

THE WOOFER



NEWSLETTER OF THE
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 2005

January – February – March 2022

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to everyone and a warm welcome to new handlers who have just joined Narooma Dog Training Club (NDTC). It was terrific to see so many friends from last year return to Nata Oval, to refresh and continue their dog handling skills. This is the first issue of four Woofers Newsletters that you will receive in 2022. Inside you will find information about our programs and people, and other items of interest.

I am delighted to report that our 2022 program got underway as planned on Saturday 5th February, on what proved to be a lovely, warm day. It is a pity that the weather gods don't seem to realise just how important Saturdays are to our canine buddies! The heavens have opened and we have been rained out twice already this year. It is sometimes a tricky decision whether or not to cancel a training day, especially if the rain is intermittent and localised. We do our best to make the call around midday on the day – and where possible will send out an email of advice and put a post on our Facebook page. If you are able, please LIKE us on Facebook and opt to receive these important notifications.

On deck for the first lesson were all the NDTC dedicated volunteer Instructors – Jean Page (Chief Instructor), Yve Robinson (Deputy Instructor), Peter Nelipa, Kathryn McKellar, Kay Davidson and Pam Rowley. Apart from their Instructor tasks, most also hold positions on the Committee that manages NDTC behind the scenes. You would have also met Carol Hellmers and Val McCauley, both still behind masks for your safety. Together they manage the sign in area each week. We are all thrilled to be back at Nata Oval and are looking forward to helping you with your dog training challenges.

2022 has begun with the Obedience program only. The much-loved Agility program will be re-introduced later this year. The reason behind this decision is to allow time for the Omicron Covid threats to pass. Agility is a very hands-on and close contact activity that requires a team effort to set up equipment, and individual handling of dogs. We will keep you posted on when Agility can be safely re-instated. Good news though - Pam Rowley has prepared a wonderful program of Rally Obedience that is being incorporated into the obedience program for the Blue, Yellow, Red and Black Classes. Even Green Class will be given a taste of this program. Pam and her dog Rollo are Rally O experts! Read about their recent achievements inside this issue.

To wrap up this first message, I take the opportunity to sincerely thank everyone for their co-operation with the Covid safety measures in place last year, and those that we have decided to retain, such as social distancing and hand sanitising.

Till next issue, enjoy your training.
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/Publicity Carol Hellmers	Treasurer Peter Nelipa	WHS Officer 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

Jean Page

Registration Assistant

Val McCauley

Instructors

Peter Nelipa (Obedience/Agility)

Kathryn McKellar (Obedience/Agility)

Pam Rowley (Rally O) Kay Davidson (Obedience)

Agility Trailer

Peter Nelipa

Photographer

Rosy Williams

Woofers Editors

Yve Robinson

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

Rally O: as per 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 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 CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

The first day back to training after the Christmas break was very busy. The new handlers Green Class was a great success, despite us all having to remember some Covid rules. The new handlers enjoying the experience having waited patiently to join. Thanks to Carol, Val and Kay (WH&S Officer) for their work in making the registration process run smoothly. It was great to see many handlers from 2021 return to continue their training.

If you never trained a puppy or dog, then there are three things that need to be remembered. They are Patience, Persistence and Praise. Let's take Patience first. It is not easy to keep your cool when you have a dog jumping around, trying to get to the other dogs, pulling away, barking, when you are trying to teach it an exercise. Your Instructor has shown you how to hold the lead, how to use a treat and hand signal to encourage Fido into the correct position beside you. Trouble is, Fido still wants to socialise with the other dogs. Now this is where Persistence comes into play. Every time Fido breaks the sit, he is shown how to perform this task again, and again and again, with you as a gentle handler staying Patient. Fido will eventually sit when asked, then Praise is lavished upon him. Most dogs do want to please their handlers, but like humans they do not all learn at the same pace, it is up to you to keep trying until you both achieve success. Patience, Persistence and Praise have been used, and you, the handler and Fido have started to make a team of two, with you being the leader. Now all you have to remember is to be consistent, making sure you always make the same hand signals and commands. If you have been using food treats to lure your dog, now you can start cutting back on food treats, using them occasionally now and again just to keep your dog focused on you.

Your body language is vitally important too. If you are apprehensive, angry, bored, nervous or complacent, then your emotion will travel down the lead. Fido will pick up your feelings and act accordingly. Try and stay relaxed whilst staying aware of what is happening around you - concentrate on your dog. He is relying on you as you are the leader. Tone of voice when asking your dog to do something is extremely important. As a general rule the higher the tones of your voice will be interpreted as being friendly while very low tones, like a growl, mean a reprimand and authority. For example, Fido pleases you by sitting when asked, praise, using a higher tone. If Fido misbehaves and lunges at another dog, reprimand with a low growly tone. Timing is a critical element in training a dog. Treats and praise given quickly, bad behaviour ignored. One very important exercise that you and Fido will be taught is to 'Come' when called. Lots of encouragement on your part is necessary, using a happy high voice tone.

Finally, remember your Instructor is there to help both you and your dog enjoy training. If you need help, please ask - all our Instructors are happy to make sure you get the best outcome.

Jean Page - Chief Instructor

NDTC Instructors

Standing L to R:

*Peter Nelipa, Pam Rowley,
Kay Davidson, Kathryn McKellar*

Seated L to R:

*Jean Page (Rollo)
Yve Robinson (Suzie Q)*

Photo: Rosy Williams



WELCOME TO NEW HANDLERS
FEBRUARY-MARCH GREEN CLASS

Linda Machon and Rue
Ree Liddell and Laney
Tash Dusenjko and Dexter
Patricia Pearson and Chad
Paul Djikic and Remi
Marilyn Fisher and Bonnie
Bill Thompson and Telly
Lynne Metcalf and Cookie
Liz and Tony Brennan and Buddy
Tracey and Rock David and Ebbie
Donna McLean and Jaffah
Jane Goodrich and Amber



HAPPY DOGS!

What is really interesting about this first Green Class for 2022, is that 6 of the 12 dogs are Animal Welfare League dogs. These are dogs who have been surrendered or rescued and have been rehomed with new owners. Every year Narooma Dog Training Club (NDTC), also a Branch of the NSW Animal Welfare League, works with the Eurobodalla and Far South Coast AWL Branches to encourage owners of rescued dogs to bring them to class. Free registration for a year is given by NDTC to new owners to attend dog obedience. NDTC also offers the same opportunity to dogs rehomed by Eurobodalla RSPCA and Eurobodalla Council Pound. We all have the same aim - to see these dogs bond well with their new owners. Attendance at dog obedience helps build trust between handler and dog, as well as socialise a dog that may have had a rough start in life.

PROMOTIONS - Blue to Yellow Class

Kate Le Bars and Lee Loo
Elisabeth Newfield and Kia



CONGRATULATIONS!

Pam Rowley and Rollo, who achieved their Rally Excellence title last year, have been working towards their Rally Masters title. Five good passes at this level are required before they reach their goal. We are delighted to tell you that already this year they have achieved two good passes and are well on the way to the Masters. We will keep you posted!

Rollo looking relaxed and very proud of his achievements

PLASTIC BOTTLES

It's a mystery, but dogs love to bite into plastic water bottles and hear them crunch and crackle. As dog owners, we love to give our pups something they like, not to mention that it is a free toy. But just because dogs love them, doesn't mean they're safe.

Dogs and puppies should never be left unsupervised with a plastic bottle. Why? Eventually, after the initial thrill of 'killing' the bottle, a dog will probably settle in for a good chew. At this point, a cap or piece of the bottle itself might be ingested, causing a blockage that requires emergency vet care — frequently surgery — and which sometimes can be fatal. Removing the bottle cap might help a little but this still doesn't make it safe, as even little dogs' jaws are strong enough to tear off some of the bottle itself. When the plastic water bottle breaks, it also creates sharp edges that can cut your dog's mouth, also resulting in a vet visit.

Bottom line - don't ever leave your dog unattended with a plastic water bottle.

If you really want to give your dog a plastic water bottle 'toy' let it be one of the things your dog gets only when he/she is with you. It will make your time together even more special.

Better still, save your plastic bottles, cans and recyclable glass and bring them to dog training any Saturday. We would be delighted to collect and recycle for you, with all proceeds used to hire the Nata Oval and other support other NDTC activities.

Thanks!

Carol Hellmers – Secretary



KATH TO THE RESCUE

Last year we received a request from a lady from Bermagui, Sue Thomas, for some help with her Labrador, Hope. Sue was wanting to train Hope as an assistance dog to help her, as she is in a wheelchair and wanted Hope's support. We thought it might be too difficult for Sue to come to us on Nata Oval, so I organised visits to her in her home.

I found that Sue had been doing a terrific job with Hope, who had already mastered the basics of sitting, dropping and staying. Hope was also good at coming when called, but the problem they were having was that Hope would regularly lunge when passing other dogs, with the danger of possibly pulling Sue over in her chair.

Sue and I discussed a number of different strategies, like using the "leave" command and "watch me" command or simply "heel, with me" command. Another problem was that Hope was sometimes walked by Sue's carers and getting everyone on the same page was proving difficult.

I suggested she use a halti collar along with the "leave" command and am pleased to report that, after some practice, this combination was the answer. Hope is now walking really well beside Sue and has been accepted into the Assistance Dog Program. We wish them both well.

Kathryn McKellar – Instructor

POSTSCRIPT

Narooma Dog Training Club would like to thank Instructor, Kathryn McKellar for her kindness, generosity and gift of personal time to help Sue achieve her canine handling goal.

We also take this opportunity to sincerely thank Sue Thomas for her very generous donation of \$300 to NDTC.



Kath and Suzie Q



Sue Thomas and Hope

VALE “FIFI”

Sadly, one of Jean Page’s beloved dogs has passed away after a long illness. Fifi was a feisty little princess, full of mischief and character. Jean took her in about 8 years ago as a rescue dog, rehomed from Eurobodalla Animal Welfare Branch. This act saved Fifi at the time, as she had been a challenge to rehome. A stay of execution and a loving home were all that was needed to bring out the best in Fifi. She will be greatly missed by both Jean, her husband Paul and companion “Geppetto”.

“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”

Christmas 2018 – Jean with Fifi (pink lead) and Geppetto (blue lead) enjoying the end of year party.



DOGS ON TV

Recently the ABC showed an excellent programme called “Muster Dogs”. The dogs involved were all working dogs, pure-bred Kelpies from the same litter. The new owners were all experienced handlers of working dogs, though not necessarily Kelpies.

Each owner was allotted a pup by the breeder to train for stock mustering. They were given certain levels of expertise to reach in a given time, starting with 3 months up to and including 12 months. During the year they and their handlers were tested on how well the team had progressed. Finally at 12 months the teams were tested and judged by experts, on how well they had bonded and worked together.

It was an extremely interesting programme, well worth watching for all Instructors and owners of working dogs, kelpies, koolies, collies and cattle dogs. If you didn’t manage to see the screening, then the ABC have put it on IView. There is also a book that has been published called “Muster Dogs” now on sale.

Even if you don’t possess a pure working dog, you may have a cross of any of the different breeds. I particularly found it interesting to see how the different handlers responded to their pup. The older gentleman who trained his pup were picked as the winning team, during the training sessions that were filmed, it was interesting to note that he never raised his voice, shouted or used any form of harsh verbal treatment. He constantly encouraged and praised the pup with his voice, not treats except pats and praise. He expected the pup to please and obey him, which it did happily. You could find watching this programme helps you with your training.

If you like to watch training methods on UTube or Facebook, an excellent person to watch is Dr. Ian Dunbar and his son Ian who works with him. Dr. Dunbar is a Vet, Dog Trainer and Behaviourist. He has travelled the world giving lectures and demonstrations. I have been fortunate enough to attend a couple of seminars where he gave lectures on aggression and general behavioural problems which can occur in dogs. He is extremely interesting and a good deal of his methods are used in our obedience training. Well worth looking up with some interesting tips that could help you with training.

Yve Robinson – Deputy Chief Instructor.

NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB 2022 CALENDAR

Correct as at 11 March 2022

- MARCH 5** 2pm Obedience
March 12 2pm Obedience including Rally O - 2pm Green, 2.20pm Blue, 2.40pm Yellow
March 19 2pm Obedience including Rally O - 2pm Blue, 2.30pm Yellow, 3pm Red/Black
March 26 2pm Obedience
2pm 1ST RALLY O COMPETITION - Blue/Yellow/Red/Black
- APRIL 2** 2pm Obedience - **New GREEN CLASS Registrations**
3.30pm Instructor Meeting
April 9 2pm Obedience
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Kath)
April 16 **EASTER LONG WEEKEND - NO CLASSES**
April 23 **ANZAC DAY LONG WEEKEND - NO CLASSES**
April 30 2pm Obedience including Rally O – 2pm Blue, 2.30pm Yellow
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Kath)
- MAY 7** 2pm Obedience including Rally O - 2pm Blue, 2.30pm Yellow
3.30pm Instructor Meeting
May 14 2pm Obedience
May 21 2pm Obedience including Rally O – 2pm Green, 2.20pm Blue, 2.40pm Yellow, 3pm Red/Black
May 28 **2pm - 1ST HANDLERS DAY** - Blue/Yellow/ Red/Black
- JUNE 4** 2pm Obedience - **New GREEN CLASS Registrations**
3.30pm Instructor Meeting
June 11 **QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND - NO CLASSES**
June 18 2pm Obedience
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Kath)
June 25 2pm Obedience
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Kath)
- JULY 2** 2pm Obedience including Rally O - 2pm Green, 2.20pm Blue, 2.40pm Yellow, 3pm Red/Black
July 9 2pm Obedience
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Kath)
July 16 2pm Obedience including Rally O - 2pm Blue, 2.30pm Yellow, 3pm Red/Black
July 23 2pm Obedience
2pm - 2ND RALLY O COMPETITION - Blue/Yellow/Red/Black
July 30 2pm Obedience
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Kath)

FOR TROUBLED TIMES

I have found that when you are deeply troubled, there are things you get from the silent devoted companionship of a dog that you can't get from any other source.

Doris Day

Dogs have a way of finding the people who need them.
And filling an emptiness we didn't ever know we had.

Thom Jones