

# Paws Express

Newsletter of  
Alexandra & District  
Dog Obedience Club



May 2021

Patrons: Betty Tulloch, Doug Norman B.Sc.(Hons), B.Vet.Sc.(Hons)

## Welcome!

A big welcome to our old and newer members. It is very heartwarming to see how many dogs are out there in our communities and also, that so many people care enough to give their dogs lots of enjoyable training.

Our club has a very loyal, enthusiastic group of volunteers who climb out of bed rain, hail or shine each Sunday morning to help you enjoy your dog, so make good use of them and try to attend as many classes as possible.

This is our big 30th year of offering this activity to our wider community. The committee and instructors are understandably proud of this achievement.

To the three ladies who saw the need and opportunity to share their dog training knowledge with everyone else, what can I say but thank you and I hope we can continue to make you proud.

COVID 19 really messed with our lives last year in so many ways. We are slowly returning to a sort of normality so let us make the most of what we can. Come along each Sunday, have fun and bond with your darling dogs.

*Barb Tanner*

ADDOC President

On behalf of committee and instructors

## Welcome to new members

Grace & 'Lucy' (Kelpie)  
Nicholas & 'Luna' (Border Terrier)  
Andrew & 'Aqua' (Border Collie)  
Ash & 'Arlo' (Border Collie)  
Stacey & 'Bailey' (Schnoodle)  
Kat & 'Odie' (WolfhoundX))  
Katie & 'Atticus' (Kelpie)  
Jacquiline & 'Bronte' (Bermese Mtn)  
Melanie & 'Chester' (Spoodle)

Tim & 'Brax' (German Wire Hair)  
Tull & 'Boadie' (Kelpie)  
Robyn & 'Ernie' (Doberman)  
Nichole & 'Missy' (KelpieX)

## Welcome back

Maree & 'Milo' (Border Collie)  
Jenny & 'Joe' (Labrador)  
Pattie & 'Bill' (Border Collie)

## Committee Members 2021

Barbara Tanner (President)  
Julee Hosking (Vice Pres.)  
Debbie Callaway (Secretary)  
Geoff Hyland (Treasurer)  
Jeanne Roberts  
Ann Laherty-Hunt  
Jamie Laherty-Hunt  
Stephanie Brew  
Bronwyn McFadyen  
Fiona Mackey

## Life Members

Betty Tulloch  
Greg Tulloch (Dec)  
Lynne Walter  
Maggie Hamill  
Julee Hosking  
Bronwyn McFadyen

## Honorary Members

Doug Norman B.Sc(Hons) B.Vet.Sc(Hons)  
Doug Walter  
Mike Hosking  
Chris Chester  
David Roberts

*Newsletter: Ann Jelinek*

## Instructors

Jeanne Roberts  
Barb Tanner  
Julee Hosking  
Ann Jelinek  
Stephanie Brew  
Ann Laherty Hunt  
Jenny Hyland  
Jamie Laherty Hunt

**\*\* Join the Alexandra & District Dog Obedience Club on Facebook \*\***

# Adventure Dog 2021

## Lyn with Penny and Faith with Candy perspective

Faith and I took our dogs Penny and Candy to the *Animal Aid Fundraiser "Adventure Dog"* at Wandin Park Estate on Sunday 19th April. We were accompanied by Faith's daughter's 2 whippets.

I was a little apprehensive thinking there was going to be too many dogs and people. However the organisation and structure of the event allowed enough space for the 560 dogs and their accompanying owners. Each group was given a 5 minute timeslot and if you only had a few dogs another small group joined you at the start.

Once we began our adventure it became evident that it was just about having fun and completing the obstacles that you felt comfortable with. The first few obstacles lured me into thinking this is going to be easy until my dog Penny, a white Labrador, saw the first muddy waterway. She launched into the waterway with me in tow stumbling into the mud but eventually I gained my footing.

Meanwhile, Candy, the greyhound/staghound cross, tiptoed through this first muddy waterhole very elegantly.

There were numerous barriers we were required to walk along or jump over, a jelly bath we had to wade through, a bath full of plastic balls, hills to climb, a shallow dam we had to wade through and another very, very deep muddy water hole...hip deep!

Ahead of me was a poor little staffy who was freaking out because the muddy waterway was so deep so the owner was carrying it and it was whimpering. Penny was eager to offer assistance so once again she launched herself enthusiastically into the deep and long muddy water channel. At least I didn't fall in face first!

Once we successfully navigated this obstacle we encountered the "canine crawl" which required us to belly crawl under a green netting approx. 50 cms high for 30 metres. This was a highlight because Candy, hates going under things and was very reluctant to attempt this challenge, but because the 2 whippets and my muddy Labrador were all crawling under the green canopy Candy actually gave it a go and successfully completed this obstacle.. a real celebration at the other end for Candy.

The other highlight for Penny was the chance to be a vacuum cleaner. At each obstacle, especially the really difficult ones, there were lots of treats that had been dropped by either the dog or the dog owner in their haste to encourage their dog to conquer the obstacle. Penny happily helped out in the clean up by sniffing out any treat that had been dropped and happily vacuumed each checkpoint making sure that there were no treats left at any obstacle.

It took us approx. 1 hour to complete the entire course. At the end there were welcome foodstalls, coffee and a dog wash...which was in huge demand. The atmosphere, especially good humour, made it a very enjoyable day because having this much fun with your dog made it a truly enjoyable day.

Rock on *Adventure Dog 2022* - we will definitely be participating next year.

*Lyn Scotchmoor*





# Adventure Dog 2021

## Ann with Millie and Jamie with Barry perspective

On the 18th of April, Jamie and I took Millie and Barry to participate in the *Adventure Dog 2021* challenge at Wandin park. It was a fundraiser for Animal Aid Victoria, to raise money for their shelters and adoption centres.

We did it as a way of having a great time bonding with our dogs and creating some great memories. Millie and I have done “events” before, achieving our Rally Novice title in 2019. Millie loves a crowd, other dogs and playing in the great outdoors.

Barry, being only a 14 month old ‘covid’ puppy hasn’t had as much exposure to large groups of dogs or people. However, he loves adventuring and has no real fear about trying new things, as long as his “people” are with him.

This bond that we have created between ourselves and our dogs has been developed since they were puppies. Making them comfortable to try new things, while we had their backs, has been invaluable. It makes us a team, gets them to check in with us and rely on each other when things are outside the norm.

Well *Adventure Dog* was an adventure for us all. With rain clouds looming in the distance we headed out on the course. The 5 km course at Wandin Equestrian Centre included hills, jumps, ovals, bush and water ways. Millie and Barry had so much fun showing us how they could get up “on it” to walk along the horse jumps and obstacles. The course included 2 jelly baths, a ball pit, a commando crawl area, a short but muddy hill climb and 3 mud crossings added to the mix by the event organisers.

Barry and Millie had a ball. They loved showing off their skills and getting so much positive attention from us. If there was something that was too much for them, we just let it go. This day was all about building confidence and working for success. It most definitely was a success.

We caught up with Lyn with Penny and Faith with Candy, who also took part in the great day. We all said that we will do it again next year and that we think a larger group of us should come to represent the dog club to show how amazing our dogs are.

So pencil it in to your diaries.....

*Adventure Dog 2022*. It will be a blast.

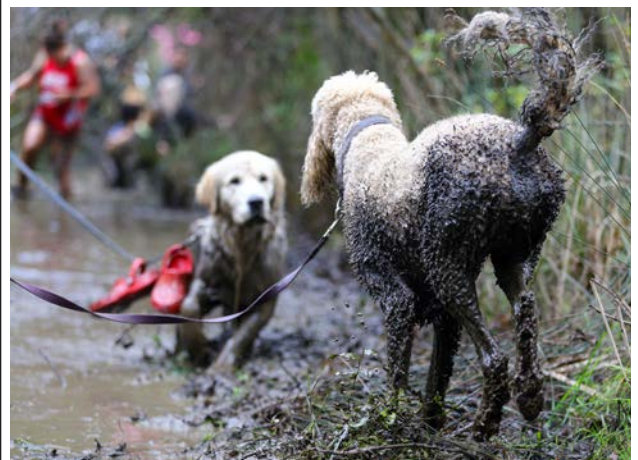
*Ann Laherty-Hunt*



Happy adventurers: Jamie, Ann, Millie & Barry



Ann & Millie negotiating the muddy waterway!



Barry & Millie negotiating the muddy water!



## Adventure Dog 2021



Barry & Millie on the walkway



Millie on the walkway



Barry & Millie in the ball pit

## Congratulations to Graduates: FCC3 to Level 4

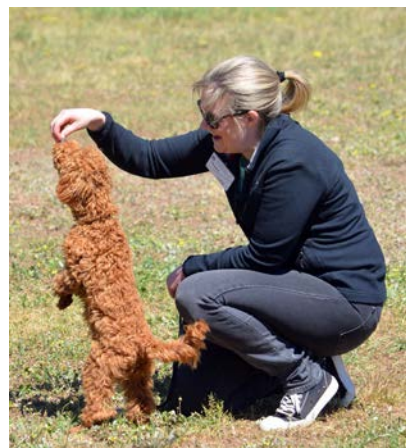


Michelle & Angus

Paul & Matilda



Trudie & Lola





# Congratulations to Graduates



Joanne with Raffy  
Joanne also received  
the **2020 Stick with it Award**



Drew & Rebel with Lee and Stuart



Leo with Freddy & Di with Poppy

## Congratulations to Graduates:

### FCC1 to FCC2

Joanne with Raffy  
Drew with Rebel  
Di with Poppy  
Leo with Freddy  
Sue with Moogi  
Phil with Oggi  
Sally with Zoe  
Cinamon with Zarah  
Lyndal with Lara

## Congratulations to Graduates:

### FCC2 to FCC3

Jamie with Barry  
Fiona with Maddy  
Judi with Harley  
Dennis with Mochi



Julee with Selkie challenging the dogs  
with a novelty look!



# Training Tips

## How to make sure you get the most from your dog obedience classes



A very warm ‘WELCOME BACK’ to all our members, old and new. It is wonderful to see so many happy smiles and wagging tails after the topsy turvy time of 2020!

When you take a puppy or older dog into your home, you fall in love and want the best for them. You want them to fit in and become a part of your family. So, you decide to enrol in Dog Obedience Classes, and you make a huge effort to get out of bed early on a Sunday, regardless of the weather, to bring them along to classes.

Doesn't it make sense that you would want to get all you can out of those classes? Here are a few tips that will help you do just that.

### 1. Arrive Early

Dogs learn best when they are relaxed (and so do you). If you're running late you will be flustered and stressed, and so will your dog. So, arrive early enough that you can sign in, get your dog out of the car and take it for a nice investigative walk around the oval, with the opportunity to toilet and check out all the wonderful smells there are.

### 2. Be Prepared

This means having your dog's mat, toy, treats, water and bowl with you. These items are important, but they are also a real armful!! Perhaps, take them to where your class will be working before you get your dog out of the car?

### 3. Homework

You will be asked to practice at home, what you have learnt in class. The old saying: "Practice makes perfect" is so true. Most of the Instructors will give out "Homework Sheets" to help jog your memory during the week. All it takes is a couple of minutes, whenever you can, each day. And, what a difference it can make! You will have confidence in your dog's ability to perform each exercise and your dog will be focused on you. You are ready to go onto the next step without a problem!

### 4. Be Focused

If you give your dog your undivided attention, he will do the same to you. At home, try to make sure the kids are busy with something interesting and your mobile phone is turned off. In class, concentrate on your dog and try not to be distracted by all the activity going on around you.

### 5. Be Patient

Both you and your dog will make mistakes and occasionally you will get frustrated and be having an "off" day.....well the same thing can apply to your dog. Try to relax and have fun in class. There is always tomorrow.

### 6. Have an Open Mind

Dog training is constantly evolving so be willing and happy to try any exercise your Instructor asks of you even though it might be something completely new and different from the last time you had a dog in class.

### Reaping the Rewards

The rewards of having a friendly, well behaved canine companion you can be proud of and share your life with, are many. You will have a loyal best friend always ready to go for a walk, play a game or just lounge around and watch TV with you. Getting the best out of your Dog Obedience Classes can help you make this a possibility.

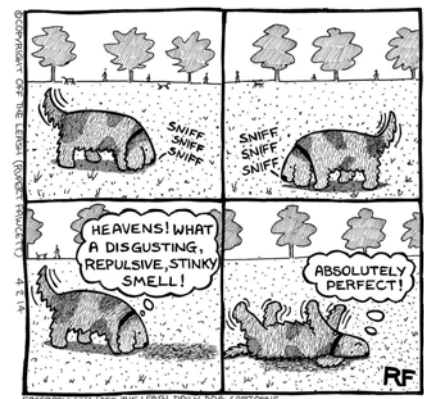
Good luck and happy training, *Jeanne*

*Ref: The Good Companion Magazine. June 2019*



"If you're lucky.....a dog will come into your life, steal your heart and change everything."

Author unknown.



"Take me to the River  
To the fields and through the mud  
Let me be a dog  
And do the things dogs should"  
- Shay Kelly

### Alexandra & District Dog Obedience Club Inc.

Training on Sunday mornings in Alexandra (except for public holidays, days of Total Fire Ban and a break over December & January).

Memberships - Due February (C5 vaccination certificate to be sighted)

#### Annual membership

1 or 2 dogs/1 handler (single) \$15.  
1 dog/2 handlers (dual) \$20.  
2 dogs/2 handlers (same family) \$15 each.

Cost per class \$3 -

\$21 per block of 7 classes paid in advance and is non-refundable.