

THE WOOFER



NEWSLETTER OF THE
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 2016

April - May - June 2025

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello – this is the second edition of the Woofers Newsletter for 2025. A warm welcome to all new handlers who have joined our program since April. We hope you enjoy the experience of dog training with us, meet new friends and bond well with your four legged friend.

Narooma Dog Training Club (NDTC) is a Branch of the NSW Animal Welfare League. Our key remit is canine education. As such, we are particularly delighted to support handlers who have taken on a rehomed dog from any of the animal rescue organisations that we are fortunate to have operating in our region. So far, 7 newly rehomed dogs have joined the obedience training program this year. These dogs come with a past, some of which was not particularly happy, and some of which is totally unknown at the time the dog went into the care of rescue personnel. Taking care of any dog, especially a rescue dog, involves patience, understanding, and the creation of a welcoming environment at home. It's crucial that rescue dogs are given time and space to settle into new surroundings, and to bond with their new owners. Establishing a routine, and providing consistent and regular training, are keys to the successful rearing of a happy companion dog. To give you some hope of how placid and trained your rescue can become, just take note of Odessa and I walking about. She was under nourished and aggressive towards men when I got her – now she is a honey.

Working behind the scenes to keep our Saturday program running smoothly are a voluntary Committee and team of Instructors. As with most community based organisations, Committee positions such as President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary are elected at an Annual General Meeting. These people must be financial members of the NDTC Branch of the NSW Animal Welfare League. Other volunteers like our Instructors, Official Photographer and Work Health & Safety Officer are likewise members of NDTC Branch. If you would like to help us with the running of NDTC, please have a chat with me or any of the ladies you meet each Saturday as you sign in for training. We love new volunteers!

Speaking of volunteers, a big thankyou to Jock McKellar who has recently 'retired' from the job of bringing the agility trailer back and forth to NATA Oval. His support has been greatly appreciated.

Wayne Perry
President



Just some of our volunteer team!
Left to Right:
Leanne Adamthwaite,
Carol Hellmers (Secretary)
and Amanda Cassidy.

**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 10am. Instructors have other jobs before that time, such as registration, safety check on the grounds, selling dog equipment etc. Where possible, 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 Jean Page, Alexis Swadling Peter Nelipa, Wayne Perry		Trainee Obedience Instructor Louise Webb	
Guest Instructors Amanda Doust, Jeff Chivell		Trainee Agility Instructor Jessica Boulton	
Equipment Kay Davidson	Agility Trailer Geoff Pike	Woofers Editor Carol Hellmers	
Administration Assistants Valerie McCauley, Amanda Cassidy, Leanne Adamthwaite		Photography 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 2025

Annual registration fee for renewing handlers is payable from February 2025.

\$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 a 2month program. Bookings essential.

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

FROM THE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

It is believed that all dogs have evolved from wolves. As we know, wolves live in packs with a hierarchy. It can be beneficial to remember that we are the pack leader and our dogs need to know where their place is in the family dynamics, and what is expected of them. Being a pack leader doesn't mean being a bully - it means calmly but firmly instructing your dog as to what you require them to do.

There are small, gentle ways to instill in our dogs that we are in fact, the bosses.

- * When going in or out of a door or gate always go first, even if it's just one step.
- * If your dog is in the way don't go around them, move them out of the way by shuffling your feet while moving towards them until they move.
- * Don't feed your dog at the same time as you are eating. Where possible, feed them after yourself, even if you take just a bite of food first - and of course, always get them to sit or drop before giving a release command to eat.
- * If you have an indoor dog, it's best that they have their own bed or crate area - but if they sit on the furniture with you remember to show your dominance, sit down first, get your dog to sit on the floor first and then invite them up. Don't let them hog the chair or sofa, make sure you have enough room for you. The same applies in the bedroom. Ideally, they should have their own bed but if your dog sleeps on your bed they should be at the bottom end. Never let them sleep with their heads level with your own.
- * Don't let your dog jump up on you or anyone else.
- * Your dog should work for rewards. Ask them to perform an obedience task before giving them treats, toys etc. Mix it up, drop, stay, come or any trick - not just sit.
- * When correcting unacceptable behaviour always remember to let your dog know what you do want them to do and praise them when they do it.

Your dog's training is a life-long occupation, it's not just dog school on a Saturday morning. It is a combination of clear leadership and consistent training in your everyday life that will bring results.

Kathryn McKellar
Chief instructor

Kath helps owner Pat encourage a nervous Zoe learn the dog walk.

Credit for all Woofer photos:
Rosy Williams



“Even the tiniest Poodle or Chihuahua is still a wolf at heart”

Dorothy Hinshaw

“Intelligent dogs rarely want to please people whom they do not respect.”

W.R. Koehler

WELCOME TO NEW HANDLERS
Basic Handling Skills Program: April/May 2025

Jody Staddon & Lara
Anna Coen & Charlie
Gary Caldow & Lily
Neil Gordon & Rory
Jacqueline Nozza & Millie
Chelsi-Lee Dorn & River
Pam Beeching & Finn
Selina Frank & Shane
Alice Tierney & Snow
Violetta Mirec & Zara
Marek Wysochi & Azia
Soul Hallenan & Doug



Basic Handling Skills Program: June/July 2025

David Whitfield & Tilly
Kate Wall & Jack
Alison MacFarlane & Badger
Kirsty Blue & Chilli
Jen Borg & Clancy
Jennifer McDermott & Smudge
Tara Stuart & Macaroni
Amanda Close & Mellow
Luke Sweedman and Reggie
Joan Hearn & Maggie
Veronica Smith, Paul Brown & Gus
Michelle Crain & Bear
Leanne Adamthwaite & Zuri



CONGRATULATIONS !

1st Agility Competition - Off lead

1st - Elisabeth Newfield & Kai
2nd - Jessica Boulton & Nova
3rd - Geoff Pike & Archie

1st Agility Competition - On lead

1st - Sue Feeney & Bird
2nd - Deb McCarthy & Busta
3rd - Jean Page & Bear

Country Link Competition

1st - Elisabeth Newfield & Kai
2nd - Jessica Boulton & Nova
3rd - Geoff Pike & Archie

1st Handlers Day

Blue Class

1st - Maret Blue & Pickles
2nd - Norma Richardson & Roxy
3rd - Lisa Ginns & Nala

Yellow Class

1st - Sue Feeney & Bird
2nd - Tania Lingard & Bula
3rd - Val McCauley & Sasha

Red Class

1st - Kara Munn & Gus
2nd - Roslyn Johnson & Archie
3rd - Louise Webb & Lacey

Black Class

1st - Elisabeth Newfield & Kai

Promotion: Blue to Yellow Class - Pat Pearson & Zoey



STORAGE SHED UPDATE

Progress Report! The online Community Consultation process required by Council, has successfully concluded and following an onsite meeting with representatives from Narooma Rotary all concerns expressed by members of the community have been resolved. We are grateful to our volunteer architect/draftsman Michael Robinson, who completed a final revision of the building plan, making the small adjustments needed to meet everyone's requirements.

We are ready to build! New quotes have been gathered and we are pushing hard with Council staff to get the green light to start. It has been just over 2 years since Peter Nelipa and I made our presentation to the Mayor and Councillors – a long haul for such a small structure and at times, very trying on our patience. We are currently working through the challenges of another change in Council staff, but are determined to see the project off the drawing board and out of the ground before this year is out. Watch this space!

A BIG THANKYOU to everyone who has contributed donations over the past 8 years – these funds have been accumulating and are waiting in our bank account specifically to pay for the storage shed. Narooma Quota held a Trivia Night for us in 2023, we have received many generous cash donations, raised monies from our recycling program, and added in the weekly ground fee you pay when you come to Saturday training – all these dollars are earmarked for this project. We could not have done it without your help!

NEW BRANCH MEMBERS

A warm welcome to two new Branch members, who have already gotten into the swing of tasks required each Saturday morning.

Leanne Adamthwaite (pictured on the front page) has been helping Alexis (Lec) with the ground check and set up, as well as the unenviable task of cleaning up dog poo from NATA Oval before training starts. She is also learning the ropes of the sign-in tables and has proven an invaluable help with this important administration task. Soon she will join obedience class with her new puppy, which is very exciting for them both! We wish you much joy with her new companion and thank you for stepping up to help with our organisation. Not everyone is willing to take on administration tasks - your help is very much appreciated.

Geoff Pike has kindly stepped up to the task of bringing the agility trailer to NATA Oval when needed, which is most Saturdays. The trailer is currently housed on the property of our President, Wayne Perry. But soon, we hope, it will be housed in the Storage Shed that we are working with Council to achieve. The shed will be on site and will store not only the trailer but the many boxes of training equipment, tables, marque etc, currently housed in homes and garages of six volunteers. It will be a relief to have everything in one place after more than 25 years of carting stuff to and fro. Thankyou Geoff, for your welcome contribution to the running of our Saturday program.



Geoff Pike and Archie
Proud agility winners!

VISITING INSTRUCTORS

From time to time, we are delighted to welcome visiting Instructors to our Saturday Obedience program. Saturday 14 June was a bumper day for such visits! Jeff Chivall from Horsham Dog Training Club was in town, along with two other Instructor colleagues from the same club. Jeff was a friend of NDTC Founder, the late Yve Robinson, and has been a visiting Instructor with us for many years. We welcome his ongoing interest in helping handlers, especially in the top classes, polish their skills.

It is important to note that Horsham Dog Training Club is a 'trialling' club. By this we mean that their Instructors train dogs to ANKA competition standard, whereas we are mainly interested in helping you develop your dog as a companion. Whilst the Horsham club training methods are well worth thinking about, some do differ from ours. We use praise and treats to achieve trust between a dog and its handler. We try not to push or pull on our dogs and we never use check chains in training. Both of those methods can be effective when used correctly, but our animal welfare philosophy steers us away from these methods. For us, kindness and reward make for a happy combination of dog and owner. But this is not to say that you can't learn from others! You only have to do a quick search on the internet to find a wide range of animal behaviour techniques that people use to train their dog. So do listen to what visiting Instructors have to say – they have 'pearls of wisdom' to offer – then use your judgement as to whether or not you want to take their advice on board. After all, we are all aiming for the same end result – a strong and loving bond between you and your dog.



Left to Right:
Peter Nelipa and Bobby,
Jeff Chivall, Cody and Geoff

NOTICE OF 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

11am Friday 18 July – Club Narooma

The AGM includes election of Office Bearers for the NDTC Executive Committee.

Please consider offering your skills and time to help us run our Branch.

We meet on a Friday once a month at the Narooma Men's Shed.

**For more information, please have a chat with
Carol Hellmers (Secretary) or Wayne Perry (President).**

NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB - 2025 CALENDAR

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

- June 28** Obedience, Agility (1st Rally Assessment RAIN DATE)
July 5 Obedience, Agility
July 12 Obedience, 2ND AGILITY COMPETITION and COUNTRY LINK
July 18 Branch AGM Meeting – 11am, Club Narooma
July 19 Obedience, Agility
July 26 Obedience, Agility (2nd Agility Competition RAIN DATE)
- August 2** Obedience (**BASIC OBEDIENCE 4**), Agility
August 9 Obedience, Agility
August 15 Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed
August 16 Obedience, 2ND HANDLERS DAY
August 23 Obedience, Agility (2nd Handlers Day RAIN DATE)
August 30 Obedience, Agility
- September 6** Obedience, Agility
September 13 **NO TRAINING – FOREST CAR RALLY ON NATA OVAL**
September 19 Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed
September 20 Obedience, Agility
September 27 Obedience, 2nd RALLY OBEDIENCE ASSESSMENT
- October 4** **LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND - NO CLASSES**
October 11 Obedience (**BASIC OBEDIENCE 5**), (2nd Rally Obedience RAIN DATE) Agility
October 17 Branch Meeting – 11am Narooma Men's Shed
October 18 Obedience, Agility
October 25 Obedience, 3RD AGILITY COMPETITION and COUNTRY LINK
- November 1** Obedience, Agility (3rd Agility Competition RAIN DATE)
November 8 Obedience, 3RD HANDLERS DAY
November 14 Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed
November 15 Obedience, Agility (3rd Handlers Day RAIN DATE)
November 22 Obedience, Agility
November 29 Obedience, Agility
- December 6** **DOGS CHRISTMAS PARTY**
December 13 RAIN DATE – DOGS CHRISTMAS PARTY

