

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

Bad Weather: After midday ring Yve – 4476 3900 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 2022

Annual registration fees remain unchanged:

\$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 O/Obedience combined: \$5.00 per dog

## **FROM THE DEPUTY CHIEF INSTRUCTOR**

The month of May finally decided to give us some more reasonable weather, how lucky we were to miss most of the rain experienced by the northern regions of the State. Class numbers started to grow again and we all feel more optimistic that we may eventually return to more normal training conditions. We held our first Handlers Day of the year and have commenced Agility training again with our first Country Link and NDTC competitions to be held towards the end of July.

The last two years have been very trying for everyone and many organisations have not survived, so we are fortunate we have been able to keep everything going. This is due to our regular small band of dedicated volunteers who have worked hard under trying conditions. As with all organisations, we are always happy to welcome any handler who would like to join our working team. Sharing the load makes life easier for us all. One way in which you can help is to join the Animal Welfare League. This would enable you to attend meetings, have your say in the way you think we could improve conditions for handlers and dogs, and vote at the AGM which we usually hold in July each year. The voting is for all positions on the Committee, from President through to Work, Health and Safety Officer. If you feel you would like more input into AWL and the Narooma Dog Training Club Branch, then see Carol and she will advise you how to join AWL, and the cost. The more Branch members we have the greater the impression we make when we ask for support from Council, and the more attention will be given to us by AWL Head Office.

Yve Robinson  
Deputy Chief Instructor

### **WELCOME TO APRIL/ MAY NEW HANDLERS – GREEN CLASS**

Hannah Tate and Bruce  
Kristy Randall and Reggie  
Henry Niemoeller and Willow  
Megan Chisolm and Blush  
Sue Seath and Mitsy  
Calum Patterson and Nala  
Hannah Wilson and Wilbur  
Brigette Bragg and Banjo  
Libby Shortridge and Piccolo  
Dave Matthews/Zoe Cooper with Zen and Shadow  
Angela Marshall and Elke  
Coral McGuire and Bella May

**Congratulations on attaining your Basic Handling Skills!**  
**You are welcome to return anytime to participate in Blue Class**

### **WELCOME TO JUNE/ JULY NEW HANDLERS – GREEN CLASS**

Julie Creagh and Obi  
Kim Pisani and Lucy  
Jenny Helmore and Kara  
Laura Hackney and Pippie  
Annette Boulton and Coffee  
Nalda Paterson and Cassie  
Lydia Morton and Buddy  
Kristy Spooner and Bodhi  
Julie Cave and Eddie  
Georgia Young and Billie  
Kylea Haslope and Ada  
Christine Thorncroft and Tilly

## NDTC - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 22 July, 5-6pm  
Via ZOOM

All Committee positions are declared vacant each year.  
Nominees must be financial members of the  
NSW Animal Welfare League Narooma Dog Training Club Branch.

Calling for nominations for the positions of:

President  
Vice-President  
Secretary/Publicity Officer  
Treasurer  
Work, Health and Safety Officer  
Chief Instructor

If you are interested in taking on a role with the Committee of NDTC  
please contact Carol on 0458 953 281

## NDTC FUNDRAISING

Narooma Dog Training Club is a Branch of the NSW Animal Welfare League, run by volunteers and funded by the registration fees and ground fees you pay each week for dog training.

The NDTC Committee works hard behind the scenes to raise additional funds that help support the weekly training program and keep our equipment up to scratch. Treasurer (Peter Nelipa) is very good at keeping expenditures under control and we also receive amazing support from people like you, who either give us generous cash donations or bring recyclable items for us to deposit in the TOMRA plastic, can and glass machine installed at Narooma Plaza. You would be surprised how quickly and steadily funds accrue from this source – plus we are helping the environment and encouraging Council to continue and improve their waste program.

So please feel free to bring a bag,  
or box or two each Saturday –  
Carol will gladly put them in the boot  
of her car.

**Here is a handy guide on what  
goodies are able to be recycled!**

Over the 6 years that NDTC Branch has  
been operating as a single entity (we were  
affiliated with the Eurobodalla AWL Branch  
for over a decade prior to 2016), we have  
been raising funds for a special project, as hinted at  
in our President's Report on page 1.

This project is very much in the developmental stage,  
but will soon be the focus of our fundraising efforts.  
Watch this space!



## PROMOTION DAY – 30TH APRIL 2022

### Blue Class to Yellow Class

Nikki Endt and Steve

### Yellow Class to Red Class

Kate Le Bars and Lee Loo

Elisabeth Newfield and Kai

## 1<sup>ST</sup> HANDLERS DAY – 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2022

### Blue Class

1<sup>st</sup> Kellie Daley and Shadow  
2<sup>nd</sup> Theo Cassidy and Jake  
3<sup>rd</sup> Donna McLean and Jarrah  
Marilyn Fisher and Bonnie  
Tash Dusenjko and Dexter  
Janet Linee and Dusty  
Ree Liddell and Laney

Promoted to Yellow Class  
Promoted to Yellow Class  
Promoted to Yellow Class  
Promoted to Yellow Class  
Promoted to Yellow Class  
Promoted to Yellow Class  
Promoted to Yellow Class

### Yellow Class

1<sup>st</sup> Wayne Perry and Odessa  
2<sup>nd</sup> Martin Oswin and Ella  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jo Barrett and Missy

Promoted to Red Class  
Promoted to Red Class  
Promoted to Red Class

### Red Class

1<sup>st</sup> Alexis Swadling and Rocky



Kate and Lee Loo



Nikki and Steve



## PROMOTION? HANDLERS DAY? HOW DO THEY WORK?

Promotions are given at the end of each month to Blue and Yellow Class handlers and their dogs, at the discretion of the class instructor who monitors their progress on a weekly basis. Handlers Days are slightly different - they are held three times a year (circumstances permitting) and are a way of helping Instructors evaluate not only the handlers progress, but also the overall standard of instructing. All handlers are given a number to wear and an Instructor marks their progress in exercises completed on the day.

Green Class handlers in the Basic Skills Program, do not take part in Handlers Days. They all receive a Certificate at the end of the 2month program, to say they have completed Basic Obedience and are encouraged to continue up into Blue Class.

In Blue Class exercises are performed in a group. In Yellow Class some exercises are one on one, others are in a group. Ribbons are awarded and promotions are made as a result of the assessment. Promotion is given on the handler's ability to complete all exercises, with at least half marks on each exercise. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place ribbons are awarded in both Blue and Yellow Classes. Sometimes a handler will receive a ribbon, but is not promoted. This is because they scored well overall, but did not pass a particular exercise. Handlers are only assessed at their current level of each class - so Blue Class will only perform Blue Class exercises, and so on. No-one is asked to perform an exercise that has not been taught at their class level. Handlers Days are nothing to be scared of. We urge everyone to participate.

The rules become stricter when handlers reach Red Class standard. Ribbons are only awarded to handlers and dogs who have attained marks totaling 75 and over, with the top mark being 100. In Red Class handlers and their dog are judged separately. Handlers complete each exercise, including a recall off lead. Long sits and downs are the only group exercises at this level.

## **RALLY OBEDIENCE – Instructor Pam Rowley writes:**

I hope that both handlers and dogs have gained confidence and greater connection with each other through the short sessions of Rally Obedience so far this year. I have seen handlers and dogs enjoy this different form of obedience, and there are some of you I believe would not only enjoy but also do well at Rally Trials. So, I'll dedicate this Woofers piece by giving a little background into this enjoyable pastime. Like me, you may get bitten by the Rally bug! The first level is the Novice Class. This level is performed on lead, therefore teaching your dog to heel on a loose lead is important, whether or not you are trialing. No two trials courses are the same, no matter how long you have been participating. As I say in class, "faults are made mostly by handlers, not dogs". But like me, you will learn from your mistakes and won't make them again. Likewise, no two judges are the same, some will make you feel more relaxed while others are a little more rigid in their interpretation of the Rally rules. If you learn how each sign needs to be negotiated, read and interpret each sign before reaching it on your way around the course, you'll be comfortably on your way to gaining a Rally Novice title. This title is awarded by gaining three passes in courses of between 10 and 15 stations (signs) and gaining scores of 75+ points out of 100, under at least two different judges. Of course, the weather conditions can be an important factor as to your team's performance on the day hot – cold – windy – wet – dry, and all the variables in between. All these conditions (not all at once unless you fancy trialing in Melbourne) need to be put to the back of your mind and for you both to carry on regardless. If you become an intermittent or even a seasoned trialer you will make friends and acquaintances from various parts of NSW, as well as interstate. Everyone of us who meet up have a deep love of dogs and trialing. Rally trials closest to us are held in Bermagui each year. Plenty of time for keen handlers and dogs to be given guidance and further information. Who would like to join me?

Pam Rowley  
Rally Obedience/Red Class Instructor



Rollo's Rally Masters Certificate



A very proud Pam with Rollo and his ribbon and rosettes. Congratulations!

## **HOW TO ENTER A TRIAL**

One of the conditions of entering Official ANKC trials is that all participants must be members of Dogs NSW and have their dogs registered as well. You can then enter any official trials in Australia. Please talk to Pam and she will give you guidance as to how to access the web site. It does take time to become a Member of Dogs NSW so if you think you would like to trial at Bermagui in 2023, please get your paperwork in early. The Dogs NSW Office closes down during the Christmas period.

Yve Robinson  
Deputy Chief Instructor

## **COLLARS, MICROCHIPS and COUNCIL REGULATIONS.**

There are certain State and Council rules and regulations that apply to the ownership of a dog, whether it is a pure or cross breed animal. If they are not complied with, such a failure could involve you in quite large fines.

All dogs are required to wear a collar with an identity disc, that clearly states the owner's contact phone number and dog's name. This can, if your dog escapes from your premises and gets lost, help in your dog being returned safely back home. Many dogs have avoided being picked up by Council Rangers when a passerby has found and looked after them, and returned them home. If a dog is picked up by Council Rangers it can be impounded and the owner charged for their unfortunate stay in the Pound.

Most pups are microchipped by breeders before they are sold. If your pup is not microchipped then it is the owner's responsibility to have this done by a Vet. Microchips are compulsory - once again failure to have this done is liable to cost you a fine.

Many handlers do not realise that all dogs need to be registered with their local Council. This does entail a fee payable, but it covers your dog for life. This enables your dog to be traced by its microchip even if it gets lost, stolen, or you leave the state and surrender it to a welfare organization like Animal Welfare League or RSPCA. The new owner would in that case go to Council and change the ownership details. Charges for registration, which should be completed on or before the dog is 6 months old, differ depending on whether the dog is entire or desexed. If desexed, the fee is much cheaper. If you decide to desex your dog and you have a pension of any kind, Animal Welfare League Eurobodalla or Far South Coast Branches can assist you with a voucher to help with the desexing expense.

We urge you all to register your companion with your local Council and make sure your dog always wears a collar and identity disc.

## **KATH AND AGILITY ARE BACK!**

We welcome back Kathryn McKellar and the return of the much-loved Agility Program. Here are some lovely photos taken by our official photographer Rosy Williams, of last weeks activity. It's all hands-on deck to unload, set up and then pack up at the end of a long day. Thank you to everyone who pitches in to help – very much appreciated! Any handler from Blue Class and up is welcome to attend – dogs must be over 9 months. Please refer to calendar on the back page for dates.



**NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB 2022 CALENDAR**  
**CORRECT AS AT 18 JUNE, 2022**

- June 25** 2pm Obedience  
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Kath)
- July 2** **LOCATION CHANGE to BILL SMYTHE OVAL SOUTH, near tennis court**  
2pm Obedience including Rally O - 2pm Green, 2.20pm Blue, 2.40pm Yellow  
3pm Red/Black Rally O
- July 9 2pm Obedience  
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Kath)
- July 15 NDTC Branch Meeting – 7pm, Narooma Men’s Shed
- July 16 2pm Obedience including Rally O - 2pm Blue, 2.30pm Yellow, 3pm Red/Black
- July 22 NDTC Branch AGM via ZOOM
- July 23 2pm Obedience  
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Kath)
- July 30 2pm Obedience  
**2pm - 2<sup>ND</sup> RALLY O COMPETITION** - Blue/Yellow/Red/Black
- August 6** **New GREEN CLASS Registrations**  
2pm Obedience ONLY
- August 13 2pm Obedience including Rally O  
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Kath)
- August 20 2pm Obedience including Rally O - 2pm Blue, 2.30pm Yellow  
**3.30pm - AGILITY COMPETITION /COUNTRY LINK** (Trailer – Kath)
- August 27 2pm Obedience
- September 3** 2pm - 2<sup>ND</sup> HANDLERS DAY
- September 10 **TBC FOREST CAR RALLY – possible BILL SMYTHE TBC**
- September 17 2pm Obedience including Rally O - 2pm Green, 2.20 Blue, 2.40pm Yellow  
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Kath)
- September 24 2pm Obedience including Rally O  
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Kath)
- October 1** **LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND – NO CLASSES**
- October 8 **New GREEN CLASS Registrations**  
2pm Obedience ONLY
- October 15 2pm Obedience including Rally O - 2pm Blue, 2.20pm Yellow, 2.40pm Red/Black
- October 22 2pm Obedience  
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Peter)
- October 29 2pm Obedience  
**2pm - 3<sup>RD</sup> RALLY O COMPETITION** - Blue/Yellow/Red/Black
- November 5** 2pm Obedience  
**3.30pm – AGILITY COMPETITION and COUNTRY LINK**
- November 12 2pm - 3<sup>RD</sup> HANDLERS DAY
- November 19 2pm Obedience including Rally O - 2pm Green, 2.20 Blue, 2.40pm Yellow, 3pm Red/Black
- November 26 2pm Obedience  
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Kath)
- December 3** **DOGS CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**Open to all Handlers registered in 2022 and their families – please hold this date!**