

THE WOOFER



NEWSLETTER OF THE
NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB
AWL BRANCH ESTABLISHED 2016

July-August-September 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to all newcomers and regular readers of our Woofers newsletter. This is the third edition for 2024 and I'm happy to report that all is progressing well.

Our June/July new handlers have all progressed to Blue Class and we have just registered a new group in the Basic Obedience Program for August/September. There is only one more registration intake in this particular program for this year, so if you know of anyone who wants to bring their pup or dog to classes then please ask them to ring us ASAP. We can only run one of these 'beginner' classes, that's just 12 dogs ... so booking is essential. Otherwise, it is a long wait until February 2025!

Most recent news I have to tell you is that we held our Annual General Meeting on 26 July. This was a short and successful online meeting, with guests from Kemps Creek (Animal Welfare League Head Office) in attendance. Most notably Helen Powderly (Branch Liaison Officer) and Sam March (Head of Animal Welfare Services). The rest of us enjoyed meeting in person in a very comfortable room at Club Narooma, where all necessary IT was provided. Thank you to Club Narooma staff, for helping us manage this meeting. After the meeting, everyone received a drink voucher and most stayed on to join the incoming Committee for a chat over lunch. I am pleased to tell you that the following volunteers were elected to positions:

Val McCauley – Vice-President
Peter Nelipa – Treasurer
Carol Hellmers – Secretary/Publicity Officer
Cheryl Wakeham – Assistant Secretary
Alexis Swadling – Work, Health & Safety Officer
Rosy Williams – Official Photographer
Kathryn McKellar – Chief Instructor
Kay Davidson – Deputy Chief Instructor

These people are the backbone of Narooma Dog Training Club – essential to the smooth running of your Saturday program. A big thank you to them all for putting their hands up to help for another 12 months. As for the job of President, I remain in that position and will continue to report our progress to you.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Take a look at the NDTC Calendar on the back page, and you will see the training dates right up to the end of this year.

That's enough from me - there is plenty to read inside this issue, so put your feet up for half an hour and enjoy!

Wayne Perry
President and Instructor



**Narooma Dog Training Club
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. **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
Assistant Secretary	Cheryl Wakeham	WHS Officer	Alexis Swadling
Chief Instructor	Kathryn McKellar	Deputy Chief Instructor	Kay Davidson
Instructors	Peter Nelipa, Jean Page, Wayne Perry, Alexis Swadling		
Trainee Agility Instructor	Jessica Boulton		
Guest Instructors	Amanda Doust, Jeff Chivell		
Equipment	Agility Trailer	Woofers Editor	
Jean Page	Wayne Perry/Jock McKellar	Carol Hellmers	
Registration Assistants	Photographer		
Valerie McCauley, Amanda Cassidy, Cheryl Wakeham	Rosy Williams		

Dog Training Enquiries: 0458 953 281

Training times: Every Saturday, weather permitting.
Obedience and Rally Obedience: 10am-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 2024

Annual registration fee for renewing handlers is payable from February 2024.

\$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 2month program. Booking is essential.

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

FROM THE CHIEF INSTRUCTOR

As most of you know, we hold agility training most weeks after obedience classes. This is a terrific way to build your relationship with your dog. Together the dog and handler negotiate a course of various pieces of equipment which include jumps, tunnels, weaving poles, “A” frames, see-saws and more.

Dogs of all sizes and breeds love agility. It is not only good exercise but it also stimulates a dog’s mind, as well as forming a bond between dog and handler as they work together as a team. We cater for all age and fitness levels of both dogs and handlers, although dogs need to be over 9 months of age and both dog and handler need to have a minimum Blue Class level of obedience training.

Jumps are raised or lowered to suit the height of the dogs. All dogs start on lead until they reach a level of competence when they can work off lead. As with the other disciplines of Obedience and Rally O, we hold 3 competitions a year. We also participate in a competition with other clubs, called Country Link, and ribbons and end of year trophies are awarded.

There is no extra charge for the agility program - your \$5 ground fee covers you for agility as well as obedience, so why not give it a go. We need a little help with the set up and pack down of equipment, but after that you are free to enjoy both the program and the company of other participants. Agility classes are held between 11.30am and 12.30pm. Class dates for the rest of 2024 are on our calendar (on the last page of this newsletter).

Please have a chat with me or your Obedience Instructor, if you would like more information.

Kathryn McKellar
Chief Instructor



GRADUATION DAY

Of the twelve handlers who started the Basic Obedience Training course for June/July, four were in attendance on Saturday 27 July to collect their graduating certificates. We look forward to all the handlers who graduated from this program returning for Blue Class, where Rally Obedience training begins and opportunities to join the Agility program are offered.



L to R Kneeling: Matikka and Pippa, Andrew and Baxter
L to R Standing: Jess and Alfie, Mr Cleret with Ziva, and Instructor Jean Page

CONGRATULATIONS!

2nd Handlers Day 2024

Blue Class

- 1st - Michelle Robinson & Mae
- 2nd - Geoff Collet & Charlie
- 3rd - Debbie McCarthy & Busta

Yellow Class

- 1st - Ros Johnson & Archie
- 2nd - Sue Feeney & Bird
- 3rd - Judy Betts & Titan

Red Class

- 1st - Christine Berry & Amber
- 2nd - Ruth Watson & Whiskey
- 3rd - Louise Webb & Lacey

Black Class

- 1st - Ruth Watson & Bailey
- 2nd - Graham Pinney & Bowie

Promotions

Blue to Yellow

Michelle Robinson & Mae



Red to Black

Christine Berry & Amber

WELCOME TO NEW HANDLERS

Basic Handling Skills Program: August/September 2024

Penny Maher & Rocket
Deidre Meeke & Libby
Geoff Pike & Archie
Arno Schaaf & Jazzy
Helen Bush & Velma
Nikki Sanders and Layla
Sally Madsen & Bella



L to R: Sally with Bella, Helen with Velma, Penny with Rocket, Arno with Jazzy, and Geoff with Archie

***“Dogs come into our loves to teach us about love – they depart to teach us about loss.
A new dog never replaces an old dog. It merely expands the heart.”***

Author Unknown

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Exciting news was presented by Treasurer Peter Nelipa at our recent Annual General Meeting. In the past financial year, \$555 was raised from your donations of glass and plastics through the recycling program. That’s 5,550 items that are not going to landfill! Thank you to everyone who contributed to this program. Keep those donations coming!

Other good news – cash donations to the value of \$1,280 were received in the last twelve months. A significant amount of that (\$780) was given to us in lieu of flowers (at her request) on the passing of Yve Robinson. Sincere thanks, especially from Yve’s husband Peter, to everyone for this wonderful show of generosity and remembrance.

IN THE GARDEN WITH YOUR DOG

Plants Toxic for Dogs

From the disagreeable to the downright deadly, the most common toxic plants for pups include:

- **Aloe Vera** - Can cause vomiting and diarrhea.
- **Arrowhead Vine** - Contains calcium oxalate crystals which can irritate the mouth and cause difficulty swallowing.
- **Asparagus Fern** - Can cause gastrointestinal upset and skin irritation.
- **Bird of Paradise** - Can cause mild nausea, vomiting, and drowsiness.
- **Caladium (Elephant Ear)** - Contains calcium oxalate crystals that can cause severe mouth irritation.
- **Chinese Evergreen** - Irritant to the mouth and digestive system due to calcium oxalate crystals.
- **Corn Plant** - Can cause vomiting, often with blood.
- **Dumb Cane** - Very irritating to the mouth and oesophagus, can lead to swelling and breathing difficulties.
- **Jade Plant** - Toxicity can lead to vomiting and lethargy.
- **Peace Lily** - Can cause oral irritation and upset stomach.
- **Philodendron** - Irritates the mouth and gastrointestinal tract.
- **Pothos (Devil's Ivy)** - Similar to philodendrons, causes irritation to the mouth and GI tract.
- **Rubber Plant** - Irritant to the skin and stomach, though less toxic than others.
- **Sago Palm** - Very toxic, especially the seeds.
- **Snake Plant** - Causes nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.
- **Swiss Cheese Plant (Monstera deliciosa)** - Can cause irritation of the mouth and GI tract due to oxalate crystals.
- **ZZ Plant (Zamioculcas zamiifolia)** - Can cause irritation and stomach upset.

Flowers Toxic for Dogs

- **Amaryllis** - Bulbs can cause vomiting, depression, diarrhea, abdominal pain, hypersalivation, and tremors.
- **Azalea** - Consumption can lead to vomiting, diarrhea, and severe cardiac complications.
- **Begonia** - Mostly the tubers are toxic, leading to oral irritation and difficulty swallowing.
- **Carnation** - Mildly toxic, causing gastrointestinal upset and mild dermatitis.
- **Chrysanthemum** - Contains pyrethrins that can cause neurological toxicity, leading to tremors and coordination issues.
- **Daffodil** - Bulbs can cause intense gastrointestinal distress, convulsions, and heart issues.

MEET YOUR INSTRUCTORS – PART TWO

WAYNE PERRY - Obedience

Wayne is one of Narooma's unsung heroes. Straight after finishing high school, at what was then called the Narooma Central School, and on his 19th birthday Wayne joined the NSW Forestry Commission. In the early years of his career Wayne and his colleagues covered territory that ranged from Bermagui to Moruya – it was called a District back then. Now the territory they cover goes right up to Jervis Bay, out to Tallaganda and north east of Cooma, which is a vast region to service. Wayne's strong maths skills

helped secure his first position as an Assistant to the Surveyor, relocating private property boundaries adjoining forest. His career has offered an interesting variety of tasks – from hazard reduction to fauna surveys, from bush regeneration surveys, and more. Wayne is fully trained in fire-fighting, and in 2019 - 2020 he and his colleagues played a vital role in containing the fires that threatened our local area. Wayne has a love of the “bigness” and tranquility of the Australian bush. He also relates well to other big things – such as his beautiful dog Odessa. She is a gentle giant who loves to walk the 1 kilometre boundary of Wayne’s property with him every day. Odessa is a rescue dog from the AWL Far South Coast Branch, who has thrived under Wayne’s care and training. Now retired from the NSW Forestry Commission, Wayne is a much loved and valued addition to our Instructor team. He is also President of our Branch. Thanks Wayne, for everything you do for Narooma Dog Training Club.



LEC (ALEXIS) SWADLING - Obedience

A life well lived with dogs! This is a great way to describe Lec Swadling. Since childhood, dogs have played a major role in her life. Lec remembers with great fondness her Father and his two German Shepherds, who slept with him nightly, one on each side. Her Mother owned a Poodle and as a child, Lec had a beautiful Collie named “Lassie”. Over the years she has looked after Staffy, Afghan and Boxer breeds, as well as owning a marvelous Rottweiler named Rocky. Lec worked in administrative positions for Doctors and Medical Specialists in Sydney, before moving to Lake Conjola then in 1989 to Kent Farm Central Tilba, with her husband and two boys. Many of you will recognise her face, as Lec was Administrator at Narooma High School for twenty-seven years. All up she worked for the NSW Department of Education for more than thirty-six years, a fantastic contribution to what is a pivotal role in any school. Lec was a founder member of the Narooma Blue Water Dragons where she enjoyed paddling for 9 years. Now retired, Lec is sharing her love of dog with others through her vital role as an Obedience Instructor, and as our Work Health and Safety Officer. Great to have you with us Lec!

NAROOMA DOG TRAINING CLUB 2024 CALENDAR
(Subject to change and/or cancellation due to weather conditions)

- August 3** Obedience - **New BASIC HANDLING SKILLS Registrations**
- Instructors Meeting
- August 10 Obedience, Agility
- August 16 **Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men’s Shed**
- August 17 Obedience, **2ND RALLY ASSESSMENT** Agility
- August 24 Obedience, Agility (2nd Rally Assessment RAIN DATE)

- August 31 Obedience Agility
- September 7** Obedience, Agility
- September 14 Obedience, 3RD AGILITY COMPETITION and COUNTRY LINK Agility
- September 20** Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed
- September 21 Obedience, Agility (3rd Agility Comp RAIN DATE)
- September 28 Obedience, Agility
- October 5** **LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND - NO CLASSES**
- October 12 Obedience - New **BASIC HANDLING SKILLS** Registrations
Instructors Meeting
- October 18** Branch Meeting – 11am Narooma Men's Shed
- October 19 Obedience 3RD HANDLERS DAY
- October 26 Obedience, Agility (3rd Handlers Day RAIN DATE)
- November 2** Obedience, 3RD RALLY ASSESSMENT
- November 9 Obedience, Agility (3rd Rally Assessment RAIN DATE)
- November 15** Branch Meeting – 11am, Narooma Men's Shed
- November 16 Obedience, Agility
- November 23 Obedience, Agility
- November 30 Obedience, Agility
- December 7** **2024 DOGS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

SAVE THE DATE!
Don't miss out on the 2024 Dogs Christmas Party.
It's a lot of fun for you and your dog.
Held at NATA Oval from 10am until lunchtime.

REMINDERS:

Dogs wearing **RED JACKETS** may be uncomfortable around other people and dogs.

Please give these dogs the space they need.

If in doubt, move your dog away from any stressful situations.

All handlers must wear enclosed shoes for safety.

All dogs must be kept on lead from 9.30am, unless an Instructor tells you otherwise.

Enjoy spending time with your dog!