

THE WOOFER



NEWSLETTER OF THE
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 2016

January - February - March 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello and welcome to this first edition of our Woofers newsletter for 2024.

We are off to a great start to the year with twelve new handlers and their dogs joining us for the February/March program of Basic Obedience. This new collection of canine friends included two rescue dogs, rehomed from the NSW Animal Welfare League. These dogs are now in good hands with a loving second chance for a happy life - Bravo to the owners who have taken this step.

The Basic Obedience program is the foundation for the higher levels that we have on offer, and opens the door to our Agility program too. I encourage everyone in the program to go beyond this basic training and continue with us into April and beyond. I speak from personal experience when I tell you that being part of Narooma Dog Training Club is very rewarding for both the dog and the handler. My Great Dane rescue dog, Odessa, is a prime example of a timid, unsocialised dog who is now a pleasure to own and is a lot more outgoing.

And of course, a warm welcome to our returning dog training devotees! We love to see you return to continue your obedience training and even take on new challenges such as dog agility. Any dog over 9 months who has completed the basic program is eligible to try this entertaining exercise. Now that we have moved our whole program to start at 10am, agility takes places at 11.30am – not so hot and it will definitely be a lot friendlier when Winter comes, as we won't be in the chill of late afternoons. Give it a go, or just come and watch!

I'd also like to say a big welcome and thank you to Amanda Cassidy who has stepped forward to help us with 'administration'. Amanda currently has her L plates on at the sign-in desk - she has learned so much in just a few weeks. Together with long term volunteer Val McCauley and Carol Hellmers they make a great team. Also a warm welcome back to the wonderful Rosy Williams, our official photographer. She is passionate about dogs and taking photos, many of which make their way to our Facebook page and into this newsletter. Thanks Rosy – we lovely your work!

Some sad news inside this newsletter regarding the passing of our founder Yve Robinson. We will miss her guidance and knowledge, but are proud to be continuing her legacy and ensure that the dog club goes from strength to strength. A key goal of the volunteer Committee that works behind the scenes for us all, is to secure a 'permanent home' for Narooma Dog Training Club. We are working with Council to meet this goal and have been setting aside funds for the past 8 years. We have a stash ready to commit to building a facility that will serve not just us, but other animal welfare organisations in this shire. I will keep you posted!

Have a wonderful 2024 - see you at NATA Oval!

Wayne Perry
President and Instructor



**Narooma Dog Training Club
is on Facebook!**
Please **LIKE** us and **SHARE** us with your
friends

ABOUT NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB

Training starts at 10am. Instructors have other jobs before that time, such as registration, safety check on the grounds, selling dog equipment etc. **Your arrival by 9.45am** will enable us to start all classes on time.

AWL NSW Narooma Dog Training Club – Branch Executive Committee & Key Personnel

President Wayne Perry	Vice President Valerie McCauley	Secretary/Publicity Officer Carol Hellmers	Treasurer Peter Nelipa
		WHS Officer Alexis Swadling	
Chief Instructor Kathryn McKellar	Deputy Chief Instructor Kay Davidson		
Instructors: Peter Nelipa, Jean Page, Wayne Perry, Alexis Swadling			
Guest Instructors Amanda Doust, Jeff Chivell			
Equipment Jean Page	Agility Trailer Jock McKellar	Woofers Editor Carol Hellmers	
Administration Assistants Valerie McCauley, Amanda Cassidy		Photographer Rosy Williams	

Dog Training Enquiries: 0458 953 281

Training times: Every Saturday, weather permitting.
Obedience and Rally Obedience: 10-11am
Agility: 11.30am - 12.30pm, as per the Calendar on back page.

Rain Cancellation: Please ring NDTC phone – 0458 953 281 after 9am, 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 2024

Annual registration fee for renewing handlers is payable from February 2024.
\$40 Adult; \$25 Concession/Junior (over 9 and under 18 years); \$60 Family (any family combination).
Half Year registration fees are reduced for renewing handlers, commencing from 1 August.
Basic Obedience Program - \$50 for 2month program. Booking is essential.

Ground Fee - a fee of \$5.00 per handler is payable each week on attendance.

FROM THE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

Welcome back everyone, I hope you had a nice break.

Last year's Christmas Party was a great success. We started with a minute's silence in respect for our beloved founder, Yve Robinson, then kicked off the day with our games which were met with fun and laughter as the winners were decided. The games are always fun for both handlers and dogs. Then after the fancy dress competition we got down to the more serious business of distributing the trophies for the year.

Throughout each year we hold competitions and assessments in Obedience, Rally O and Agility. We allocate ribbons for First, Second and Third places for each competition/assessment. The scores are recorded for each handler and dog, and at the end of the year a winner in each discipline is decided. We also allocate trophies for the most improved handlers and dogs, along with Chief Instructor's encouragement trophies. This year we are adding a new trophy, in remembrance of Yve. This will be for the most improved rescue dog.

But these competitions and assessments are not only for allocating trophies. They also allow the instructors to see how everyone is progressing. We can then plan our classes to focus on areas that may need extra attention.

The competitions and assessments also give you and your dog "a taste" of what it is like to trial a dog in competitions outside of our club. If this is a direction you feel you might like to try, speak with myself or your instructor and we can give you the information that you will need. Over the years we have had a number of handlers from our club do very well in the field of dog trials. Most recently Suzanne Joseph participated in trials at Bermagui – information about her success with Rickie and Josie is noted below.

So as you can see, our competitions and assessments play an important role in both your and our development - we encourage you to attend where possible. You can find competition and assessment dates on our calendar on the back page of this and forthcoming Woofers newsletters.

Kathryn McKellar
Chief Instructor



Rickie – Pass in Rally O novice (95 & 92 points) Bega Valley Kennel and Training Club, and CCD Encouragement Award.



Josie – Third Place in Obedience (a pass of 185 points) Bega Valley Kennel and Training Club, Rally O pass in RA (91 points) Sapphire Coast Kennel and Obedience Club.

VALE YVE (Yvonne) ROBINSON

6 April 1934 – 30 November 2023

Yve Robinson, founder of Narooma Dog Training Club, passed away on 30th November 2023, aged 89. We know her best from her passionate work with people and their dogs here in the Eurobodalla Shire, but her love of dogs and dedication to their welfare spanned many decades.

Yve gave 29 years of her life to the Brush Farm Dog Training Club in Sydney - as Canine Examiner, Committee Member, Trial Secretary, Instructor, Deputy Chief Instructor, and for 12 of those years she was Chief Instructor.



Yve developed many positive training techniques, worked to phase out check chains, and always put animal welfare top of her list of priorities. In 1980 Yve was made a Life Member for her “dedication, bright personality and contribution to the Brush Farm Club”, and a perpetual trophy was devised in her name. Also whilst she lived in Sydney, Yve worked on the Steering Committee that formed the Parramatta International Agility Club. She was their first President and Agility Instructor, and led a demonstration team of mixed-breed dogs for the first time at the Royal Easter Show. When Yve left the club in 1998, they acknowledged her contribution with the award of Founding and Life Member.

In 2000, Yve and her husband Peter moved from Sydney to Narooma. Facilities for dog owners were scarce back then, so Yve started a private dog obedience and agility group in the backyard of their home on the old Pacific Highway. It was about that time she began work with the Animal Welfare League, first with the Far South Coast Branch and then as a driving force behind the formation of the Eurobodalla Branch. Yve was the first President of AWL Eurobodalla Branch, a position she held for 5 years. She was also a Canine Carer for 8 years and their Welfare Officer. Along with other like-minded volunteers, Yve helped to re-home hundreds of dogs and puppies. Her private dog training program moved under the auspice of the AWL Eurobodalla Branch, where she started and ran the Tailwaggers Walk – a fun event that is still run each year. She was also party to the lengthy negotiations with Eurobodalla Shire Council that resulted in the building of the fence that now surrounds NATA Oval. In 2016, Yve was in the thick of negotiations with the NSW Animal Welfare League which resulted in Narooma Dog Training Club becoming a Branch of the AWL in its own right.

The list of Yve’s achievements goes on.

- * She initiated a program of pet care at the Yuin Koori Village, Wallaga Lake – a program that is currently being managed by AWL Far South Coast Branch.
- * With her dog Tilley, she formed a Pets as Therapy group which visited residents at IRT Dalmeny and Estia Health twice a month, to support the emotional well-being of older, less mobile citizens.
- * In 2011 Yve was named Senior Volunteer for the South Coast Southern Inland Area, representing our region at the NSW Senior Volunteer of the Year Celebrations in the Sydney Town Hall.
- * She was a Life member of the RSPCA, the AWL NSW, and a member of the Australian Pet Dog Trainers Association (APDTA)
- * In 2015 Yve was awarded the APDTA Susan Wilkins Award for her contribution to dog training.
- * She also ‘trained the trainer’, introducing many people the joys of being a Canine Instructor and thus ensuring the longevity of Narooma Dog Training Club.

Yve was a giver and an influencer. She was a strong, caring, compassionate dog owner whose incredible life of voluntary work made significant contributions to the welfare of both pets and their people, especially in our local community. We will miss her greatly.

DOGS CHRISTMAS PARTY - 9 December 2023
Photos: Big thankyou to Photographer, Rosy Williams



2023 TROPHY WINNERS

Obedience

Terry Watson Memorial Trophy - Ruth Watson and Bailey
Most Improved Handler and Dog - Louise Webb and Lacey
Chief Instructor's Encouragement Award - Alicia Monk and Salli

Agility

Trish Carty Memorial Trophy - Elisabeth Newfield and Kai
Most Improved Handler and Dog - Rosie Williams and Elvis
Chief Instructor's Encouragement Award - Marilyn Fisher and Bonnie

Rally O

Experienced Handler and Dog - Suzanne Joseph and Josie
Intermediate Handler and Dog - Jill Chisholm and Clover
Most Improved Handler and Dog - Jessica Boulton and Bindi
Chief Instructor's Encouragement Award - Rob Ritchie and Esmay

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## **WELCOME TO NEW HANDLERS**

### **Basic Handling Skills Program: February/March 2024**

Debbie McCarthy & Busta  
Kaylene Menzies & Sasse  
Michelle Baillie & Bella  
Liliana Randall & Sienna  
Judy Morgan & Dori  
Penny Swadling & Millie  
Tracy Bailey & Cooper  
Michelle Robinson & Mae  
Kate O'Leary & Isla  
Del Kamhoot & Hopper  
Val McCauley & Sasha (rehomed dog)  
Michael and Alison Jones & Smooch (rehomed dog)



*“Once you have had a wonderful dog,  
a life without one is a life diminished.”*

Dean Kootz

## **HOORAH FOR VOLUNTEERS**

We are fortunate to have several wonderful volunteers helping us run our program. We introduce you to two very special ladies who help with administration tasks, especially on our busy Saturday training mornings. Val McCauley has been with NDTC for many years, as a handler and is also our Vice-President. She is indispensable! Another very important lady is Amanda Cassidy. She has just joined our volunteer team this year and is doing a great job, learning the ropes and helping with the sign in table, registrations and general organisation needs. We thank them for their dedication.



Val and Sasha



The lovely Amanda

## **CANINE EQUIPMENT – What and Why?**

Each Saturday, our longest serving Instructor Jean Page packs the boot of her car with boxes of brand-new canine equipment (collars, leads, halties etc) which she brings to NATA Oval. We buy the equipment direct 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 there is always training equipment available for you to purchase, if you choose to do so. Your Instructor may have recommended a particular piece of equipment to help you with your training. We maintain a minimal mark up, to cover our purchase and postage costs, so that you receive the best price possible for any equipment bought from us. The choice to buy from us is entirely yours. If you would like Jean to show you what equipment we have available, please see her between 9 and 9.30am or after your Obedience Class.

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NATIONAL DAY

Saturday 24 February is the National Day in Remembrance for War Animals. It was marked this year by a service at the special memorial site, Club Narooma. Animal Welfare League was represented by Carol Hellmers and Rosy Williams from Narooma Dog Training Club Branch and Robin Gourley from Eurobodalla Branch. A lovely wreath was laid, together. This event takes place on the same day each year – we hope you can mark your electronic calendar and join us next year.



FUNDRAISING

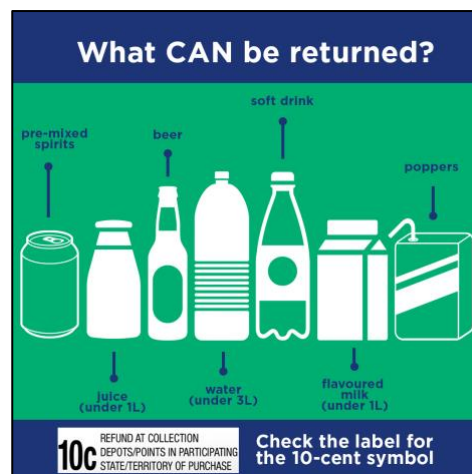
Narooma Dog Training Club is a Branch of the NSW Animal Welfare League, run by volunteers and funded solely by the registration and ground fees you pay each week, plus a little fundraising on the side! We also receive amazing support from people who either give us cash donations or bring recyclable items for us to deposit in the TOMRA plastic, can and glass machine installed at Narooma Plaza. You would be surprised how quickly funds accrue from this source – plus we are helping the environment and encouraging Council to continue to improve their waste recycling program.

Please feel free to bring a bag, or box or two each Saturday – Our Treasurer Peter Nelipa will gladly put them in the boot of his car and turn your cans in cash.

Here is a handy guide on what goodies are able to be recycled!

Over the 6 years that NDTC Branch has been operating (prior to 2016 we were affiliated with the AWL Eurobodalla Branch - prior to that the dog club was run by its founder the late Yve Robinson) NDTC has been putting aside monies for a special project.

We need a permanent home! To safely store our equipment, hold meetings and as a focus for animal welfare in this shire. The facility would also be available for use by Eurobodalla RSPCA, Council rangers, and Eurobodalla and Far South Coast AWL Branches. This project is a long-term goal, currently in discussion with Council. Watch this space!



NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB 2024 CALENDAR (Subject to change and/or cancellation due to weather conditions)

March 15	NDTC Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men’s Shed
March 16	Obedience
March 23	Obedience, Agility <u>1ST AGILITY COMPETITION and COUNTRY LINK</u>
March 30	EASTER LONG WEEKEND – NO CLASSES
April 6	Obedience - New BASIC OBEDIENCE PROGRAM Registrations Instructors Meeting
April 13	Obedience, Agility (1 st Agility Comp RAIN DATE)
April 19	NDTC Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men’s Shed
April 20	Obedience - <u>1ST HANDLERS DAY</u>
April 27	Obedience, Agility (1 st Handlers Day RAIN DATE)
May 4	Obedience, Agility
May 11	Obedience, <u>1ST RALLY ASSESSMENT</u>
May 17	NDTC Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men’s Shed
May 18	Obedience, Agility (1 st Rally Assessment RAIN DATE)
May 25	Obedience, Agility
June 1	Obedience - New BASIC OBEDIENCE PROGRAM Registrations Instructors Meeting
June 8	KING’S BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND - NO CLASSES
June 14	NDTC Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men’s Shed
June 15	Obedience, Agility
June 22	Obedience, <u>2ND AGILITY COMPETITION and COUNTRY LINK</u>
June 29	Obedience, Agility (2 nd Agility Comp RAIN DATE)