THE WOOFER

NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NSW

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
ESTABLISHED 2016

October-November-December 2026

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the final Woofer for the year 2026. I hope you have had a good year to date. We will be rounding up this year with our annual **Dogs Christmas Event on December 5**. This is a free event open to all handlers, past and present. Complimentary morning tea, games and prizes, trophy presentations, plus a gift for every dog. Got family visiting? Bring them along as well. I hope you have your outfits for the fancy dress parade at the ready? Prizes for the Best Dog and Handler combination. Plus there will be special mystery guests to judge, as well as assist with the presentation of trophies.

On the 6th June this year we quietly celebrated our ten years as a Branch of the NSW Animal Welfare League (although dog training on NATA Oval has been going on for more than 20 years). In attendance was past President Steve Genner and his wife Sue, as well as our current Committee, Instructors and key helpers. It was really good to take time out to reflect on our accomplishments this past decade.

We try to advance and grow the dog training programs we offer each year, all of which are totally run by Volunteers and are self-funded. We are always on the lookout for more Volunteers to help. Come and join the team, we have a range of tasks on offer. For example, one instructor pitches-in once a month. We are flexible and accept this support gratefully. But that does not have to be your role. Help at the sign in table is always valued, and if you prefer more physical tasks, we have a cleanup of the dog park every Saturday before training, and willing hands to assist in setting up equipment is another option. The new storage/equipment shed on site has put a smile on the faces of all our Volunteers - we are in a 'happy place'. The funds for this facility and all our equipment have been raised over ten years from community donations, car boot sales and other fundraising events. Thanks supporters!

Highlights of 2026:

- We participated in the National Animal War Memorial Day in February and laid a wreath in memory of all animals that served in war. Be it horse, dogs, pigeons, even trained rats. Think about attending this service next year at Club Narooma. To be held on the 24th February 2027.
- Our AGM occurred in late July. We elected a new Work, Health and Safety Officer (Geoff Pike) and a new Vice President (John Kertesz), and re-elected the remainder of committee positions too. You are welcome to come along at any of our Branch meetings and please consider joining the Committee in 2027.
- Good news! We are about to invest in some new agility equipment, with a view to offering a lending library of equipment to handlers. We will have a reference book library in 2027 too.
- Lastly, I am thrilled to report that the number of newly re-homed/rescued dogs attending this year was 16! Plus 14 who returned from previous years, so 30 rehomed dogs in total - what a record that is for us! I have always said that people who take on a rescue dog… you foster them, bring them to us and we will help you bond with your new friend. My Odessa is a fine example - rescued at age three, obedience trained, now aged ten, she has me perfectly trained to open doors to let her in and out the house, car trips, beach trips. Perfectly trained!

Have a merry doggie Christmas to you all.
Wayne Perry - President

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 and 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	John Kertesz	Carol Hellmers	Peter Nelipa
	WHS Officer Geoff Pike		

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

Obedience Instructors Jean Page, Peter Nelipa, Wayne Perry, John Kertesz

Agility Instructors Jessica Boulton, Geoff Pike

Guest Instructors Amanda Doust, Jeff Chivell

Equipment	**Woofer Editor**	**Photography**
Kay Davidson	Carol Hellmers	Rosy Williams

Registration Officer Amanda Cassidy **Registration 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 an 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. Ask an 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 2027

Annual registration fee for renewing handlers is payable from February 2027.
$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 2027.

New Handlers - 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

Well, here we are at the end of another year. We've had great attendance across all the classes and full enrolments for our beginner Basic Obedience programs. Assessments were held, ribbons awarded and handlers and dogs promoted. Trophies have now been decided and will be presented at our upcoming **Dogs Christmas Event on Saturday 5th December**. **We then break up for the holidays, returning to classes on Saturday 6th February 2027.**

Now even though you are having a break from dog school it does not mean that you should have a break from training your dog. Think about adding extra commands into your daily routine. For example, instead of simply asking your dog to sit for their dinner, add a drop as well. It's also a good time for "puppy push ups" SIT-DROP-SIT. Advanced handlers can add a LEAVE command and wait a minute or so before giving a release command. Also consider adding as many different commands as you can into your daily walks, SIT- STAND-WAIT-LEAVE-HEEL even a COME FORTH and RETURN - and don't forget to praise them for their efforts.

Now many of us will be having family and friends visiting over this festive season so you can show off your dog's obedience skills by asking your dog to SIT and STAY when greeting guests.

The festive season also means there may be extra food around to tempt an opportunistic dog. Please be aware that there are many festive foods that are dangerous for dogs to consume. We are all aware that chocolate is toxic for dogs but so are grapes, which means sultanas and raisins must also be avoided. So keep your Christmas cake and mince pies out of reach. Other foods to be aware of are onions, ham bones, corn cobs and even macadamia nuts. Also be aware of some lollies, candies and mints that can contain xylitol which is very dangerous for dogs.

Holidays also bring many visitors to our area so be aware that there may be a number of different dogs at your local leash free park or beach. They may not all have good manners. If you do not have good recall with your dog, consider leaving them on a long lead to give you more control over your dog. Remember, many dogs can feel intimidated if another dog rushes up to them especially when they are in unfamiliar surroundings, so control your dog when you arrive and encourage polite greetings before allowing them to have a run. Try not to get distracted while your dog is off leash and supervise them at all times.



Lastly, I'd like to wish you all a safe, peaceful and fun holiday break.

We look forward to seeing you all return in the New Year.

Kathryn McKellar
Chief Instructor

Narooma Dog Training Club,
a Branch of the NSW Animal Welfare League,
is on Facebook!
Please LIKE us and SHARE us with your friends

WELCOME TO NEW HANDLERS

Basic Obedience Program: October/November 2026
Instructor: Kay Davidson

Rachel Wallbank & Twiggie
Andrew Norman & Munchkin
Helen Carmody & Harry
Alice Arnold-Garvey & Georgina
Pam & Brent Gannon & Freya
Natasha Drake & Lilly
Tui Loughlin & Tony
Sarah Kelly and Shirley
Eliza Ramsay & Roo
Jane Goodrich & Polly
Bhagya & Winnie



DOG PEOPLE

"It's a risky thing, giving your heart to a dog" I said, staring at the leash still hanging by the door.

"Because you know right from the start, that they won't stay forever. You sign up for an ending before you even begin". She shifted in her chair, waiting, so I kept going.

"But you do it anyway. You let them in. You let them take up space in your home, in your routines, in the part of you that you didn't even realise needed filling. And before you know it, they're got a piece of you - one you won't ever get back, even long after they're gone."

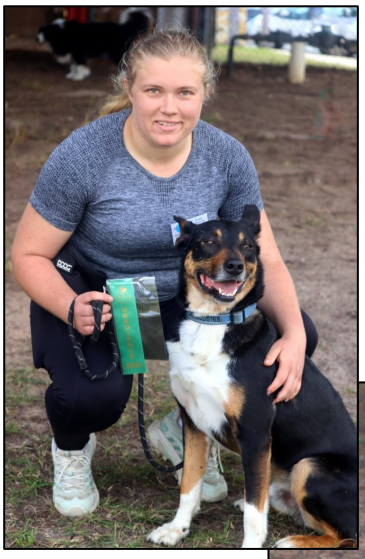
I exhaled, shaking my head. "The funny thing is, you never regret it. Not even when the end comes, not even when it wrecks you in ways you weren't ready for. Because somehow, the love they give outweighs the pain, every single time."

She nodded, a small knowing smile crossing her face. "So, you do it anyway" she said.
"Yeah" I said, smiling back. "You do it anyway".



CONGRATULATIONS!

3rd Agility Competition - 5th September



On lead
1st - Suzanna Boulton & Wolfie
2nd - Jean Page & Bear
3rd - Val McCauley & Sasha

Off lead
1st - Jessica Boulton & Nova
2nd - Jessica Boulton & Bindi
3rd - Alison MacFarlane & Badger

3rd Handlers Day - 19th September



Blue Class
1st - Eva Mosler-Teichmann & Schnaps
2nd - Amanda James & Pepe
3rd - Suzanne Boulton & Wolfie



Yellow Class
1st - Kate wall & Jack
2nd - Sue Belton & Jock
3rd - Carmel Bailey & Franky

Red Class
1st - Ruth Watson & Whisky
2nd - Graham Pinney & Bowie
3rd - Ros Johnson & Archie

3rd Rally O Assessment - 24th October



Yellow Class

1st place	Carmel Bailey & Franky
2nd place	Suzanne Boulton & Wolfie
3rd place	Roger Willis & Yeshe



Red Class

1st place	Kara Munn & Gus
2nd place	Pat Pearson & Zoey
3rd place	Fiona de Preu & Dusty





TRAINING PROGRAM & 2027 CALENDAR

January 15	Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed
February 6	Obedience **(BASIC OBEDIENCE 1 and ALL REGISTRATIONS),** Agility
February 13	Obedience, Agility
February 19	Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed
February 20	Obedience, Agility
February 24	National Animal Remembrance Day
February 27	Obedience, 1ST AGILITY COMPETITION
March 6	Obedience, Agility (1st Agility Comp RAIN DATE)
March 13	Obedience, 1ST HANDLERS DAY, No Agility
March 19	Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed
March 20	Obedience (1st Handlers Day RAIN DATE), TBC Agility
March 27	EASTER LONG WEEKEND – NO CLASSES
April 3	Obedience (**BASIC OBEDIENCE 2 Registrations),** Agility
April 10	Obedience, 1ST RALLY ASSESSMENT, Agility
April 16	Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed
April 17	Obedience (1st Rally Assessment RAIN DATE), Agility
April 24	ANZAC DAY WEEKEND – NO CLASSES
May 1	Obedience, Agility
May 8	Obedience, 2ND AGILITY COMPETITION
May 15	Obedience, Agility (2nd Agility Comp RAIN DATE)
May 21	Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed
May 22	Obedience, Agility
May 29	Obedience, Agility
June 5	Obedience (**BASIC OBEDIENCE 3 Registrations**), Agility
June 12	KING'S BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND – NO CLASSES
June 18	Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed
June 19	Obedience 2ND HANDLERS DAY, No Agility
June 26	Obedience (2nd Handlers Day RAIN DATE), TBC Agility
July 3	Obedience, Agility
July 10	Obedience, Agility
July 16	Branch AGM – Board Room, Club Narooma
July 17	Obedience (2ND RALLY ASSESSMENT), Agility
July 24	Obedience (2nd Rally Assessment RAIN DATE), Agility
July 31	Obedience, Agility

"The most affectionate creature in the world, is a wet dog."
Charles Dickens
"A house is not a home until it has a dog."
Gerald Durrell
"Animals share with us the privilege of having a soul."
Pythagoras