

THE WOOFER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 2016



April - May - June 2023

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Hello! This is second edition of the Woofers Newsletter for 2023, which I hope you will enjoy.

To begin, it is my great pleasure to welcome new handlers in our Basic Obedience Training program for June/July. Some have waited months for a place in this much sought after program, so I thank you for your patience and wish you well in your training. Your Instructor Jean Page is very experienced with lots of different breeds and crossbreeds of dogs, so make sure you ask plenty of questions - especially if you are having any particular issues with your dog.

The first four months of this year have gone very well thanks to the hard work of all our Instructors. We couldn't manage without you – so a BIG THANKS! Just so that you know who they are, there is a list on the second page of this issue.

We are always delighted to see friends from previous classes and years return with their dogs to challenge themselves with more training. We are also delighted to see that many people are choosing to stay with us after completing the Basic Obedience Training. Our numbers are growing, so it should be a wonderful end of year Dogs Christmas Party on December 2 – mark it in your diary now, you are all invited!

This year we have integrated Rally Obedience into regular classes, from the Blue level upwards. Rally is a great way for Instructors to vary and change up your training program, keeping you and your dog interested and improving your handling skills. Inside this issue, there are some tips on how you can get the most out of your regular dog walk too. Our Agility program is taking a while to gain momentum, following the impact of the Covid shutdown years. But we know that it will come good in time, as more handlers gain the confidence to try this amazing activity. Earlier this year we acquired a new piece of agility equipment, thanks to a Healthy Communities Grant from Council. Our collection of safe, brightly coloured and light weight equipment is growing. We just need a permanent place near NATA Oval where we can store it all. Recently our Treasurer Peter Nelipa and Secretary Carol Hellmers, made a submission to Council, which was met with positive response. More news on this important project as it comes to light.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter – until next time, happy training!

Val McCauley
Vice-President



**Narooma Dog Training Club,
a Branch of the NSW Animal Welfare League,
is on Facebook!
Please LIKE us and SHARE us with your friends**

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 dog 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 Vacant	Vice President Val McCauley	Secretary/Publicity Carol Hellmers	Treasurer Peter Nelipa
		WHS Officer Kay Davidson	
Chief Instructor Kathryn McKellar	Deputy Chief Instructor Kay Davidson		
Instructors Yve Robinson (Obedience)	Trainee Instructor Alexis Swadling (Obedience)		
Jean Page (Obedience)	Trainee Instructor Wayne Perry (Obedience)		
Peter Nelipa (Obedience/Agility)			
Guest Instructors Amanda Doust, Jeff Chivell			
Equipment Jean Page	Agility Trailer Jock McKellar	Woofers Editors Yve Robinson/Carol Hellmers	
Registration Assistant Val McCauley	Photographer Rosy Williams	Other NDTC Volunteers Jo Barrett, Marilyn Fisher	

Dog Training Enquiries: 0458 953 281

Training times: Every Saturday, weather permitting.

Obedience and Rally Obedience: 2pm - 3pm

Agility: 3.30pm - 4.30pm, as per the Calendar on back page.

Rain Cancellation: Please ring NDTC phone – 0458 953 281 after Midday on the day

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 handlers are asked to wear their name badges to all NDTC classes.
- Handlers 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 handler - 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 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 2023

Annual registration fees for renewing handlers remain unchanged since 2016.

\$40 Adult; \$25 Concession/Junior (over 9 and under 18 years); \$60 Family (any family combination).

Half Year reduced registration fees for renewing handlers commences from 1 August.

NEW Ground Fee - a flat fee of \$5.00 per handler per week, payable when in attendance.

NEW - \$50 Fee for Basic Obedience Training for 2 months, which includes Ground Fees.

FROM THE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

As we have now completed our first Handlers Day and Rally Obedience assessment for this year, I want to congratulate you all for doing a great job.

As you would have realised it's not just your dog that we are assessing but you, the handler, as well. Together you are a team and it's this teamwork that we are looking for. Ultimately, we would like to see your dog looking up at you, waiting for your next instruction.

As a rule, your dog wants to please you so don't forget to praise your dog when it has done what you have asked it to do. Show them that you are happy with what they have done, smile, praise them in a light and friendly voice, give them a pat or ear rub. If you give your dog a treat for performing a task, don't forget to include verbal praise as well, as this will make it easier to cut back on treats as your dog becomes more proficient.

It's important not to get angry with your dog if it isn't doing what you want, as this can have a negative effect on their training. Keep calm and have patience. Dogs and indeed handlers, learn at different paces. Be clear and be consistent and good results will follow.

Another fun way of encouraging good teamwork with your dog can be to teach your dog some tricks. There are many tricks you could try like "roll over", "shake hands", "play dead" or "spin". You might like to try and get your dog to weave through your legs as you walk or perhaps you could teach your dog to put their toys away. Just remember to keep it fun, try not to get frustrated and praise profusely when they get it right. Take small steps, keep your sessions short and try to finish on a high. This sort of activity is a great way of bonding with your dog.

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate our latest Green Class on the completion of their course. It's great to see so many have decided to continue onto Blue Class and their training with us. You will now be introduced to Rally Obedience and if your dog is over 9 months old, you can also give our Agility program a try.

Welcome also to our new Green Class for June/July. We hope you enjoy your training with us. If you, or indeed any of our handlers have any concerns or questions, your instructors are more than happy to help.

Kathryn McKellar
Chief Instructor

WELCOME TO NEW HANDLERS JUNE/JULY- BASIC OBEDIENCE PROGRAM

Liz Aedy and Murphy, Maree Boulton and Didgy, Nicole Clark and Lollypop,
Sharyn Freeman and Dusty, Kelly Eager & Rolf Gimmel with Lizzy, Karen Herford and Smokey,
Neil McIntosh and Maisie, Cheryl Noonan and Rhue, Isabella Raineri and Bindi,
Jennifer Stewart and Smokey.
Instructor: Jean Page

PROMOTIONS!

Congratulations are noted for the handlers who moved up a class at the end of April:

BLUE CLASS TO YELLOW CLASS

Christine Berry and Amber
Ruth Watson and Whiskey
Tina Harris and Morgan
Nickie Brodie and Frankie

YELLOW CLASS TO RED CLASS

Ian Murphy and Bessie
Marilyn Fisher and Bonnie
Theo Cassidy and Jake
Libby Shortridge and Pic
Tash Dusenjko and Dexter

1st HANDERS DAY – 27 MAY

Congratulations also to the handlers who were awarded ribbons on our 1st Handlers Day for 2023:

BLUE CLASS

1st place - Louise Webb and Lacey
2nd place tied - Jill Chisholm and Clover, Kerrie Kozman and Max

YELLOW CLASS

1st place - Christine Berry and Amber (Promoted to Red Class)
2nd place - Ruth Watson and Whiskey
3rd place - Nicky Brodie and Frankie

RED CLASS

1st place - Suzanne Joseph and Josie (Promoted to Black Class)
2nd place - Ruth Watson and Bailey (Promoted to Black Class)
3rd place - Graham Pinney and Bowie (Promoted to Black Class)
Also promoted to Black Class - Elizabeth Newfield and Kai

1st RALLY OBEDIENCE ASSESSMENT – 3 JUNE

And - Congratulations to the handlers who were awarded ribbons in Rally Obedience:

BLUE CLASS

1st place - Louise Webb and Lacey
2nd place - Jill Chisholm and Clover
3rd place - Rob Ritchie and Esmay

YELLOW CLASS

1st place - Alex Newfield and Hugo
2nd place - Tina Harris and Morgan
3rd place - Nicki Brodie and Frankie

RED CLASS

1st place - Libby Shortridge and Pic
2nd place - Suzanne Joseph and Ricki
3rd place - Jessica Boulton and Bindi

BLACK CLASS

1st place - Suzanne Joseph and Josie
2nd place - Elizabeth Newfield and Kai
3rd place - Ruth Watson and Bailey

GRADUATIONS!

The final lesson for the February/March group of handlers and dogs in the Basic Obedience Program took place on Saturday 1st April. Six people attended and all were delighted to be presented with their Certificate and graduation up to Blue Class.

Pictured are (left to right):

Wayne Perry (Trainee Instructor), Kerrie Kozman with Max, Bhima Heffernan with Archie, Harry Bate (Vale) with Roscoe, John Moore with Teddy, and lastly Yve Robinson (Mentor Instructor).
Missing from this photo are Rob Ritchie with Bentley and Louise Webb with Lacey.



VALE HARRY BATE

We were very sad to hear of the passing of long time Tilba resident Harry Bate.

Harry attended the Basic Obedience Program in February/March this year with his dog Roscoe.

A Celebration of Harry's Life will be held in the Tilba Hall, Sunday 18th June at 10am.

Rest in Peace, Harry.

The final lesson for the April/May group of handlers and dogs in the Basic Obedience Program took place on Saturday 27th May. Eight people attended this final lesson and all were delighted to be presented with their Certificate. Pictured below (left to right):

Rosy Williams with Elvis, Alicia Monk with Salli, Amanda Doust with Tupence, Sarah Hamilton with Fred, then Instructor Jean Page, Cherie White with Rambo, Kim Harris with Dutch, Cynthia Goldsworthy with Beau.

Missing from photo is Rob Atkinson with Solly.



**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
AWL NSW NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB BRANCH**

Positions open for election are:

President, Vice-President, Treasurer,
Secretary/Publicity Officer, Assistant Secretary, WH&S Officer,
Chief Instructor, Deputy Chief Instructor

ANY NDTC BRANCH FINANCIAL MEMBER MAY NOMINATE FOR THE COMMITTEE

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Via ZOOM**

5-6pm Friday 28th July

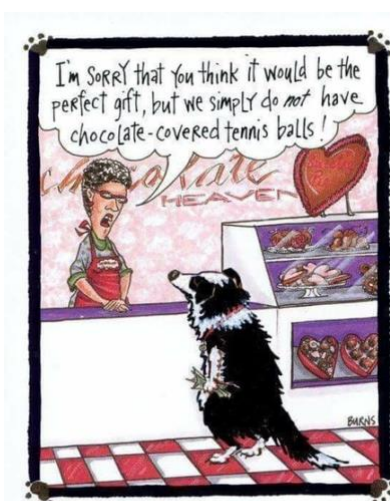
Seahorse Room, Narooma Golf Club

We invite you to join us for Dinner after the Zoom meeting.

Your choice from the Bistro Menu and at your expense.

A drink of your choice from the Bar will be provided by NDTC

ALL NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB HANDLERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND



WHAT IS YOUR DOG TELLING YOU?

My tail tells all!

As a general statement, dogs wag their tail to the right when they see something they want to approach, and to the left when they see something they want to avoid. When frightened, dogs tuck their tails in between their legs. When they wiggle and wag their whole bodies, your dog is literally jumping for joy!

I'm stressed!

Yawning and lip-licking are typical signs of stress in your dog. A dog that pulls its ears back is likely to be experiencing anxiety. Excessive panting can also be a sign of stress. Try giving your pet space, some timeout from people. We all need some 'downtime' in our lives, and your dog is the same.

I can't look at you!

At some point, you have probably uttered those words to someone who has made you angry. Dogs do similarly by avoiding eye contact with anyone who spoils their mood, or who doesn't allow them to do what they want to do. And that includes you!

I'm not well!

If your dog arches its back while tucking its belly up, it's in pain – likely gastrointestinal discomfort, but the pain could also be in its back. Sometimes a well house-trained dog will suddenly soil the carpet. This could mean that it is dehydrated or it may have a problem with kidneys or liver, especially if it is an older dog. A trip to the Vet is advised.

5 TIPS TO MAKE DOG WALKS MORE FUN!

1. **Find a place where they can be safely off-leash.** Sometimes, just letting your dog run free is the perfect change in routine. Letting your dog explore safe, new spaces is good for their mental health as it is exercising their mind. Off-leash is also a chance for you to practice recall training.
2. **Do training along the way.** If you can't change the setting of the walk, include some training exercises like sits, downs, and stays along the way. Your dog will focus on you, especially if you have some treat rewards. Most dogs are people-pleasers and they want to be praised.
3. **Change the pace.** Walking at the same pace can be monotonous, so changing the pace could help your dog be more interested in the walk. Randomly speeding up or slowing down will not only keep your dog interested, but is great leash training too.
4. **Let them sniff.** Dogs see everything through their nose, so the walk will be much more enjoyable if they are allowed to sniff around as part of the walk. Sniffing is the way that your dog gets to 'meet the neighbours'. Give your dog a command so that it knows when you are happy for them to take the time to sniff.
5. **Bring a friend.** Just as you enjoy spending time with friends, so does your dog. Socialising is extremely important for dogs as it helps them curb any aggressive tendency they may have, and teaches them that they don't need to be scared or lash out in fear. Setting up a walking date with a friend and their dog will make the routine walk seem like a new world to your pet.

By mixing up your walking routine, you will be enriching your dog's life. It will also help you get more happiness out of the time you spend with your furry friend.



NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB 2023 CALENDAR

(Subject to change and cancellation due to weather conditions)

- June 10 **KING'S BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND - NO CLASSES**
June 16 Branch Meeting – Midday, Narooma Men's Shed – 14A Barker Parade, Narooma
June 17 Obedience, Agility
June 24 Obedience, Agility
- July 1 Obedience, Agility
July 8 Obedience, Agility
July 15 Obedience, Agility
July 21 Branch Meeting – Midday, Narooma Men's Shed
July 22 Obedience, 1ST AGILITY COMPETITION
July 28 Annual General Meeting – 5pm, Seahorse Room, Narooma Golf Club
July 29 Obedience, Agility (1st Agility Comp RAIN DATE)
- August 5 Obedience - **BASIC OBEDIENCE PROGRAM – new handlers commence**
3.30pm Instructor's Meeting
August 12 Obedience, Agility
August 18 Branch Meeting – Midday, Narooma Men's Shed
August 19 Obedience, Agility
August 26 Obedience – 2ND HANDLERS DAY
- September 2 Obedience, Agility (2nd Handlers Day RAIN DATE)
September 9
September 15 Branch Meeting – Midday, Narooma Men's Shed
September 16 Obedience, Agility
September 23 Obedience, Agility
September 30 **LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND – NO CLASSES**
- October 7 Obedience - **BASIC OBEDIENCE PROGRAM – new handlers commence**
3.30pm Instructor's Meeting
October 14 Obedience, Agility
October 20 Branch Meeting – Midday, Narooma Men's Shed
October 21 Obedience, 2ND AGILITY COMPETITION
October 28 Obedience, Agility (2nd Agility Comp RAIN DATE)
- November 4 Obedience, 3RD HANDLERS DAY
November 11 Obedience, Agility (3rd Handlers Day RAIN DATE)
November 17 Branch Meeting – Midday, Narooma Men's Shed
November 18 Obedience, Rally including Green Class
November 25 Obedience, Rally
- December 2 **DOGS CHRISTMAS PARTY**
December 9 RAIN DATE at Nata Oval - **DOGS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Narooma Dog Training Club (NDTC) is a Branch of the NSW Animal Welfare League.

Our purpose is to provide canine education and welfare information,
so that the dogs in our community are well behaved and cared for,
and their handlers become socially responsible pet owners.

All Instructors, Committee members and other helpers are volunteers
who freely give of their time and expertise to serve the community.

**If you would like to join our Branch and assist with this important work,
please feel free to come along to one of our Branch meetings – we'd love to see you there!**