

THE WOOFER



NEWSLETTER OF THE
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 2016

October/November/December 2025

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well, it's the end of another year. And what a fabulous year it has been! Here are some outstanding facts. 120 dogs registered for training with us this year. Of those, 27 were rehomed/rescue dogs, which is a record number of adopted animals in our training programs. All of you are clearly very responsible pet owners who wish to bond with your dog. Thank you for choosing us to help you - I hope you have enjoyed your time with us this year. We would love to see you return next year to advance your training.

There was another significant record that was achieved on a Saturday recently - sadly I missed it, but perhaps you were there? 54 dogs were the NATA Oval taking part across the 5 levels of Obedience training. Attendances like this bring joy to every Instructor's heart, that they as volunteers are doing a wonderful job, and that you are enthused and have the desire to work with them and your dog.

As I write this report, I have literally just returned from the Annual AWL Conference in Sydney. It was titled *Choose Your Journey*. Geoff Pike, with his dog Archie, and I attended as representatives of the Narooma Dog Training Club Branch.

DAY 1 - Thursday afternoon 13th November. AWL held their Annual General Meeting. The CEO Stephen Albin's report also listed some statistics - AWL NSW found homes for 3,647 animals a record in its 67year history. The Veterinary teams provided over 8,600 consultations and the animal care truck delivered essential services to more than 2,000 animals in 33 towns in NSW. What you may ask is the animal care truck? It is a complete Double B mobile clinic that was set up to go to remote communities where there are no vets within a reasonable distance. It bridges the gap for veterinary services across regional NSW. It provides services such as microchipping, desexing and vaccinations. Totally run by AWL and partly funded by the government, the truck has also been rushed to disaster areas such as the north coast flooding. A brilliant initiative.

DAY 2 - There were a number of workshops to attend. These included a new accounting and auditing system called Wiise, a cat management program, and more about our animal care truck. Community education, the AWL Inspectorate program, and lastly what proactive work some shire councils are doing to rehome surrendered or impounded pets rather than just euthanize.

Archie the assistance dog was a great hit! Everyone wanted photos with him, and Geoff was on the other end of the leash to answer questions. Together they attracted a lot of attention for the work that we do. Well done Archie and Geoff.

Also at the time of writing this message, the storage shed to house all our equipment, including the agility trailer, is in the process of being built. The frame work is up! Hopefully by the time we have our end of year event, the **Dogs Christmas Party on Saturday 6th December**, the shed will be finished and fully functional. This to me personally, this will be a great joy. The temporary housing of the agility trailer for nearly 5 years means I will have a parking bay available at my house again. The same goes for many of our volunteers who have a range of equipment in their garages. Enjoy the party with our special guests, games and presentation of awards. See you all at the party and have a Happy Christmas!

Wayne Perry
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 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	Vice President	Secretary/Publicity Officer	Treasurer
Wayne Perry	Valerie McCauley	Carol Hellmers	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	Trainee Agility Instructor Jessica Boulton		
Guest Instructors Amanda Doust, Jeff Chivell			
Equipment	Agility Trailer	Woofers Editor	
Kay Davidson	Wayne Perry/Geoff Pike	Carol Hellmers	
Registration Officer	Assistants	Photography	
Amanda Cassidy	Valerie McCauley, Leanne Adamthwaite	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 2026

Annual registration fee for renewing handlers is payable from February 2026.

\$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 2026.

Basic Obedience Program - \$50 for the 2 month program. Bookings essential.

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

FROM THE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

Hi everyone - for my last message of 2025 before we all enjoy the festive season, I just want to remind you of hazards to be aware of to keep your dog safe over the Christmas break.

Firstly, as we all know, Summer means tick season and even though you are hopefully using a tick preventative, it is advisable to still give an overall physical check of your dog daily, paying attention to inside their ears, around their eyes and mouth, and under their tail and legs, even between their toes.

The next danger, is of course, snakes. Even in suburban areas, this is still a danger. A local snake catcher recently warned me of the increase of tiger and brown snakes in our area, so please be extra vigilant. This is where your “leave” command can save your dog. If you think there’s any possibility that your dog may have been bitten, take them to the vet immediately as time is of the essence.

Summer heat can be a killer! At home, make sure your dog has access to plenty of fresh water all the time. Whilst we don’t recommend leaving your dog in a car, if you do have to do that last minute dash to the shops, park your vehicle in the shade and keep the shopping time short. Leave a couple of windows down for air flow, and a bowl of water within easy reach.

Some of our favourite human foods are also dangerous, so be careful around the festive season when many of us are entertaining with family and friends. We all know that chocolate is poisonous to dogs but grapes, sultanas and raisins are also toxic - so no Christmas cake for your dog. Onions and avocados are also not to be given to dogs. Be careful too around the BBQ, not only are cooked bones dangerous but cobs of corn are a significant choking hazard. One other thing to be aware of is a substance called xylitol - it is very toxic to dogs and can be found in a number of human products, especially sugar free things like mints, chewing gum and lollies, so check your labels.

I’d like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families, a safe and happy holiday break. Don’t forget, having a break from dog training classes doesn’t mean that you should have a break from training your dog. So try incorporating their training into your everyday life. Happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Classes will recommence – Saturday 7th February 2026

Kathryn McKellar
Chief instructor



***“A dog will teach you unconditional love.
If you have that in your life, things won’t be too hard.”***

Robert Wagner

“There is nothing truer in this world than the love of a dog.”

Mira Grant

WELCOME TO NEW HANDLERS
Basic Handling Skills Program: October/November 2025

Brigid Fominas & Tilly
Rita Johanna & Bobby
Darcie Bicol & Daisy
Mel Laker & Walter
Sally Hawkins & Fudge
Amelia Matthews & Simba
Heidi Fosternally & Bonnie
Ella Burns & Jude
Clare Death & Quinn
Kiseniya Samsonenko & Jenny
Lin Wilton & Chuck
Gwen and Tom & Po
Evelyn Levy & Sala
Elio Nozza & Ziggy
Maz Youtlen & Chillie
Anne Spires & Chilli
Shone Klose & Lakshimi
Ann Sunshine & Rosy
Kiki Hensler & Roman
Priscilla Hensler & Dakota



FINAL COMPETITION RESULTS for 2025

Rally O

Yellow Class

1st - Val McCauley & Sasha
2nd - Maben Rees & Charlie
3rd - Patricia Pearson & Zoey

Red Class

1st - Geoff Pike & Archie
2nd - Ros Johnson & Archie
3rd - Kara Munn & Gus

Agility

NDTC competition – on lead

1st - Alison MacFarlane & Badger
2nd - Debbie McCarthy & Busta
3rd - Jean Page & Bear

NDTC competition – off lead

1st - Jessica Boulton & Bindi
2nd - Jessica Boulton & Nova
3rd - Wendy Thoms & Sky

Country Link

1st - Jessica Boulton & Nova
2nd - Jessica Boulton & Bindi
3rd - Wendy Thoms & Skye

Handlers Day

Blue Class

1st - Marek Wysocki & Zara
2nd - Leanne Adamthwaite & Zuri
3rd - Jen Borg & Clancy

Yellow Class

1st - Bill Thompson & Telly
2nd - Alison MacFarlane & Badger
3rd - Linda Evans & Pepper

Red Class

1st - Geoff Pike & Archie
2nd - Ros Johnson & Archie
3rd - Bev Southgate & Lucy



LAST PROMOTIONS for 2025

Blue to Yellow

Michael Pollock & Ben
Ally Aitken & Daisy
Bill Thompson & Telly
Linda Evans & Pepper
Alison MacFarlane & Badger
Soul Hallenan & Doug
Violetta Mirecka & Zara
David Whitfield & Jack

Yellow to Red

Jean Page & Bear
Val McCauley & Sasha
Pat Pearson & Zoey
Michelle Robinson & Mae
Pat Pearson & Zoey
Deb McCarthy & Busta

RECYCLING UPDATE

Narooma Dog Training Club handlers are champions at recycling! Each Saturday training morning we set aside a large box at the sign in table to collect your cans, glass and plastic drink bottles. They are stored and once a month, taken up to the recycle bins at Narooma Plaza where they are redeemed for vouchers, and then cash.

I recently checked with our Treasurer Peter Nelipa to see how the program is going. He advised me that since we started this direct collection process back in 2022 - **19,094 items have been recycled**. That's a staggering number of items that have been properly recycled and equates to \$1,909.40, that you wonderful people have contributed towards the costs of running our Branch of NSW Animal Welfare League. Funds raised help us buy up to date and safe training/agility equipment, hire the NATA Oval, provide ribbons and purchase the end of year awards. There are also some smaller internal running costs like stationery and postage.

We are extremely grateful to all of you who contributed. A very big THANKYOU for your support.
Carol Hellmers – Secretary

PROGRESS IMAGES for the STORAGE SHED



SOME HIGHLIGHTS of 2025!

Sincere and grateful THANKS to official photographer Rosy Williams for these images.









NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB - 2026 CALENDAR

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

January 16 Branch Meeting – 11am Narooma Men's Shed

February 7 Obedience (**BASIC OBEDIENCE #1 and ALL REGISTRATIONS**)

February 14 Obedience, Agility

February 20 Branch Meeting – 11am Narooma Men's Shed

February 21 Obedience, Agility

February 24 National Animal Remembrance Day

February 28 Obedience, Agility

March 7 Obedience, Agility

March 14 Obedience, Agility

March 20 Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed

March 21 Obedience, Agility

March 28 Obedience, Agility

April 4 **EASTER LONG WEEKEND – NO CLASSES**

April 11 Obedience (**BASIC OBEDIENCE #2**)

1ST AGILITY COMPETITION and COUNTRY LINK

April 17 Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed

April 18 Obedience, Agility (1st Agility Comp RAIN DATE)

April 25 **ANZAC DAY – NO CLASSES**

May 2 Obedience, Agility

May 9 Obedience 1ST RALLY ASSESSMENT, Agility

May 15 Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed

May 16 Obedience, Agility (1st Rally Assessment RAIN DATE)

May 23 Obedience, 1ST HANDLERS DAY (No Agility)

May 30 Obedience, Agility (1st Handlers Day RAIN DATE)

