

THE WOOFER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 2016



January - February - March 2023

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

This is the first edition of the Woofers Newsletter for 2023 and my first since Steve Genner, who used to write this segment, retired from the position of President.

Steve held the position of President of Narooma Dog Training Club (a Branch of the NSW Animal Welfare League) from 2016 until the end of 2022. During this time he represented NDTC at an AWL Branch Conference in Sydney, undertook lengthy negotiations with the Narooma Men's Shed on our behalf, and attended many NDTC events including the Dogs Day Out, Family Fun Day, and our year end Dogs Christmas Party. Steve helped NDTC safely navigate through the Covid shutdown and importantly, our re-start in 2021. Steve was pretty quiet in meetings, but when he did speak it was to offer sensible and practical suggestions on issues of importance. We wish Steve and his wife Sue all the very best, and thank them both for their many years of commitment to animal welfare. The position of President will remain vacant until the Annual General Meeting in July. In the interim, I've agreed to take on the tasks of that role.

It is my great pleasure to welcome new handlers in the first intake of our 2023 Basic Handling Skills program. Some of you have waited a long time for a place in this sought after program, so we thank you most sincerely for your patience. Your Instructor Yve Robinson is very experienced, so make sure you ask lots of questions - especially if you are having any particular problems with your dog.

And a warm welcome back to 'old friends' - those handlers and dogs who have been with us in past years. It is great that you have returned to Obedience training and hope that you will also take on the challenge of our Agility program. NDTC has invested in a lot of new equipment which is light weight, brightly coloured, and very safe to handle. Dates for these classes are listed on the back page of this newsletter. And a quick word about Rally for those who enjoyed this last year - this training is now being incorporated into Obedience classes.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter - plenty of information and photos inside. Enjoy your training!

Val McCauley
Vice-President

**"If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket
and then give him only two of them"**

Phil Pastoret



**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	Secretary/Publicity	Treasurer	WHS Officer
Vacant	Carol Hellmers	Peter Nelipa	Kay Davidson
Vice President	Val McCauley		
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	Agility Trailer	Woofers Editors	
Kay Davidson	Jock McKellar	Yve Robinson/Carol Hellmers	
Registration Assistant	Photographer	Other NDTC Volunteers	
Val McCauley	Rosy Williams	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 Handling Skills Program, which includes Ground Fee.

FROM THE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

Welcome back everyone, I hope you all had a great holiday break.

I'd like to remind everyone that having a break from dog training doesn't mean having a break from training your dog.

The more we incorporate our training into our everyday lives the better the results will be. I'm sure most of us would ask our dogs to SIT before getting their dinner and also before getting a treat, but we can also use this opportunity to practice other commands too. For example, ask your dog to DROP or STAND for their dinner. It is also a perfect time to practice the LEAVE command.

You can have fun too with giving treats – try putting the treat on the floor in front of the dog and use the LEAVE command. Advanced handlers can even try walking away and then returning before using a release command like OKAY. You may also practice a SIT-DROP-SIT command (also known as puppy push ups) and maybe even use the FINISH command for the more advanced handlers.

Keep in mind you are also training when walking your dog. You could start by asking your dog to SIT or STAND while you attach their lead, and then SIT and STAY as you open the door or gate. When walking ask your dog to SIT, DROP or STAND before crossing roads or even driveways. The LEAVE command can be used if your dog is sniffing something unsavoury or even dangerous. It is also good to give a HEEL or WITH ME command when other people are approaching you, with or without a dog, to keep your dog by your side. Not all people are comfortable with dogs and many dogs are not comfortable with your dog approaching them. Always ask another dog owner if it's alright for your dog to say hello first.

I'm sure you'll find lots of opportunities to put your training knowledge into practice. If you have any questions, your instructors will be pleased to help you.

Kathryn McKellar
Chief Instructor

A DOG'S PLEA

Treat me kindly, my beloved friend, for no heart in the world is more grateful for kindness than the loving heart of me.

Do not break my spirit with a stick, for though I may lick your hand between blows, your patience and understanding will teach me more quickly the things you would have me learn.

Speak to me often, for your voice is the world's sweetest music, as you must know by the fierce wagging of my tail when the sound of your footstep falls upon my waiting ear.

Please take me inside when it is cold and wet, for I am a domesticated animal no longer accustomed to the bitter elements. I ask no greater privilege than sitting at your feet by the hearth.

Keep my bowl filled with fresh water, for I cannot tell you when I suffer thirst.

Feed me clean food so I may stay well. To romp and play and do your bidding, to walk by your side and stand willing and able to protect you with my life should you be in danger.

And my friend, when I am very old and no longer enjoy good health, hearing and sight, do not make heroic efforts to keep me going. I am not having fun. Please see to it that my life is taken gently. I shall leave this earth knowing with the last breath that my life was always safest in your hands.

Anon.

WELCOME TO NEW HANDLERS FEBRUARY/MARCH - BASIC HANDLING SKILLS PROGRAM

Rob Ritchie and Bentley ~~~ John Moore and Teddy
Kerrie Kozman and Max ~~~ Arthur Bingham and Sammy
Louise Webb and Lacey ~~~ Shannon Field and Scout
Bhima Heffernan and Archie ~~~ Charmaine White and KoKo
Harry Bate and Roscoe ~~~ Helen Azar and Mushka
Val Dorahy and Mindi ~~~ Helen Mansell and Coco Black
And returning dog Mystique, with new handler Margaret Pinkerton

GOOD NEWS!

NDTC has been awarded a Healthy Communities Grant by Eurobodalla Shire Council. The grant requested funds to pay for the purchase of a new piece of equipment, a spread hurdle, for the Agility program. Over the past few years NDTC has been upgrading to lighter, safer and more visible equipment for the Agility program, at considerable expense and with many thanks to dedicated fundraising efforts by our volunteers both past and present. So it was a welcome surprise to be awarded grant monies to continue this upgrade.

The Agility program is delivered by NDTC Instructors subject to wet weather or extreme heat cancellation. All dogs aged over 9 months, who have completed the Basic Handling Skills Program, are eligible to participate and the cost is included in the weekly \$5 ground fee. All participants are tutored in the safe handling of equipment, including lifting and carrying, set up and layout of agility courses. The activities are overseen by Chief Instructor Kathryn McKellar and Work, Health and Safety Officer Kay Davidson. The Spread Hurdle which is being purchased with these grant funds costs \$465.00, with delivery costs being covered by NDTC. It's on order now and should be delivered in a month or so.

**Want to keep your dog fit and happy!
And get a bit of exercise yourself?**

Come and try out the Agility program, every Saturday afternoon in March – class starts at 3.30pm and last for one hour. Any handler from Blue Class upwards, with a dog over 9 months of age, is welcome to come along. Beginners start on lead, plenty of instruction is on hand, and it is fun for you and your dog.



Here's waving at you!

CHRISTMAS 2022



Instructor Kay, in festive mode!



Well-dressed special guests especially Bonny (below)



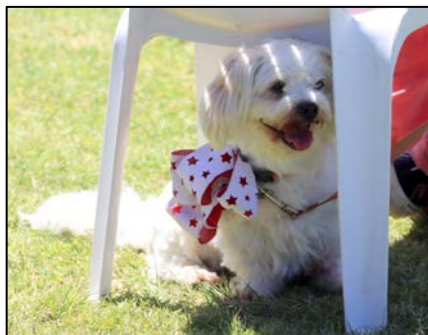
The Admin Team – Val and Carol



Instructor Jean with volunteer Jock McKellar



Fancy Dress Winners – Wayne & Odessa



Seeking rest and shade

FUN AND GAMES



Malcolm gets a hug from Barnum



"Terry Says" – it's just like Simon says only more fun!



Team obstacle race – every person won a prize.
Every dog got a Christmas goodie bag!



Fun with Friends - both two and four legged



The start of Musical Plates game – plenty of participation!

2022 TROPHY WINNERS



Terry Watson Memorial Trophy for Obedience
Alexis & Rocky



Trish Carty Memorial Trophy for Agility
Jessica & Nova



Rally Trophy Yellow Class – Ian & Bessie



Rally Trophy Red Class – Martin & Ella



Most Improved Obedience – Donna & Jarrah



Most Improved Agility – Graham & Bowie

PLUS!

Rally Trophy Blue Class - Janet Linee & Margi

Obedience Encouragement Award - Sally & Coco

Agility Encouragement Award - Caroline Thorncroft & Tilly

HOW NOT TO GREET A DOG

Most people do this stuff and it stresses dogs out so they BITE!
Please show dogs some respect.



DON'T
Lean over the dog & stick your hand in his face



DON'T
Lean over the dog & stick your hand on top of his head



DON'T
Grab or Hug him



DON'T
Stare him in the eye
(This is an adversarial gesture)



DON'T
Squeal or shout in his face



DON'T
Grab his head and kiss it
(This is an invasion of space)

Doing this to a dog who doesn't know you is like a perfect stranger giving you a great big hug and kiss in an elevator. Wouldn't that creep you out? And wouldn't you have the right to defend yourself?

The correct way:



- * No Eye contact
- * Let the dog approach you in his own time
- * Keep your SIDE towards the dog (non-threatening posture)



- * Pet or stroke him on the SIDE of his face or body. Or on his back.

CANINE INSTINCT

New handlers often ask some very interesting questions about dog behaviour. Many relate to a dog's natural instincts.

When dogs lived in packs and had to rely on themselves, it was natural for them to hunt for food which they would chase, catch and eat. Many dogs, particularly any that have herding genes in their breed still have this strong instinct. In the modern world we expect dogs to suppress their inborn drive and try to teach them that such behaviour is not acceptable. If you own such a dog, it is extremely difficult to change their nature.

You will learn that you have to be constantly aware that your dog may, given the right conditions, take off and chase wildlife, chickens, rabbits, lizards - in fact anything small that runs. Small fluffy dogs and toddlers are also vulnerable. Many of these dogs become obsessed with playing ball, others find seagulls irresistible; they will run until they drop. That is their way of using their prey chase instinct, and though it can be annoying to have a ball constantly dropped by your feet, or have a wet dog to towel down, it is not life threatening.

The situation can become serious if your dog is living on property, neighbour's livestock are fair game. In such a situation, placing your dog on a secure running chain or fencing a house yard to restrain the dog are options. Take your dog outside the fence with you on a lead, teach him to heel and stay with you. If dogs are allowed to take off and chase wildlife they could be in danger if tangling with snakes, goannas or kangaroos. If your dog does kill stock or wildlife and is reported to the Council Rangers, your dog could be declared a DANGEROUS DOG. This could mean, depending on the severity of the incident, your dog could be destroyed or condemned to wearing a muzzle and always be exercised on a lead, until you can prove that your dog is a reformed character.

There is also the worry that your dog will harm themselves chasing prey. It has been my misfortune recently to learn that a dog obsessed with lizards can become extremely ill after ingesting lizard saliva. Kangaroos can kill dogs with their hind feet and have been known to drown a dog in a dam. Snakes are deadly unless your dog is treated quickly with anti-venom. Be aware of your dog's instinctive nature, avoid incidents and enjoy your time bonding together.

Yve Robinson
Founder, NDTC

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 develop into socially responsible pet owners.

NDTC began classes in Narooma over 20 years ago, under the umbrella of the Eurobodalla Branch. In 2016 NDTC became an AWL Branch in its own right.

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

NATIONAL WAR ANIMAL DAY 2023

24 February is designated National Day for War Animals in Australia. A day when we take time to remember and commemorate the deeds and sacrifices of animals in war. Animals have been put to many uses in war serving as transport, beasts of burden, messengers, protectors, mascots and pets. Working dogs were used by the Royal Australian Engineers in 1918, with sappers handling messenger dogs in the trenches of France. Search dogs were used from 1944 after the raising of the First Australian Dog Platoon. Mine detection and scout dogs were used in Korea and Vietnam, and Explosive Detection Dogs were used to counter the threat of improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan. This year, National War Animal Day was marked with a service at Club Narooma. The local community choir under the direction of Robin Scott-Charlton, provided a musical backdrop as wreaths were laid by RSL, WIRES, Eurobodalla RSPCA and Narooma Marine Rescue. The NSW Animal Welfare League was well represented by Robin Gourley and Louise Web from Eurobodalla Branch and Carol Hellmers from Narooma Dog Training Club Branch. Together Robin and Carol laid a lovely wreath of fresh flowers, from Twig and Blossom. Special thanks to Rosy Williams for photographs of this special occasion.



Photos Left to right – Carol Hellmers, Louise Webb and Robin Gourley; Club Narooma Memorial; Our wreath.

NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB 2023 CALENDAR (Subject to change)

March 4	Obedience, Agility
March 11	Obedience, Agility
March 17	Branch Meeting – Midday, Narooma Men’s Shed – 14A Barker Parade, Narooma
March 18	Obedience, Agility
March 25	Obedience, Agility
April 1	Obedience BASIC HANDLING SKILLS PROGRAM commences
April 8	EASTER LONG WEEKEND – NO CLASSES
April 14	Branch Meeting – Midday, Narooma Men’s Shed – 14A Barker Parade, Narooma
April 15	Obedience, Agility
April 22	Obedience - <u>1ST AGILITY COMPETITION and COUNTRY LINK</u>
April 29	Obedience, Agility (1 st Agility Comp RAIN DATE)
May 6	Obedience, Agility
May 13	Obedience, Agility
May 19	Branch Meeting – Midday, Narooma Men’s Shed – 14A Barker Parade, Narooma
May 20	Obedience - <u>1ST HANDLERS DAY</u>
May 27	Obedience, Agility (Handlers Day RAIN DATE)
June 3	Obedience BASIC HANDLING SKILLS PROGRAM commences
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