

THE WOOFER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 2016



July - August - September 2023

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Welcome to this third edition of the Woofers Newsletter for 2024, and a warm welcome to all new handlers who have joined our program since July 1.

On July 28 we held our Annual General Meeting in the Seahorse Room at Narooma Golf Club. Treasurer Peter Nelipa presented his report which showed that we have maintained our ability to self-fund all activities. This is thanks to the ground fees you pay each week for classes, various donations received, and other fundraising activities we undertake when possible. Unlike other Branches of the NSW Animal Welfare League, Narooma Dog Training Club receives no financial assistance from the AWL head office, which is located at Kemps Creek, Sydney. We are very proud of this achievement, which has been ongoing since 2016. Other reports presented at the AGM from myself and also Chief Instructor Kathryn McKellar, highlighted the strength of our volunteer Instructor team and the importance of dog training programs to the community.

The AGM took place via Zoom and was attended by the CEO of AWL Mr Stephen Albin, and the Branch Liaison Officer, Helen Powderly, plus two other AWL Kemps Creek staff. Elections for the Committee were held. Luckily there is no rule that governs the term that any office bearer can hold. There being no other nominations for these “behind the scenes” jobs, I am delighted to advise that Carol Hellmers will continue for another year as Secretary/Publicity Officer, Peter Nelipa as Treasurer, and I remain in the role of Vice-President. Kathryn McKellar and Kay Davidson retain their roles of Chief Instructor and Deputy Chief Instructor respectively, and Alexis Swadling very kindly stepped into the job of Work, Health and Safety Officer. Congratulations were given to all for their re-election. You might notice that the position of President remains vacant. We can always do with extra hands on the Committee, so if anyone is interested in the job of President or helping in any way, please come and have a chat with me any Saturday afternoon.

There is a lot to read in this issue of the Woofers – of particular interest is the fundraising Quota Trivia Night coming up on Thursday 16 November, and wonderful news about the impact of the Handler recycling program. Plus a lot more!

I hope you enjoy the read – until next I write, 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 Valerie McCauley	Secretary/Publicity Officer Carol Hellmers	Treasurer Peter Nelipa
Chief Instructor Kathryn McKellar		WHS Officer Alexis Swadling	
Instructors Yve Robinson Jean Page Peter Nelipa		Deputy Chief Instructor Kay Davidson	
		Trainee Instructor Alexis Swadling	
		Trainee Instructor Wayne Perry	
Guest Instructors Amanda Doust, Jeff Chivell			
Equipment Jean Page		Agility Trailer Jock McKellar	
Registration Assistant Valerie McCauley		Photographer Rosy Williams	
		Woofers Editors Yve Robinson/Carol Hellmers	
		Other NDTC Volunteers Jo Barrett	

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 Program for 2 months, which includes Ground Fees.

FROM THE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

Without anyone saying anything, humans can tell if people are angry, happy, excited or worried etc, but no matter how good humans are at reading each other's feelings, dogs are infinitely better at it.

They have been watching us for thousands of years and they notice every little nuance of our body language, every tone of our voice. Over the centuries they have used this information to ingratiate themselves with us so we would feed them and look after them. Now our bond is so strong that they have become a part of our family.

You may notice that your dog knows, well before you pick up your keys, that you are going out or perhaps your dog will snuggle up to you if you're not well or feeling down. This is because they are watching us and reading our body language.

In training, you can take advantage of this by remembering that our thoughts translate into our body language. If we are saying to ourselves "*oh my dog will never do this*" your dog will pick up on this and act accordingly. But if we tell ourselves that we can do this, your body language will show a confidence that your dog will notice and respond to. It's not only a confident appearance that you will present but also a firmer voice. Instead of a desperate plea to our dogs to obey, it will be a confident command.

Now different breeds of dogs will respond differently. Some are eager to please and will learn quickly, others are perhaps more independent and take longer to respond, but if you remain consistent with both your voice and body language you should eventually have success.

Happy training!

Kathryn McKellar
Chief Instructor



Always listen to your dog.

Margaret Mizushima

They motivate us to play, be affectionate, seek adventure and be loyal.

Tom Hayden

Everyone thinks they have the best dog ... and none of them are wrong.

W.R. Purche

PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to the handlers who moved up a class at the end of July:

BLUE CLASS TO YELLOW CLASS

Louise Webb and Lacey
Jill Chisolm and Clover
Amanda Doust and Tuppence
Kara Munn and Gus

2nd HANDLERS DAY – 26 AUGUST

Congratulations also to the handlers who were awarded ribbons for the 2nd Handlers Day 2023:

BLUE CLASS

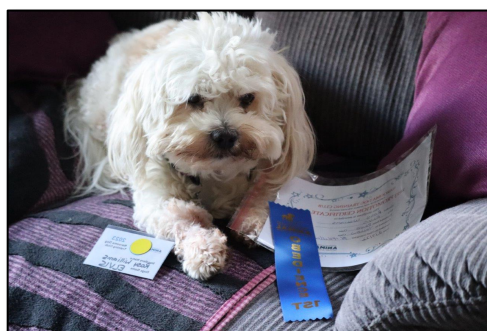
1st place - Rosy Williams and Elvis (Promoted to Yellow)
2nd place tied - Alex Newfield and Emma (Promoted to Yellow)
3rd place - Alicia Monk and Salli (Promoted to Yellow)

YELLOW CLASS

1st place - Louise Webb and Lacey (Promoted to Red Class)
2nd place - Kara Munn and Gus
3rd place - Ruth Watson and Whiskey



Left to right: Louis with Lacey,
Rosy Williams (Elvis absent), Alicia with Salli



Elvis won 1st Place!

RED CLASS

1st place - Suzanne Joseph and Ricki
2nd place - Ian Murphy and Bessie
3rd place - Martin Oswin and Ella

BLACK CLASS

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



Left to right: Ruth with Bailey posing as Whiskey!
Kara and Gus

WELCOME TO NEW HANDLERS

Basic Handling Skills Program: August/September group

(Standing) Deborah Roux with Honey, Shayne Cogan with Rusty, Jean Page (Instructor) and Jon Fox with Fletch.

(Seated) Rodger Everett with Teeter, Roslyn Johnson with Archie, Joshua Dwyer with Luna, Georgia Mood with Jacques, Helen McFarlane with Scout.

Missing from the photo Jenny Munro with Jimmy, and Gill McFadden with Keeley.



CERTIFICATES

The final lesson for the June/July group of handlers and dogs in the Basic Obedience Program took place on Saturday 29th July. Four people attended, and all were delighted to be presented with their Certificate and graduate to Blue Class by their Instructor, Jean Page.

Left to Right:

Willow and Dusty: Rolf and Kelly with Lizzy; Karen with Smokey: Izzy and Bindi



**SPECIAL THANKS TO ROSY WILLIAMS FOR ALL THE WONDERFUL PHOTOS
IN THE WOOFER AND ON THE NDTA FACEBOOK PAGE**

TAILWAGGERS!

Each year our friends in the Eurobodalla Branch of the AWL NSW put on a fabulous day out for dog owners. It's called "Tailwaggers" and involves an organised dog walk, market stalls and even a car boot sale. The date this year is:

Sunday 17th September

Registration for the walk takes place at NATA Oval from 9am.

The cost is \$5 per dog and everyone is welcome to participate in

The walk starts at 10am and will be led by Paul West and his dog Digger.

There is only one rule - ALL DOGS MUST BE ON LEAD.

Participation in the car boot sale costs extra - Car \$15, Ute \$25

Our wonderful resident photographer Rosy Williams will be there to take photos.

Well-known local personality Paul West will judge the happiest dog competition.

It should be a lot of fun for the whole family.

RECYCLING IS A BIG SUCCESS - THANK YOU!

Many of you will know that we collect glass bottles, drink cans and plastic bottles every Saturday and take them to the recycling station located up at the Narooma Plaza Shopping Centre. Vouchers for cash are then redeemed at Woolworths and banked by our Treasurer Peter Nelipa.

We are delighted to announce that in the financial year 2022-2023 your contributions totalled \$376. That's a whopping total of 3,760 items recycled! Even more exciting ... already in this financial year – July alone - a staggering 999 items that have gone into a recycling program, not landfill. So not only do your contributions support our activities but you are doing a service to the environment.

The income we receive from this recycling arrangement, plus your registration and ground fees helps us run Narooma Dog Training Club annually. We purchase competition ribbons, end of year trophies, and many prizes which are given out at our Dogs Christmas Party each December. **Refer to Calendar on the back page for the 2023 Dogs Christmas Party date.** Administration costs are kept to a minimum, with phone, stationery and postage being the main expenditure items. We also purchase all canine equipment for re-sale, specialist equipment for the agility program, and produce signage and other materials needed for the rally program. Unlike other AWL Branches, we do not receive any financial assistance from Kemps Creek (the 'head office') of AWL NSW.

On behalf of all the Committee of Narooma Dog Training Club a very big thank you to our contributors to this recycling program.

CANINE EQUIPMENT – What and Why?

Each Saturday, our lovely Instructor Jean Page packs in the boot of her car, several boxes of brand-new canine equipment (collars, leads, halties etc) which she brings to NATA Oval. We buy the equipment from a company called, Black Dog. Whilst there are many other suppliers, we have found that this company produces reliable and durable equipment, that lasts well. We purchase regularly so that we always have training equipment available for handlers to purchase, if needed. You may have found that a particular piece of equipment is recommended by your Instructor. The choice to buy from us is entirely yours. If you would like Jean to help you, please see her before or after your Obedience Class.

FUNDRAISING! QUOTA TRIVIA NIGHT

We are delighted to announce that Quota Narooma are holding a Trivia Night, for us!
Funds raised on the night will be donated to Narooma Dog Training Club.

Save the Date: Thursday 16 November.

Venue: Club Narooma

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start

Cost per person and other details will be available soon.

Why does Narooma Dog Training Club (NDTC) need to fundraise? Recently, the Committee has been working on a significant project with staff from Eurobodalla Shire Council - a permanent home for us. You may have noticed that all Instructors and the Secretary bring a lot of equipment to training every Saturday. Added to that, a trailer of valuable agility gear is brought to NATA Oval, thanks to Wayne Perry who currently garages the trailer, and Jock McKellar who usually provides the transport. Plus, there is a lot more equipment and our archives, stored in private garages. We are hoping to have a facility built at NATA Oval that can safely house all our equipment, and provide a small meeting space. With all our equipment in one place, the setup each week will quick and easy for our volunteers. Already we have a chunk of money in our accounts to put towards this project, but more is needed. We hope you will come along to support our efforts and have some fun in the process.

NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB 2023 CALENDAR

(Subject to change and/or cancellation due to weather conditions)

- September 2 Obedience, Agility
September 9 Obedience, 1ST AGILITY COMPETITION
September 15 Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men’s Shed
September 16 Obedience, 2ND RALLY ASSESSMENT
September 23 Obedience, Agility
September 30 **LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND – NO CLASSES**
- October 7 Obedience - **BASIC OBEDIENCE PROGRAM** – new handlers commence
October 14 Obedience, Agility
October 20 Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men’s Shed
October 21 Obedience, 2ND AGILITY COMPETITION
October 28 Obedience, Agility (Agility Comp RAIN DATE)
- November 4 Obedience, 3RD HANDLERS DAY
November 11 Obedience, Agility (3rd Handlers Day RAIN DATE)
November 16 QUOTA TRIVIA NIGHT
November 17 Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men’s Shed
November 18 Obedience, Agility
November 25 Obedience, Agility
- 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!**