

Paws Express



Newsletter of Alexandra & District Dog Obedience Club Inc

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

December 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT



2024 has flown by, I hope everyone gets some down time over our summer break. Enjoy the Sunday sleep ins while you get them, the break is short! Don't forget your furry friends – while they also deserve a break – some

short training sessions will help keep the momentum going.

Some ways to keep your furry friends cool and enriched over the summer period could include freezing a piece of Kabana in an ice block. If your dogs don't mind sprinklers – tossing some treats in the grass under a sprinkler can help them keep cool. And remember, if you can't walk on the ground in bare feet neither can they.

I look forward to seeing you all again in 2025. Our first week back is Sunday the 2nd February.
Keep safe.



MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Committee Members 2025

Fiona Mackey (President)
Deborah Callaway (Vice Pres.)
Geoff Hyland (Sec/Treasurer)
Sandice MacCauley (Ass. Sec.)
Geogina Covington
Jeanne Roberts
Shane (Frog) Frean
Joh Slattery
Jenny Hyland
Janene Millar

Life Members

Betty Tulloch
Greg Tulloch (Dec)
Lynne Walter
Maggie Hamill
Julee Hosking (Dec)
Bronwyn McFadyen
Jeanne Roberts
Barb Tanner

Honorary Members

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

Instructors

Jeanne Roberts
Ann Jelinek
Pam Poole
Jenny Hyland
Trudie Brooks
Debbie Callaway
Lyn Scotchmoor
Georgina Covington

Newsletter: David Roberts

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ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB INC AGM 2024

President's Report

Hello everyone, thank you for attending our AGM.

I took over the president role in July after Barb decided to leave us. These were big shoes to fill. But we have got to the end of the year and the AGM so I obviously haven't dropped the ball too badly!

We currently have 74-ish members, which is a truly fantastic amount for a small club.

It's been great to see so many puppies and beginners staying on to go into next levels, to keep learning and nurturing their dogs to become the best they can be.

We have a few members out and about doing dog sports and confirmation shows. There are so many outlets if you're interested to extend your fun with your dogs. All of these people would love you to ask any questions if you hold an interest on getting out there yourselves and have a go. The support is there you only have to ask!! We have scent work, tracking, confirmation, retrieving, rally o, obedience, and with the purchase of the new agility equipment maybe even a competitor or two there??? If we don't cover a sport you are interested in just ask, someone may have studied it but not competed. You never know, plus if we have a few people interested then maybe we could hold a workshop!! You never know if you don't ask! It's your club You can help shape us.

I've personally had a ball this year. Stepping into a solo instructor's role, a little daunting but again I'm still standing and hopefully I've done a little good here and there.

I could not have done any of this for the club if I didn't have the help of the committee and fellow instructors. I'd like to say a big thank you to Geoff, Jeanne, Fiona, Frog, Sandice, Rosalie, Janene and Jenny for their help on the committee, and of course Barb my guiding leader for many years.

To the instructors without whom the club wouldn't run. Rain, hail and shine they are there ready to go. Especially Jeanne who does so much for the club, she looks so cool calm and collected on the surface but I'm sure is paddling like made underneath to make everything flow so smoothly. (I will be the one losing her head trying to do this next year!!!!) And to Jenny, Ann, Trudie, Lyn, Georgina, Pam and Janene thank you, we seriously love the torture you put us through week in and week out to keep us going.

And to my mum Joyce, she was an instructor and she's my sounding board to make me a better instructor and helps to control my delinquent dog!!

Thank you to everyone without you there wouldn't be a club. The love you have for your dogs and your dog's love for you is very apparent and really that's all that matters.

Thank you

Deborah Callaway

Guest Speaker



Georgina, her son Danniell & her dogs

Our AGM Guest Speaker was Georgina Covington, who is our Level 4 Instructor. Georgina has been a trainer and dog behaviourist for 14 years. She spent a year with the National Dog Trainers Federation and another year studying postgraduate Canine Science at the University of NSW. Georgina talked about her past career as a biologist and zookeeper, and how she came to rewrite her life to focus entirely on dogs. She discussed her motivation as a behaviourist focussing on dogs with aggression and reactivity, and reminded us how much we can deepen our bond with our dogs just by coming to dog club each week and spending one-on-one time with our dogs.

ANNUAL CLUB AWARDS

Titles



Fiona Mackey

T.CH Deelee Clause (Mack) - Scent Work Novice Title

T.CH Kimja Spirit in the Sky (Verona) – Tracking Dog Title; Tracking Dog Excellent Title; Track and Search Dog Title.



Most Improved Handler

"Stick With It"



Belinda Waldren



Cath Keogh



Rosalie Collie

Highest Scoring Aggregate Dogs

Rally Novice



Bronwyn & Pearl

Rally Advanced Julie Hosking Perpetual Trophy



Janene Millar & Maxi

Community Companion Dog



David & Ellie

ALEXANDRA P&A SHOW

On Saturday 9th November we spent the day at the Alexandra P & A Show. We arrived early to set up gazebos, and equipment in the different rings, including an agility ring. Then, the morning was devoted to a display of all the obedience work at the different levels, from Puppies through to Level 5. Our third and final Members' Competition was held after lunch with a Rally Novice and Rally Advanced Obedience competition as well as a Community Companion Dog (CCD) Obedience competition. At the end of the events we packed everything up, exhausted but extremely happy after another very successful Alexandra Show.

Puppies



Sally & Ziggy

Transition



Jackie & *Sophia*



Donna & *Rocky*

FCC Levels 2 & 3



Cath & *Dahli*



"Sit Stay"



"Down Stay"

Level 5



Members' Competition

Rally Novice



Jenny & Theo 1st



Georgina & Bash 2nd



Frog & Chance 3rd

Rally Advanced



Janene & Maxi 1st

Jenny & Maggie 2nd



Trudi & Lola 1st



David & Ellie 2nd



Frog & Chance 3rd



TRAINING TIPS



THE BENEFITS OF ATTENDING OBEDIENCE CLASSES.

*"It's not only about dog training, it's about people training too".
~Leila Grandemange~*

A staggering 48% of Australian families own a dog. Depending on personal preferences and circumstances some of these are puppies and some are rehomed older dogs adopted from an animal rescue centre.

One of the first things many of us think about when we welcome a new puppy into our homes, apart from the obvious ones of food, a place to sleep and toys, is, should I take my wonderful, cute little ball of fluff to obedience classes? Why bother?

A puppy is a joy to own, everybody loves a puppy. But in the excitement of the moment it is easy to forget that your cute ball of fluff won't always be a puppy and, not everyone understands that puppies need to be shown how to fit into the family without causing disruption and destruction! And this is where obedience classes can be a big help to both the new puppy owner and their puppy.

The same applies if you have opened your heart and your home to rehome an older dog – although your challenges might be a little different.

Educating a dog can be a huge time commitment and it takes an enormous amount of patience but whether you and your dog are new to training, or you are an experienced dog owner, training can be a huge benefit for dogs of all ages.

What are some of the benefits of obedience classes?

Builds up your dog's confidence.

When you train your dog using positive reinforcement it teaches them to engage with you and their environment and



allows them to make choices. They learn that correct decisions deliver good things like treats and praise. Your dog becomes more responsive and open to learning situations which are positive and rewarding.

Closer bond with your dog.

Dogs tend to love the humans who spend time with them and speak their language – the ones who patiently and clearly show them how to navigate the pitfalls of living in a human world. Having a dog that is well trained, obedient, happy, relaxed, responsive, and easy for you to manage means you will both enjoy being with one another.

Easy management.

In an obedience class you learn how to communicate with your dog and teach it to understand simple cues – sit, heel, come, drop, stay etc. Your dog learns to be polite when greeting visitors to your home or when going for a walk with you. You are more likely to want to spend time with a dog that is easy to manage because you will enjoy his company and companionship.

Social, friendly dogs.

At obedience classes dogs learn to work around other dogs without being reactive and aroused. An over stimulated dog is unable to think clearly and react appropriately. Socialising them around dogs of different breeds, size and colour helps them accept other dogs and be comfortable when another dog is nearby. Knowing you have a social, friendly dog gives you the confidence to take him out and about with you and enjoy his company in many different social situations.

Fun and knowledge.

Obedience classes can be fun for both you and your dog. The exercises can include playing games and learning tricks, while you guide your dog to learn the behaviours necessary for it to live happily as part of your family and the community.

Safety.

A well-trained dog under supervision, is safer to have around family, friends and out in the broader community.

Obedience classes will teach you how to educate (train) your dog.

You will learn to understand your dog, about dog behaviour and body language. What to look for and how to read your environment. This knowledge can help you avoid situations which could be potentially dangerous, or unsafe.

Owner socialisation.

Joining an obedience club gives you the opportunity to meet/make friends with other dog owners. People you share a common interest with, you also get to meet a large variety of dogs of all breeds, shapes and sizes. You and your dog get to enjoy a very special social activity, something you can look forward to with anticipation!!

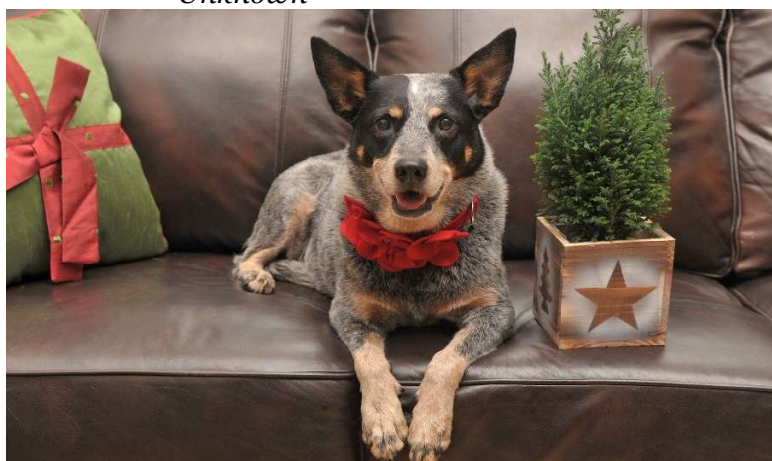
Training a dog takes considerable time. It is wonderfully rewarding and often extremely frustrating! Joining an obedience club can help you share both the rewards and the frustration with like minded people who will encourage you and provide understanding support.



*“Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone from
Jeanne, Quinn and Crusoe”*

“Remember, practice with your dog builds confidence. Practice with your dog behaviours you want to see more of in different environments and with different reinforcements”.

~Unknown



Christmas & New Year? I'll be Right Over!