

THE WOOFER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 2016



April/May/June 2026

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone!

Firstly, let me welcome new handlers and dogs to the June/July Basic Obedience Program (Green Class), our third intake this year. Six years ago I was in this class with Odessa, looking across the field at the advanced Red and Black classes saying “we will never get there”. We did! Not only did we finish the training program Narooma Dog Training Club (NDTC) offers, but I trained as an Instructor and took on the role of President as well. You can get to the top class too - it just takes practice and regular attendance. Look out for Odessa, the big black Great Dane, and myself. Please say “Hi” as I try to welcome everyone to class each Saturday.

Our current dog training program had humble beginnings. The late Yve Robinson started dog obedience and agility programs in her own backyard, with small numbers and herself as the sole instructor. Demand grew, assistant instructors were trained, and when Yve became the first President of the Animal Welfare League Eurobodalla Branch, the dog training program moved under the AWL umbrella. Alongside the rescuing, desexing and rehoming programs, the dog training programs grew in strength and gained the confidence of the public. It was during this period that lobbying by the Eurobodalla Branch resulted in the fencing of NATA Oval. In 2016, primarily motivated by Yve, NDTC gained independence from the Eurobodalla Branch and became an AWL Branch in its own right. Two significant achievements have been made by NDTC – the designation by Council of NATA Oval as a 24-7 leash-free dog park and most recently, the construction of a storage shed to house all NDTC equipment on site. Both these gains have confirmed NDTC and the NATA Oval as valuable community resources.

Recently Narooma Dog Training Club celebrated a significant milestone - ten years since our formation as a Branch of the NSW Animal Welfare League. We celebrated with a light lunch, fabulous cake and the friendship of people who have made a significant contribution over the last decade. Our first President Steve Genner and his wife Sue attended – Steve gave a very thoughtful speech. I also said a few words, as did Kathryn McKellar, our hard-working Chief Instructor. Members of the present Committee, current Instructors and other key volunteers and guests were there to help us celebrate. Of particular note were Peter Nelipa (Treasurer) and Carol Hellmers (Secretary) who have both held positions on the NDTC Committee since day one. Also of note were Jean Page, Val McCauley and Rosy Williams – all of whom continue to make valued contributions to the weekly running of our weekly training programs.

Many, many people have been helped to make NDTC what it is today – there too many to mention here but you know who you are. To you all I say a **big Thank You**.

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 time would be appreciated. **All dogs must be 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 Geoff Pike

Chief Instructor Kathryn McKellar **Deputy Chief Instructor** Kay Davidson

Obedience Instructors Jean Page, 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, from 1 August 2026.

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

One of the reasons people bring their dog to training is to, very importantly, socialise them with other dogs. Our program is the perfect setting, as there are dogs of all sizes and temperaments, and they are all on leash and under control.

We as humans, all like our personal space and so do many dogs. For a nervous, timid dog to be confronted by a large, lunging, albeit friendly dog can be very intimidating. You have probably noticed that in training classes, we space out the dogs so that no-one can be intimidated or frightened. Dogs are often quite excited or anxious when you first arrive at training and you go to the sign-in desk. Try to be aware of keeping a respectful distance from other dogs. If you find it difficult to sign-in with your dog, then you can ask an Instructor or a friend to hold them for a minute while complete the process. Once the formalities are over, take your dog onto Nata Oval and have a wander around and a chat, remembering to always leave space around your dog. Slowly your dog will learn that other dogs are not going to hurt him/her and that they just want to check out a new chum. Eventually, your dog will gain enough confidence to want to join in with the other dogs more socially.

Sometimes timid dogs decide that the best way to deal with the problem is to attack. You have probably seen small dogs who want to “take on the world”. Basically, it is because they are frightened and their best defence is offence, in other words “get in first”. If you own such a dog, then stay calm. Don’t shout “bad dog” or “no” - just turn your dog away from the other dogs and then ask them to sit quietly and if necessary, ask the other handlers to move away and give you a bit more space.

Some large dogs, in their efforts to socialise, lunge and jump at dogs passing or dogs nearby, which owners can interpret as aggression - but it is often just bad dog manners. So unless the dog is growling, baring its teeth, with its hair up on its back and a stiff tail it is not being aggressive - it just hasn’t learned yet that that is not the way to behave. Once again don’t panic, move away quickly and give your dog something else to think about or do, like sit. It’s most important that you remain calm and relaxed. If you get upset, your dog will also get upset and feel justified in trying to protect you or be frightened.

At the end of each class, most Instructors have a short socialising period which you and your dog can decide whether or not you want to join in. Even the most timid dog can usually pick out one dog around the same size that it likes and can say hello to, and the larger more boisterous ones can also get together.

So, with patience and by keeping calm and showing your dog, by example, how to behave around new people and other dogs, you can have a well-adjusted, social dog.

Kathryn McKellar
Chief Instructor

Our 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING is fast approaching!
11am FRIDAY 17th JULY at Club Narooma.

This meeting includes the election of all Office Bearers for the NDTC Committee.
Please consider offering your skills and time to help us run our Branch activities.

We meet at 11am on the third Friday of every month at the Narooma Men’s Shed.
For more information, please have a chat with
Wayne Perry (President) or Carol Hellmers (Secretary).

WELCOME TO NEW HANDLERS
Basic Handling Skills Program: April/May 2026
Instructor: John Kertesz

Jim Mitchell & Beth
 Cydney Atkins & Milo
 Darrell Burke & Frank
 Julia Mirabella & Luna
 Nicci Eastham & Chilli
 Joy Sinclair & Ronnie
 Tracy Coomer & Chewy
 Jennifer Yatman & Remi
 Kelly Eastwood & Teddy
 Tegan Smith & Jimmy



WELCOME TO NEW HANDLERS
Basic Handling Skills Program: June/July 2026
Instructor: Kay Davidson

Jo Skinner & Cheese
 Susan Murray & Hope
 Janice Taylor & Amira

James Alcock & Mack
 Alistair Robson & Norman
 Jim Dole & Jet

Katrina Cross & Freya
 Rob Wood & Pip
 Betsy Hilton & Kippie

Peter and Michelle Cornish & Frank



CONGRATULATIONS!

1st Agility Competition - 11th April

On lead

- 1st place - Chris Harmon & Clyde
- 2nd place - Ros Johnson & Archie
- 3rd place - Alison MacFarlane & Badger

Off lead

- 1st place - Jessica Boulton & Nova
- 2nd place - Wendy Thom & Skye
- 3rd place - Geoff Pike & Archie

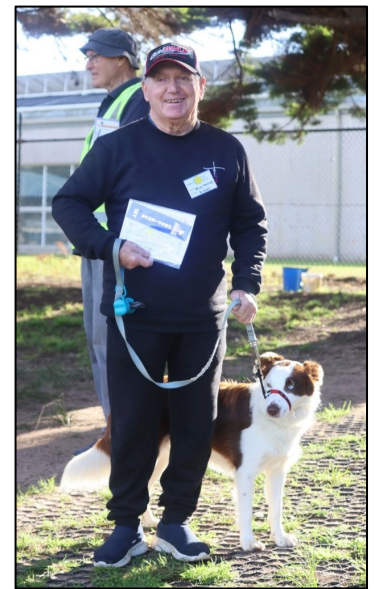
1st Rally O Assessment - 9th May

Yellow Class

- 1st place - Violetta Mirecka & Zara
- 2nd place - David Whitfield & Jack
- Tied 3rd place
 - Steve Genner & Honey
 - Michael Pollack & Ben

Red Class

- 1st place - Kara Munn & Gus
- 2nd place - Geoff Pike & Archie
- 3rd place - Gill McPadden & Kelley



1st Handlers Day - 30th May

Blue Class

- 1st place - Elio Nozza & Ziggy
- 2nd place - Tara Stuart & Macaroni
- 3rd place - Joanne Banyer & Ollie

Yellow Class

- 1st place - Norma Richardson & Roxie
- 2nd place - Violetta Mirecka & Zara

Red Class

- 1st place - Ros Johnson & Archie
- 2nd place - Geoff Pike & Archie
- 3rd place - Theo Cassidy & Jake

Promotions

Blue Class to Yellow Class

- Elio Nozza & Ziggy
- Tara Stuart & Macaroni
- Joanne Banyer & Ollie
- Bryan Adamthwaite & Zuri
- Carmel Bailey & Franky
- David Parsons & Yeshi

Yellow Class to Red Class

- Alison MacFarlane & Badge

NDTC 10th ANNIVERSARY



NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB - 2026 CALENDAR

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

- 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
June 27 Obedience, Agility (2nd Agility Comp RAIN DATE)
- July 4 Obedience, Agility
July 11 Obedience, Agility
July 17 Branch AGM – 11am, Club Narooma
July 18 Obedience, 2ND HANDLERS DAY (No Agility)
July 25 Obedience, Agility (2nd Handlers Day RAIN DATE)
- August 1 Obedience (**BASIC OBEDIENCE 4 Registrations**) Agility
August 8 Obedience, Agility
August 14 Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed
August 15 Obedience, 2ND RALLY ASSESSMENT, Agility
August 22 Obedience, Agility (2nd Rally Assessment RAIN DATE)
August 29 Obedience, Agility
- Sept 5 Obedience, 3RD AGILITY COMPETITION
Sept 12 Obedience, Agility (3rd Agility Comp RAIN DATE)
Sept 18 Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed
Sept 19 Obedience, 3RD HANDLERS DAY (No Agility)
Sept 26 Obedience, Agility (3rd Handlers Day RAIN DATE)

SPECIAL DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Dogs Christmas Event – **Saturday 5th December** – 10am-12.30pm

Event includes free Morning Tea, Games with Prizes - every dog wins a Gift!

“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened.”

Anatolie France

“If the kindest souls were rewarded with the longest lives, dogs would outlive us all.”

Anonymous

“Dogs and angels are not very far apart.”

Charles Bukowski

