

# THE WOOFER

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB  
ESTABLISHED 2016



July – August - September 2022

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the third edition of our Woofers Newsletter for 2022. Inside this issue you will find:

- \* List of new handlers who have recently joined us
- \* Ribbon awards for Rally O
- \* Winners of the 1<sup>st</sup> Agility competition
- \* Challenges facing Vets

and more – so read on!

Since I last wrote, our Branch of the Animal Welfare League has held the Annual General Meeting. This took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, via Zoom. Part of the proceedings included the election of Office Bearers. We are so lucky that once again our dedicated volunteers have put their hands up to take a job on the Executive Committee. I remain in the role of President and am delighted to announce the appointment of:

Val McCauley – Vice President  
Peter Nelipa – Treasurer  
Carol Hellmers – Secretary/Publicity Officer  
Kay Davidson – Work, Health and Safety Officer  
Pam Rowley – Chief Instructor  
Kathryn McKellar – Deputy Chief Instructor

Both Carol and Kathryn will be headed up to Sydney in October, to participate in the AWL Conference. This two day event brings together representatives from all AWL Branches in NSW, giving us a chance meet the staff and Board members from our 'Head Office'. Narooma Dog Training Club is unique in that we concentrate our efforts on canine education, whereas all other branches work on rescuing, homing and desexing programs. Our common goal is the health and wellbeing of all animals, and their human carers.

On the home front, I'm very pleased to report that the first Agility Competition for 2022 has taken place and that we have completed the second of three Rally O assessments planned for this year. Due to poor weather, and illness amongst our Instructor team, the second Handlers Day had to be deferred. But don't worry it will take place soon. Handlers Days are a great way for our Instructors to take stock of the progress of all handlers in their Obedience program, as well as an opportunity for you and your dog to be promoted up a level. Points that are awarded on Handlers Day are compiled by the Chief Instructor and these go towards end of year trophies, which will be presented at our much loved Dogs Christmas Party – December 3. Save the date!

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, 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>	<b>Secretary/Publicity</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>WHS Officer</b>
Steve Genner	Carol Hellmers	Peter Nelipa	Kay Davidson
<b>Vice President</b>	Val McCauley		
<b>Chief Instructor</b>	Pam Rowley	<b>Deputy Chief Instructor</b>	Kathryn McKellar
<b>Instructors</b>	Yve Robinson (Obedience)	Peter Nelipa (Obedience/Agility)	
	Jean Page (Obedience)	Kay Davidson (Obedience)	
<b>Guest Instructors</b>	Amanda Doust, Geoff Chivall		
<b>Equipment Officer</b>	<b>Agility Trailer</b>	<b>Woofers Editors</b>	
TBC	Jock McKellar	Yve Robinson & Carol Hellmers	
<b>Registration Assistant</b>	<b>Photographer</b>	<b>NDTC Volunteers</b>	
Val McCauley	Rosy Williams	Jo Barrett, Alexis Swadling, Wayne Perry	

**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 NDTC phone – 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.

Agility/ Obedience combined: \$5.00 per dog.

Half Yearly Fees: These begin from August.

## FROM THE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

A New Puppy – how wonderful!

It is an exciting time and can be overwhelming for both the new puppy, as well as other member of your home, four and two legged family members alike. Everyone will be affected in some way, not forgetting the impact it may have on your other pets too.

When you bring your new fur baby home, he/she will have a lot of adjustments to make having just left their mum and litter mates and having a new family and lots of new things to learn and explore. You can assist your new puppy in making this adjustment by settling your new family member into a smaller area that is designated as their ‘safe place’. Make this a positive place to be by spending lots of play and cuddle time there. You can then gradually give your puppy time to explore their new home and environment under supervision. Let your new puppy practice short periods of alone time in their space when they appear to be calm, then gradually increase alone time without them becoming distressed.

Exercise is very important to keep your puppy fit and happy. The amount of exercise needed each day varies from puppy to puppy and breed to breed. Be careful not to over exercise. Once your puppy is used to having their collar or harness and lead on you can start taking them on short adventures around the house and garden. The aim is to keep your puppy’s attention on you as much as possible. You can encourage them to do this by rewarding them with treats or pats when they are walking by your (left) side and paying attention to you – the first steps to teaching your puppy to heel beautifully.

The key socialisation period of a puppy, when you get him/her home, is between 8 to 16 weeks. Well thought out and careful socialisation of five minutes or less a day during this time minimises the risk of your puppy developing behavioural issues later in life. Socialisation is not just mixing with other pups or dogs and humans, but includes careful introductions (for example) to household objects like mops, vacuum, doorbell etc. Start at a distance where your puppy is able to observe unusual stimuli at a distance. Make new experiences positive. Don’t suddenly switch your vacuum on expecting your puppy to be calm and happy with this new situation! It will depend on your puppy’s vaccination status as to where and how to socialise outside of your own home and garden.

Above all, enjoy your new puppy!

Pam Rowley  
Chief Instructor



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

Ruth Watson and Whisky  
Jo Westoll and Macey  
Caryl Kitchen and Lexi  
Jenny Houghton and Bisou  
Ricardo Casagrande and Kali  
Brad and Norm Jamieson and Jess  
Jenny Northwood and Patty  
Amanda Spooner and Koda  
Sally Dart and Coco  
Suzanne Joseph and Pippie  
Leanne Payne and Banjo  
Debbie McKellar and Molly

## CONGRATULATIONS TO RALLY ASSESSMENT WINNERS

### Blue Class

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Janet Linee and Marji  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Libby Shortridge and Pic  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Coral McGuire and Bella

### Yellow Class

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Donna McLean and Jarrah  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Ian Murphy and Bessie  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Theo Cassidy and Jake

### Red Class

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Elisabeth Newfield and Kai  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Martin Oswin and Ella  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Alexis Swadling and Rocky



Happy Rally Assessment Winners, with Instructor Pam Rowley.

Left to Right - Alexis and Rocky, Theo and Jake, Janet and Marji, Martin and Ella, Donna and Jarrah.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO AGILITY WINNERS

### Country Link

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Pam Rowley and Rollo  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Peter Nelipa and Bobby  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Jessica Bolton and Nova

### NDTC Competition – Off Lead

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Pam Rowley and Rollo  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Jessica Bolton and Nova  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Peter Nelipa and Bobby

### NDTC Competition – On Lead

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Graham Pinney and Bowie  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Jessica Bolton and Hero  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Ruth Watson and Bailey



Some proud winners of the 1<sup>st</sup> NDTC Agility Competition, for 2022.  
Left to Right - Jessica and Hero, Ruth and Bailey, Pam and Rollo, Peter and Bobby.

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### NDTC FUNDRAISING

A big THANKYOU to everyone who has brought and continues to bring empty bottles, cans and glass bottles for our recycling/fundraising program. According to NDTC Treasurer Peter Nelipa, reported at our Annual General Meeting the end of July, your efforts have helped us raise \$248.00. Plus you are doing a good thing for the planet too!

How can you help?

Bring your TOMRA recycling contributions to training on Saturday afternoons.  
Secretary Carol Hellmers will gladly receive them!

## PHOTO GALLERY

Most Saturday afternoons, we are fortunate to have a visit from our official photographer, Rosy Williams. Rosy loves dogs and people too, and thoroughly enjoys spending time with her camera and long lens snapping candid shots of our activities. Here is just a small sample of her efforts, which show some of the 'things' that happen at dog training.

Thanks Rosy, we love your work!



Setting up for Agility.  
Measuring the height and width of jumps.



Kai just loves to jump!  
Look at those front paws tucked in.

And sometimes it is not such a good day for agility.





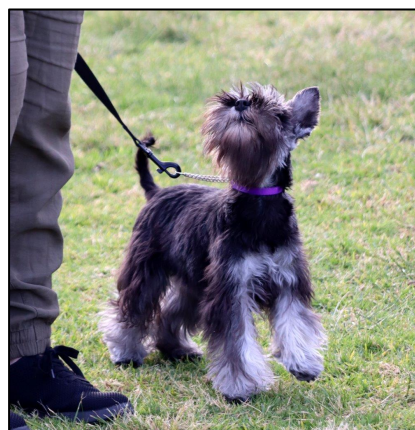
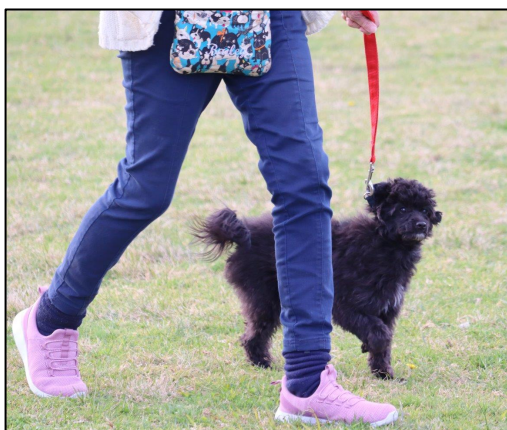
Learning basic obedience skills in Green Class and putting on a good show for the audience.



Kath and Pam presenting awards.



Val! A wonderful helper at the sign in table.



Keep to the left!

## DOES OUR REGION'S HEALTH CARE CRISIS EXTEND TO OUR ANIMALS?

Martin and I and a friend found ourselves in similar positions one Saturday. Our Labrador Ella was vomiting violently and we had to take her to Moruya Veterinary Hospital, an hour's drive away, for treatment. Meanwhile our friend near Wallaga Lake discovered her Whippet had eaten flourless chocolate cake, made with 80%-strength cacao. The vet in Bega said it would be too late to help the Whippet and instructed our friend to administer salt solution to induce vomiting. In the end both dogs were fine - but was it coincidence that we had difficulty getting after-hours vet care, or was it a sign that the healthcare crisis extends to animals?

Dr Bronwyn Orr, President of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA), said after-hour care "is a massive problem". The AVA's website was an eye-opener. In October 2021 it published the results of a survey of more than 2,500 vets. It found that working as a vet comes with long hours, staffing shortages, financial pressures and increased expectations from pet owners, all of which take a significant toll on mental health. The report said there is a high prevalence of anxiety, depression, stress, burnout and suicide within the vet profession.<sup>1</sup> In March 2022 the AVA called on whoever won the Federal election to invest money to help graduates stay in the bush.<sup>2</sup> Dr Orr said there is a shortage of vets and qualified vet nurses in all English-speaking countries. "We also have a high attrition rate, particularly among vets three to five years after graduating. The reasons are many – low pay, long hours and it is very stressful." She explained it is very expensive to run a vet practice, especially in regional areas where they have to operate like mini-hospitals with x-rays, surgery theatre, pharmacy, wet rooms and consulting rooms. These all impact vet wages.

Dr Kate Le Bars, from Montague Vets, said we can help vets.

- Plan ahead and make appointments for routine visits.
- Don't wait until it is an emergency. "Give us a call and we can let you know if we should be seeing your pet now and not tomorrow night."
- Have an emergency plan for your pet. Do a basic examination and have a list of phone numbers for your local vet, an alternative vet, a regional vet and a specialist centre.

Don't call vets, particularly after-hours, if you see a stray animal (ring council) or injured wildlife (ring NANA, WIRES 1300 094 737 or Australian Seabird & Turtle Rescue, depending on the animal).

By Marion Williams



July 9 – Ella is admitted to Moruya Vet Hospital



July 10 – Ella walks out of hospital

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ava.com.au/news/the-ava-issues-media-release-raising-awareness-of-mental-health-issues-within-the-profession/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ava.com.au/siteassets/policy-and-advocacy/policies/animal-welfare-principles-and-philosophy/national-election-platform-2022-v8\\_complete.pdf](https://www.ava.com.au/siteassets/policy-and-advocacy/policies/animal-welfare-principles-and-philosophy/national-election-platform-2022-v8_complete.pdf) Recommendations 3.1 and 3.2



**NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB 2022 CALENDAR**  
**CORRECT AS AT 16 SEPTEMBER, 2022**

September 17 2pm Obedience including Rally O - 2pm Green, 2.20 Blue, 2.40pm Yellow  
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Jock)

September 24 2pm Obedience including Rally O  
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Jock)

**October 1 LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND – NO CLASSES**

October 8 **New GREEN CLASS Registrations**

2pm Obedience ONLY

October 15 2pm - HANDLERS DAY

October 22 2pm Obedience including Rally O – 2pm Blue, 2.30pm Yellow  
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Jock)

October 29 2pm Obedience

**2pm - 3<sup>RD</sup> RALLY O COMPETITION** - Blue/Yellow/Red/Black

**November 5** 2pm Obedience  
3.30pm Agility (Trailer – Jock)

November 12 2pm Obedience  
**3.30pm - AGILITY COMPETITION and COUNTRY LINK**

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 – Jock)

**December 3 HOLD THE DATE! 2-4.30pm DOGS CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
**Open to all Handlers registered in 2022 and their families**



Meet Pam Rowley – NDTC's new Chief Instructor and Rally Instructor.