

THE WOOFER



NEWSLETTER OF THE
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 2016

July-August-September 2025

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to everyone, and a warm welcome to all new handlers who have joined our program since July. We hope you are enjoying the training experience, meeting and making friends, and developing a strong bond between yourself and your dog.

Narooma Dog Training Club is a Branch of the New South Wales Animal Welfare League. Our main aim is canine education and we are delighted to support all dog owners on this training journey with their pet dog. Whilst you are all very special to us, our Instructors have a particular interest in working with people who bring along a rescued/rehomed dog from an animal rescue organisation. So far this year, of the nearly 100 dogs registered in our program, twelve are rehomed animals. Plus, we have nine other rescue dogs whose owners have chosen to return from previous years.

Are you training a rescue/rehomed pooch? You might be pleased to know that we have a trophy to award at the Dogs Christmas Party at end of this year, especially for a handler and rescue dog. The trophy is the Yve Robinson Memorial Trophy and is awarded for the Most Improved Rescue Dog. Throughout her life Yve cared for and rehomed dogs. Unlike a puppy taken straight from its mum into a loving human home, a rescue dog often comes with a past. Sometimes the dog has been subjected to maltreatment, at the very least it suffers from insecurity and feelings of loss due to being relocated at least once. Yve recognised the extra challenges that owners face when taking on a dog 'with history' - we are sure she would be pleased to have this trophy awarded in her name.

I hope everyone will attend our **Dogs Christmas Party – 10am Saturday 6th December**. Do put the date in your diary – it's a relaxed and fun morning, with games, prizes and party treats. Trophies for Obedience, Rally O and Agility are also awarded. It's a lovely way to end the year with your family and your dog. Another date for your diary – **Sunday 21 September Tailwaggers Walk**. Check out the details inside this newsletter.

Last but not least, I am thrilled to tell you that our long-awaited storage shed (designed to house all our training equipment, including the agility trailer) has received the green light from Council staff. A bit of tree trimming first, then earthworks to lay the concrete slab can commence soon. The shed kit has been purchased with a delivery date towards the end of September/early October. The whole project is being funded by generous public donations and volunteer fundraising efforts, saved over 8 years. An extra special celebration this Christmas

Wayne Perry
President

Photo: Wayne and Odessa



**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		Trainee Instructor Louise Webb	
Peter Nelipa, Wayne Perry, John Kertesz		Agility Instructor Jessica Boulton	
Guest Instructors Amanda Doust, Jeff Chivell			
Equipment Kay Davidson	Agility Trailer Geoff Pike	Woofer Editor Carol Hellmers	
Registration Officer Amanda Cassidy	Assistants Valerie McCauley, 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

I thought I might share some tips for when you may welcome a new rehomed dog into your household. This information is known as the “Rule of Threes”:

3 days

For the first 3 days your new dog will be feeling overwhelmed and unsure of itself. It may try to hide and not interact with you, it could also not want to eat or drink. You will need to be patient and calm. Supply your dog with a safe place and a comfy bed. Dog crates are excellent for this, drape a blanket over the crate and leave the door open. Limit interaction with new people and places. Start to create a routine. Patience is key, allow your dog to explore and acclimatise at their own pace.

3 weeks

After a few weeks your dog will relax and start showing more of its personality and may start testing their boundaries. This is the time to cement your routines, consistency in feeding, exercising and play time builds trust. Remember to stay calm, firm and be consistent. It is also the ideal time to start basic training as personality traits start to emerge. You may also slowly introduce them to new people and experiences.

3 months

By this time your dog now realises that this is their “forever home”. They now understand their routine and have established trust in you. Continue with training and seek help for any behavioural issues that may have arisen. Engage in activities that strengthen your bond, remembering consistency, love and continued patience is the key to a happy relationship with your dog.

All dogs adjust at their own pace, so this timetable is just an estimate. Feel free to talk to your instructor about any issues you may have.

Kathryn McKellar
Chief instructor



2024 Agility Trophy collected by
Stuart and Morgan
with Kathryn McKellar

WELCOME TO NEW HANDLERS
Basic Handling Skills Program: August/September 2025

Corey Robinson & Bella
Judy Gordon & Jimmy
Leanne Saunders & Ellie
Matt O'Neill & Baz
Honey Atkinson & Molly
Richard Doolan & Gus
Jack and Silas Bullock & Kali
Leonie Malcolm & Missy
Olivia Matthews & Swirl
Paul Whitfield & Jimmy
Sally Bouckley & Snickers
Jane Bullen & Sascha

CONGRATULATIONS - RALLY'O WINNERS

Yellow Class

1st Geoff Pike & Archie
2nd Tanya Lingard & Bula
Tied 3rd Michelle Robinson & Mae
Tied 3rd Debbie McCarthy & Buster

Red Class

1st Ros Johnson & Archie
2nd Gill McPadden & Keeley
Tied 3rd Kara Munn & Gus
Tied 3rd Ian Murphy & Bessie

CONGRATULATIONS - AGILITY WINNERS

On lead

1st Jean Page & Bear
2nd Kaz Pederson & Bronco
3rd Rosie Williams & Elvis

Off lead

1st Jessica Boulton & Nova

Country Link

1st Kathryn McKellar & Suzie Q
2nd Jessica Boulton & Nova
3rd Geoff Pike & Archie

RIBBON WINNERS - 2nd HANDLERS DAY, 16 AUGUST

Blue Class

1st Michael Pollock & Ben
2nd Alison McFarlane & Badger
3rd Ally Aitken & Daisy
3rd Bill Thompson & Telly

Yellow Class

1st Pat Pearson & Zoey
2nd Michelle Robinson & Mae
3rd Kaz Pedersen & Bronco

Red Class

1st Theo Cassidy & Jake
2nd Geoff Pike & Archie
3rd Alex Newfield & Emma

Photo:
L Theo & Jake
R Geoff & Archie



HANDLERS DAY ... WHAT IS THAT?

On 16 August, we held the second of three Handlers Days that are scheduled for this year. Some of you are new to our program and probably have little idea of why we have these days and what it means for you and your dog. Well, here is a brief explanation ...

First and foremost, Handlers Days are a way of helping our Instructors evaluate the progress of each owner/handler and dog, in order to target training exercises to meet your needs. Each handler is given a number to wear and the Instructor in charge takes the class through the usual training routine. Assessment marks are given for each exercise completed on the day. It is important to note that handlers are only assessed at their current class level. Blue Class will only perform Blue Class exercises, and so on. No-one is asked to perform an exercise that has not been taught at their class level, so there is nothing to worry. In Blue Class exercises are performed in a group, just like a regular training day. In Yellow Class some exercises are one-on-one, others in a group.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons are awarded based on assessment marks. Sometimes promotion up to the next class colour will be awarded, but this is not automatic. Promotion is given on the successful completion of all exercises, with at least half marks on each exercise. Sometimes a handler and their dog will receive a ribbon, but not be promoted. This is because they scored well overall, but did not pass on a particular exercise. Promotions at other times of the year are given at the discretion of Instructors in consultation with the Chief Instructor.

Lastly all assessment marks are counted towards end of year trophies, which are presented at the Dogs Christmas Party. There is the Terry Watson Trophy, the Most Improved Trophy and the Chief Instructors Encouragement Award – all for Obedience. Handlers Days are nothing to be worried about - they are simply an opportunity for us to help you improve your skills. The next Handler's Day is scheduled for November 8, weather permitting.

YOUR NDTA COMMITTEE

Working behind the scenes of the Saturday program is a group of people who meet once a month to oversee the 'business' of our Branch of the Animal Welfare League. On July 18, the NDTA Branch Annual General Meeting was held and office bearer positions were elected. The faces will be familiar to you!

President – Wayne Perry
Vice-President – Val McCauley
Treasurer – Peter Nelipa
Secretary/Publicity Officer – Carol Hellmers
Registration Officer – Amanda Cassidy
Work, Heath & Safety Officer – Alexis Swadling
Chief Instructor – Kathryn McKellar
Deputy Chief Instructor – Kay Davidson
Official Photographer – Rosie Williams

**You are welcome to attend our Branch Meetings.
Dates, time and location are listed on the
Calendar on the back page.**



Photo: Amanda and Val, holding Sascha

FUTURE PROOFING NDT

A key role of the Committee is to ensure the future viability of our Narooma Dog Training Club. We need to keep in mind what we are aiming to achieve and to regularly ask ourselves the following questions – do we meet the needs of our local dog loving community? do we have sufficient resources to do this? and most importantly, who will be involved?

People are the most important part of any organisation. Of course, all the lovely people who bring their dogs for training are really important. No handlers and dogs to train, no dog club required – simple! Fortunately, we are a pet loving society, so there doesn't appear to be much of a threat there. BUT without our dedicated team of Instructors who would provide the training? The sourcing of volunteers willing to be an NDT Instructor, is a top priority for our Chief Instructor Kathryn (Kath) McKellar.

There are two ways in which we find new Instructors. First and traditionally, handlers from the top Red and Black Classes are approached by the Chief Instructor and encouraged to undertake in-house Instructor training. Louise Webb was co-opted this way. Second, we are approached by someone who already has experience at another club. John Kertesz is just such a person – you can read his story on the next page. We have an Instructor Manual that sets out what needs to be taught at each class level, and all trainee instructors are mentored by Kath to ensure that teaching is consistent. Huge thanks to Kath for the tremendous job she does helping secure the future of our Instructor team.

LOUISE WEBB

Louise is a delightful lady, passionate about animals and their welfare. She retired to Narooma from Canberra at the end of her working life, and immediately brought a dog into the family home. She also launched herself into volunteer work with RSPCA Eurobodalla, where she took on the roles of President (6 years) and Canine Coordinator (4 years). Louise is one of those people who once they take on a job, do it 110%. She threw herself into the task of rehoming animals, helping traumatized animals and owners, and managing a team of other like-minded people caring for animals in need. After 9 years of dedication doing a rewarding but very stressful job, Louise decided to leave RSPCA. She now manages advertising/promotion for the AWL Eurobodalla Branch, as well as a volunteering for us.

Louise currently has two dogs in her life - we know Lacey the best as Louise takes her into Black Class. Lacey is a rescue dog acquired from Pet Rescue on the Central Coast in late 2022. Louise drove up there with a view to bringing her home. Lacey was not in good condition - having recently produced 10 puppies she was hugely overweight and not well socialized - but Louise was committed to helping her. Lacey weighed 44 kilos when Louise brought her home – now after a strict diet, exercise, and lots of TLC, Lacey has lost 14 kilos and is a changed dog.

Louise brought Lacey to obedience classes in 2023 and worked hard to effect the changes needed in Lacey's behaviour. The result – they were the first recipients of the Yve Robinson Memorial Trophy awarded December 2024. Obedience training was a big part of this turn around, and a motivator for Louise's decision to train to be an Instructor herself. She just loves Saturdays and has been co-training the Blue Class with Alexis Swadling. Louise wants to 'give back' and share her knowledge and love of dogs. Thanks Louise, for bringing your passion to our program.



Photo: Louise and Lacey
Taken by Rosy Williams

JOHN KERTESZ

We are pleased to introduce to you John Kertesz, who joins us as an Instructor from Southern Obedience Club Tasmania, where he has been teaching foundation classes for about three years - equivalent to our Basic Obedience Program or Green Class.

John says “My initial motivation for attending training was two bad knees with the expected challenge of owning an enthusiastic 20kg+ reactive dog. Regardless of being an experienced educator and successful adult, I found the training process threatening and failure felt demeaning. Nonetheless, achieving Community Companion Dog (CCD) with Nellie in 2021 was exhilarating. But the road could have been less traumatic. It was less about the supportive teachers I had, than the expectations imposed by the training framework and the testing process. Regardless, the pleasure of having a trained Nellie, and seeing the benefits for us both were prime motivators for my wanting to become an instructor. Being a frustrated retired teacher helped also!”

Southern Obedience Club used to be a traditional dog training club, but underwent a significant transformation after John’s first year as an instructor. The club recognised that novice owner/handlers could experience a sense of failure early on, in what should be a longer-term growth process. They would often drop out when expected results were not suddenly forthcoming. They acknowledged that the primary motivation for owners coming to classes was “not to be a Crufts hero”, but to develop positive interactions between themselves and their dogs, within a broader, responsible canine community. Concepts and practices of the UK Good Citizen Dog scheme were adopted, as they are here in Narooma. “As a foundations instructor, I could thus focus on positive empowerment and healthy dog-owner relationships rather than *training*. The outcomes were the same, but with less anxiety, more smiles, and improved retention rate”.

I am pleased to be allowed to support Narooma Dog Training Club, because I continue to find it exciting and rewarding to see owner/handlers and their dogs similarly take those first steps to positive trained canine relationships within a supportive learning environment.

It is great to have John on our team! Please say hello next time you come to training.

Photo: John and Nellie
Taken by Rosy Williams



“Folk will know how large your soul is by the way you treat your dog.”
Charles F. Doran

“No matter how little money and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich”.
Louis Sabin

AWL KEMPS CREEK

Kemps Creek, Sydney is the location of the ‘head office’ of the NSW Animal Welfare League (AWL). There are a number of staff, including vets, animal behaviourists and welfare inspectors, administrative personnel, and finance staff who work at and from this facility under the direction of CEO Stephen Albin. AWL also has an honorary Board who are responsible for overseeing compliance and future directions of the organisation. Looking ahead, the Board has identified several key priorities for the year 2025-26. These include strengthening AWL Animal Companion Centres established in Bega, Orange and Glen Innes to provide localised support for branches. Continued progress on the Precinct for Animal Welfare at West Hoxton is also a priority. This important site will include the Inspectorate Command Centre, a research animal rehoming service, and a respite facility for animals impacted by domestic violence. President Linda Geddes recently wrote – “the heart of AWL work remains the animals. Shelter demand continues to be high, particularly with increased inspectorate cases, but our staff and volunteers are working tirelessly to ensure every animal receives the care it deserves.”

NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB - 2025 CALENDAR

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

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 21 **Tailwaggers Walk and Car Boot Sale**

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 – 1am, 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



Blue Class winners: Michael, Alison



Yellow Class winners: Pat, Michelle, Kaz