

THE WOOFER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 2016



January/February/March 2026

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome everyone to the start of dog training for 2026.

For the newcomers to our Basic Obedience Program, I say thank you for being responsible owners and wanting to train your dog with us - hopefully you are bonding well as a team of owner and pet. I also hope you all will continue onto the next level to learn even more than the basics. To all returning handlers from past years, welcome back.

As you will have seen, we now have a storage shed to work out of every week. What a bonus it is! We still have the internal fit out of shelving to go, to make it more workable, and signage yet to be approved by Council, but soon this project will be finished. Watch this space over the coming months. It is so much easier now the agility trailer is on site, and not in my shed, as well as all the other gear that volunteers had to bring in their car boots every week.

What a record turn-out we had on our first day back, February 7. More than fifty handlers with their dogs were spread out across NATA Oval. Attendance does vary – we encourage you to come every week, as consistency helps your dog to settle in and socialise well. You'll notice that they start to look forward to it too.

An important event has just passed - February 24. Every year this date is designated nationally as War Animal Remembrance Day, for all animals that served in wars. The ceremony was held at Club Narooma by the Narooma RSL Sub-Branch. It is for all animals - horses, dogs and cats, even rats were used to detect land mines. Before you have horrible thoughts of them being blown up. No – that was not the case. Apparently, animals pick up the scent of explosives and sit near the land mine, alerting service men and women, and saving human lives. You can read more inside this issue.

Our Christmas Event last December was a terrific success, with more special guests than ever before in attendance. Prizes were awarded for best dressed dog and owner in Christmas themed clothing, several games were held, and most importantly trophies and awards were presented for obedience, rally obedience and agility. There are some photos inside this issue, taken by our resident photographer and owner of Elvis, Rosy Williams. Also images sharing some highlights of 2025.

So we are off to a great start for 2026 – Enjoy!

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 the safety check on the grounds, selling dog equipment etc. Where possible, your arrival by 9.45am will enable us to start all classes on timewould be appreciated. **All dogs on lead from 9.30am.**

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
Obedience Instructors	Jean Page, Alexis Swadling, Louise Webb Peter Nelipa, Wayne Perry, John Kertesz		
Trainee Agility Instructors	Jessica Boulton, Geoff Pike	Guest Instructors	Amanda Doust, Jeff Chivell
Equipment	Woofers Editor	Photography	
Kay Davidson	Carol Hellmers	Rosy Williams	
Registration Officer	Amanda Cassidy	Admin Assistant	Valerie McCauley

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 8.30am, 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 a 2 month program. Bookings essential.

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

FROM THE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

Should dogs be kept in crates? Well obviously not for extended periods of time. They aren't toys you stick in a box when you're not playing with them. However, crates are immensely beneficial for a dog in many ways, and even if you don't typically use them, I highly recommend crate training your dog.

In the event your dog needs surgery and has to stay at a vet clinic, they will be crated. Dogs that have never learned to be comfortable in a crate will find this stressful. Teaching your dog that a crate is a safe spot to relax will make that experience far better for them. The same goes for emergency situations. During fires or evacuations, a pet that's scared may bolt and escape or you may not be able to get home to collect them. Pets rescued from these situations are often brought to a pound or vet clinic until they can be reunited with an owner. They'll end up being crated. If they have a positive association with a crate, it will make the process significantly less stressful. Dogs with crate training will feel safe in a crate, dogs that have not been crate trained will be in more stressed, possibly biting at the cage trying to get out. Crates are also the safest way for a pet to travel. In the event of a serious car accident, your dog has a much better chance of surviving if they are in a crate.

But what about in the house? Crates can be very effective for helping teach a young dog to settle and self-regulate their behaviour. An hour in a crate with something to chew and a nap can help them learn this pattern. This can go a long way in preventing them from developing separation anxiety. For dogs that have destructive behaviours, like eating the sofa, it's far safer to leave them in a crate than unsupervised and have to go through surgery to remove ingested sofa cushions. Of course, teaching a dog not to do these things is optimal, but that doesn't happen overnight, especially with older adopted dogs.

The goal of crate training shouldn't be about locking your dog in a crate. It should be about making it into a comfortable den like space that they choose to go to whenever they want some quiet time. This is especially valuable in homes with children, other pets, or if the dog gets anxious during things like vacuuming, storms or when service providers are over. It's kind of the equivalent of being able to excuse yourself from the situation and go hang out in your room! It's less about keeping the dog in it, and more about them having a space that keeps others out. If the dog gets a chew treat, they can take it to their crate to chew. Unlike a bed where another dog or cat can come up and get in their space, the crate gives a dog an area where they don't have to worry about that. That security also helps prevent resource guarding. They can go in and out when they please.

So, for the comfort and well-being of your dog, I highly recommend you consider crate training.

Kathryn McKellar
Chief Instructor

WELCOME TO NEW HANDLERS

Basic Handling Skills Program: February/March 2026

Sandra McAndrew & Jasper
Carmel Bailey & Franky
Cathy O'Neill-Harding & Louie
Scott Cleburne & Lily
Joanna Banyer & Ollie
Roger Morrison & Broulee
Phil Douch & Tillie
David Parsons & Yeshe
Michelle Hayward & Sparky
Diane Webster & Lucy

Eva Mosler-Teichmann & Schnaps
Joni and Esme Thompson & Bonnie
Kathryn McNulty & Isla
Kirsty Cleburne & Nala
Kim Barkley & Lou
Nina and Gavin Bragg & Moose
Tegan Smith & Jimmy
Chris Ramsden & Bexley
Elizabeth Allmand & Chloe

VALE – Angel

On Saturday 21 February, our friend Ruth Watson bid a sad farewell to her dog Angel, aged 19. Angel was a huge part of Ruth's life for sixteen years. She and her late husband Terry found a photo of Angel on a website for the dog pound in Cootamundra. When they saw the skinny three-year old Terrier x Dachshund, they knew they had to help her. Angel had been cruelly abused. She had been kicked in the throat and thrown out of a car window. So, in the Winter of 2010, Ruth and Terry loaded their car with 3 other dogs they owned at the time – Missy, Duke and Page – and set off to collect Angel. The trip took 5.5 hours on a very cold, minus 2 degree day. But it was the start of a wonderful 16 years with Angel, who brought much joy and love into Ruth's life.



From abuse to happiness ...

Rest in doggie heaven dear Angel.



RECYCLING!

Narooma Dog Training Club handlers, you are champions at recycling! A big thank you to all of you who continue to support us in this way. Monies raised through this source help us pay for the end of year trophies and equipment needed for weekly training. We welcome your weekly donations of drink cans, plastic bottles and glass which we are happy to take to the TOMRA recycling for you. Two large boxes, clearly labelled, are now residing in our shed, making collection easier for us too! We redeem the goods for vouchers, then cash all of which goes to our Treasurer Peter Nelipa to bank. If you prefer to take the goodies to the recycling centre yourself, then we are happy to receive the vouchers that the TOMRA machine provides. There is also an option to choose NSW Animal Welfare League and have the funds directly deposited to that account, but please be aware that your donation through this method go to the AWL Head Office in Sydney, not to our branch. Either way, your support helps the care and welfare of animals so please keep saving and donating.

No good!

What you can't return

Some drink containers commonly consumed inside the home are not currently eligible for a refund and should be recycled in your household bin.

- ✗ Containers under 150mL
- ✗ Containers over 3L
- ✗ Wine bottles
- ✗ Spirit bottles
- ✗ Plain milk bottles and cartons (including alternative milk)
- ✗ Cordial bottles
- ✗ Health tonics
- ✗ Pure juice bottles over 1L (comprised of 90% pure juice)
- ✗ Water and wine casks or sachets

Good to go!

What you can return

Most aluminium, glass, plastic and liquid paperboard (carton) drink containers between 150mL and 3 litres are eligible for a 10c refund.

- ✓ Plastic bottles ie. water, soft drink, flavoured milk under 1L, juice and sports drinks
- ✓ Glass bottles ie. water, beer, soft drink, pre-mixed spirits, juice and kombucha
- ✓ Cans ie. soft drink, water, energy drinks, beer and pre-mixed spirits
- ✓ Poppers and cartons ie. juice and flavoured milk under 1L

NATIONAL WAR ANIMAL DAY PURPLE POPPY DAY

February 24 is the day on which Australia commemorates the extraordinary contribution made by animals in war and other conflicts around the world.

This year the event was enhanced by Narooma Dog Training Club who undertook to present a guard of honour, thanks to the 'behind the scenes' organisation of Rosy Williams and Narooma RSL President Paul Naylor. Four NDTC Instructors and their dogs formed a guard of honour – Kathryn McKellar & Suzie Q, Jean Page & Bear, Geoff Pike & Archie, Wayne Perry & Odessa. The dogs were a very well-behaved and calm presence, particularly noted by the MC, and added gravitas and poignancy to the proceedings. Short addresses, telling stories of some amazing animals recorded in wartime history, were given by Marine Rescue and Paul Naylor. Three poems were read, a prayer for the animals delivered by Rev. Tim Narraway, and several wreaths were laid by various local organisations, including Narooma Dog Training Club.

Animals have played an important role in conflicts for centuries. They have been used by army personnel in particular because of their unique ability to undertake tasks that were either too difficult or impossible for humans to undertake. Over the years, different animals have served different functions. Horses, elephants, camels, donkeys and mules have been used for both transportation and mounted attack. Pigeons were once used for communication and photographic espionage. Many other animals have been reportedly used in various specialised military functions, including rats and pigs. Dogs were especially useful. As well as being companion animals, dogs have been used to carry important messages across difficult terrain, other communications failed. A message was secured in a canister attached to the dog's collar. These dogs were trained to operate despite the noise and chaos of battle, and they could move quickly around shell holes and through trenches. Dogs also helped to find people and save lives.

Unfortunately, many animals suffered and died in the course of their duty. The National War Animal Day reminds us of their service and is an opportunity for us to remember them. Lest we forget.

About a Dog (Anonymous)

When God made all the earth and skies, the flowers and the trees
He then made all the animals and all the birds and bees.
And when he had finished this no one was quite the same
He said "I will walk this earth of mine and give each one a name".
And so God travelled land and sea and everywhere he went
a little creature followed him until its strength was spent.
When all were named upon the earth, and in the land and sea
the little creature said to God "Dear Lord, there is no name left for me".
The good Lord smiled and softly said "I've left you to the end -
I've turned my own name back to front and called you
DOG, my friend".



GET TO KNOW US!

OBEDIENCE INSTRUCTORS

Did you know that all Narooma Dog Training Club Instructors are volunteers? Not only do they provide their knowledge and support through the training program, but all have other jobs that help to keep us running smoothly. As a not-for-profit organisation, we are always on the lookout for willing helpers – so if you are interested and want to get more involved, we'd love to hear from you. There are official Committee roles to fill each year, elected at our Annual General Meeting. But if serving on Committee does not appeal to you, there are other tasks to be done, mostly on Saturdays. Please have a chat with Wayne - our current President and key representative with the NSW Animal Welfare League of which NDTC is a Branch.



*Left to Right:
Wayne Perry, Kay Davidson (Deputy Chief Instructor), Kathryn McKellar (Chief Instructor),
Geoff Pike (Valued Volunteer!), Alexis Swadling, John Kertesz, Louise Webb, Jean Page,
and Peter Nelipa.*

AGILITY INSTRUCTORS



Left to Right: Jessica Boulton, (Trainee), Kathryn McKellar, Geoff Pike (Trainee).

TROPHY WINNERS for 2025

Obedience

Terry Watson Memorial Trophy – Geoff Pike & Archie
Most Improved Handler and Dog – Val McCauley & Sasha
Encouragement Award – Patricia Pearson & Zoey

Rally O

Intermediate Handler and Dog – Deb McCarthy & Busta
Experience Handler and Dog – Kara Munn & Gus
Most Improved Handler and Dog - Michelle Robinson & Mae

Agility

Trish Carty Memorial Trophy – Jessica Boulton & Bindi
Most Improved Handler and Dog – Jean Page & Bear
Encouragement Award – Alison McFarlane & Badger
Country Link Trophy – Jessica Boulton & Nova

Yve Robinson Perpetual Trophy for Best Handler and Rescue Dog Roslyn Johnson & Archie

Just a few pictures of some trophy winners, thanks to Rosy Williams.



HIGHLIGHTS of 2025!

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









NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB - 2026 CALENDAR

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

- 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)
- June 6 **KING’S BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND – NO CLASSES**
June 13 Obedience (**BASIC OBEDIENCE 3 Registrations**) Agility
June 19 Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men’s Shed
June 20 Obedience, 2ND AGILITY COMPETITION and COUNTRY LINK
June 27 Obedience, Agility (2nd Agility Comp RAIN DATE)
- July 4 Obedience, Agility
July 11 Obedience, Agility
July 17 Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men’s Shed
July 18 Obedience, 2ND HANDLERS DAY (No Agility)
July 24 Branch AGM – Venue TBA
July 25 Obedience, Agility (2nd Handlers Day RAIN DATE)

*“Whoever said diamonds are a girl’s best friend
never owned a dog.”*

Anonymous

*“The world would be a nicer place
if everyone had the ability to love as unconditionally as a dog.”*

M.K. Clinton