



Newsletter

February 2009



A WORD FROM THE 'CHIEF'

Hello all, I hope you had a safe & happy Christmas and New Year break, but now it's back to work. I don't have a lot to report as all instructors have had a good break. Our break –up party was a great success with lots of fun being had with everyone trying out their dumbbell throwing skills, and also having much fun with their dogs seeing how good their ability to scent hidden food out. The fancy dress parade was fantastic, with a lot of preparation, thought and sheer hard work going into the costumes.

We hope to have a couple of Rally-O competitions during the year. This is just fun thing for every-body to have a go at. Classes 5 & 6 will not compete, but will help classes 2 & 3 through the game. More on this later.

I hope you have been keeping up some of your training over the break, but if you haven't, not to worry, we'll soon be back where we were. Dogs actually do not forget anything, but it may take a bit of work getting them to remember what they have learnt. The most important rule is, don't get cranky, if they seem to have forgotten, lots of patience, perseverance, treats and love will get them (and you) through.

We have 4 new instructors this year, so where possible we will have 2 instructors on each class, or if a class is large, we will be able to break it into a smaller class. Also I hope to be able to get around and talk to more of our members during the year.

No matter what your problem, I and all our instructors are here to help. Between us, we have a wide area of experience & expertise about dogs and training and it is there for you to access. Please do not hesitate to talk to us. We're the people in those bright orange hats.

That's all from me at the moment. Enjoy training and being with your best furry friend.

Roddy.



AGILITY

Returned on the 13th January.

Remember that anyone wanting to attend Agility Training must have a dog with a certain level of Obedience Training.

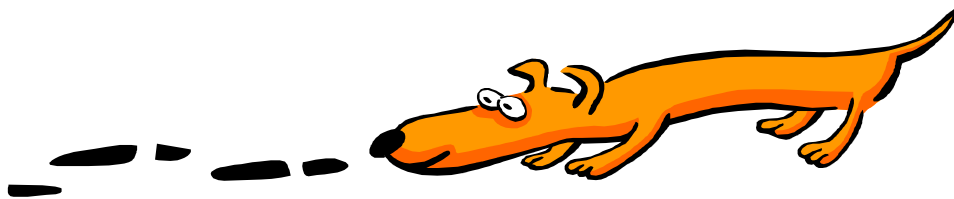
A dog's suitability to Agility Training will be assessed by the club on a dog to dog basis.

If you have any enquiries please see me.

Cheers
Ray Dean



Tracking



Don't forget that the Club also does Tracking Training!
For more information please call Paul Hill on 02 4976 2497

or email zoeyphill@dodo.com.au

The clubs Tracking Trial's will be held:

Sunday 23rd August &
Sunday 13th September



*Port Stephens All Breeds
& Obedience Canine Club Inc.*

TROPHY WINNERS 2008

Highest Scoring CCD Team	Carmel (Fudge) & Fero
Highest scoring Novice Team	Sam & Tilly
Highest Scoring Open Team	Bev & Chloe
Highest Scoring UD Team	No entrants
Highest Scoring UDX Team	No entrants
Presidents award for Club Member of the Year	Jane Scorer Jessica Hallifax
Chief Instructors Award	Sue Adams & Cash

TITLES GAINED 2008

Community Companion Dog (CCD)

Carmel & Fero
Sam & Tilly
Sue & Cash
Jeanette & Grace
Jane & Kita
Kylie & Ziggy)
Veronica & Tilly) awarded after the Christmas break
Ray & Ziggy)

Companion Dog (CD)

Sam & Tilly
Brian & Beau

Companion Dog Excellent (CDX)

Bev & Chloe

Tracking Dog (TD)

Christine & Tanya





HOW TO APPLY FOR A CLUB TROPHY



TITLES GAINED:

To be awarded a 'Title gained' trophy you must fill in the relevant form and attach a copy of your 3 highest scores. (That is a copy of each qualifying certificate you have received) These must be handed to the Point score Officer before Sunday 15th November. This date may seem arbitrary but we have to order and have the trophies ready by the Christmas break-up party. Any trials you enter after the closing date will be carried over for the next year.

For example, if you have 2 passes in a class by the 15th of November and you obtain your 3rd pass at a trial in December, then your 3 scores would go in the following year's trophies.

Tracking titles gained are included in the above.

I would suggest that, as soon as you receive your title you give the relevant paperwork information to the Point Score officer, who will keep it on a file until November. If the paperwork is not received, then no trophy will be awarded.

HIGHEST SCORING TEAM:

The 'Highest Scoring Team' trophies are worked out on the best 3 scores that you give to the Point Score Officer'. If two scores are the same, the 2 trophies will be awarded.

CHIEF INSTRUCTORS AWARD.

At the Chief instructor's discretion

PRESIDENTS AWARD FOR CLUB MEMBER OF THE YEAR

At the Branch President's discretion

There is a folder in the clubhouse outlining the rules and criteria for the awarding of these trophies. As the club has now started Agility training and we are running 2 agility trials this year, the branch management will have to decide on what trophies are awarded in that discipline. We will let you know, via the club newsletter.

The club has decided that all trophies will be inscribed with the dog's pet name, i.e. the name you train you dog under.

E.g.:- 'Sabra', **not** the kennel/registered name, 'Krieger Artic Flame'

At the moment I am the Point Score Officer, however, if any member would like to carry out this task, please do not hesitate to let me know. You must be a member who regularly comes to training and intends to stay for the whole year.

Roddy Macdonald, Chief Instructor.



President's Dog of the Month



STANDARD SCHNAUZER

The Standard Schnauzer is the original breed of the three breeds of schnauzer and despite its wiry coat and general appearance, is not related to the British Terriers. Rather, its origins are in old herding and guard breeds of Europe. The ANKC classifies the Standard Schnauzer as a Utility Dog; however this versatile breed is a robust, squarely built, medium-sized dog with aristocratic bearing.

Standard Schnauzers are known for exhibiting many of the ideal traits of any breed. These include high intelligence, agility, alertness, reliability, strong with high endurance, and a loving companion. Standard Schnauzers are one of the oldest breeds with over 500 years of history. This breed of dog has been very popular in Europe specifically in Germany where it originated

History

Schnauzers are originally a German breed, descending during the Middle Ages from herding, rapping and guardian breeds. They may be most closely related to the spitz-type breeds. They are portrayed in paintings, statues and tapestries, including by artists Rembrandt, Durer and Reynolds. Initially a dog of a peasant farmer, in the 19th century captured the interest of the German dog fancier and they began to be bred to a standard. The Standard Schnauzer is the original from which the Miniature and Giant breeds were developed in the late 19th century. The Standard Schnauzer has been used in modern history in various roles. The Red Cross used the dogs for guard duty in World War 1. Standards have also been used for drug and bomb detection as well as search and rescue.

Appearance

Standard Schnauzers are typically salt-and- pepper or black in colour, with a stiff and wiry fur coat. This hair will grow in length much like human hair. This breed is noted for their long beard giving a regal and wise appearance. Standard males are ideally 18-20 inches at the withers and females 17-19 inches. This breed has a non-shedding coat that must be regularly trimmed.





Temperament

The Standard is a very energetic, medium-sized dog with a stiff wiry coat. It is a robust and sturdy working dog, yet small enough in stature not to be overwhelming. This very intelligent breed is a very loyal family dog, who will protect your home from strangers with a deep robust bark. This breed is also known for being easy to train, adapts well to any weather, including snow, and is great with kids and adults alike. It is ideal to socialize from the start. Their intelligent and curious personality requires a strong-willed owner who can be consistent and firm with their training and commands. Standard Schnauzers are extremely versatile, excelling at dog sports such as agility, obedience, tracking, flyball and even herding.

Health

Overall the Standard Schnauzer is a very healthy breed. The preliminary report of a health survey done by the Standard Schnauzer Club of America revealed that roughly only 1% of surveyed dogs had serious health issues. Standard Schnauzers are above-average as compared with most other breeds when it comes to health issues. They live an average of 13 to 16 extremely active years. Most Standard owners find that only an annual visit to their Vet. for a check-up and routine vaccinations is required.

Brian Blenkinsop





POSITIONS VACANT – 2009

All these position are for the full year (at least).

REGISTRAR

This position is one of the most important in the Club

The person needs to be an early riser, must be on the grounds at least 30 minutes prior to the start of training. And also be prepared to stay at least 30 minutes after training to balance the money with the Treasurer

Responsibilities:

- To keep a record of all new members, and all renewals.
- To keep a record of all members training on the grounds.
- To ensure that all members have the appropriate name tags.

For further information, contact **Kerrie Armstrong, Registrar.**

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

This position is to assist the Registrar, and to take over the Registrar's duties when s/he is unavailable.

For further information contact **Kerrie Armstrong, Registrar.**



CANTEEN OFFICER

Responsibilities:

- To be on the grounds at least 15 minutes prior to training,
- To ensure that there is enough tea, coffee, milk & sugar.
- To ensure that there are enough drinks.
- Purchase items if required, and to report to Catering Manager (Jane Scorer).
- Member will either get petty cash from the Treasurer, or be reimbursed by the Treasurer, when a receipt for same is supplied.

To staff the canteen during the training hours, however, if actually training, must to be able to go into the Canteen and serve in the breaks.

To take the money for all drinks and hand to the Treasurer at the end of training.

For further information contact **Jane Scorer, Canteen Manager.**



RAFFLES OFFICER

Responsibilities:

To ensure there are enough items to raffle.

To decide on what are to be the prizes, and how many prizes.

To sell raffle tickets at the counter prior to training, therefore would need to be on the grounds at least 30 mins prior to training.

To decide when the prizes will be drawn.

To count and hand the money to the Treasurer at the end of training.

For further information contact **Sue Adams, Treasurer.**



GROUNDS SUPERVISOR

Responsibilities:

To inspect the grounds prior to training every Sunday.

To complete the Port Stephens Council form and note any problems.

To have your signature witnessed by a committee member.

To report any problems to the President so that appropriate action can be taken, if necessary.

This person needs to be on the ground at least 15 minutes prior to training.

This position would be ideal for any member who regularly gets to the grounds early and walks their dog, as the inspection could be done at the same time.

For further information contact **Roddy Macdonald, Chief Instructor (4930 0860)**





CATERING MANAGER

Responsibilities:

To organize canteen for all trials (3 per year) at our grounds at Raymond Terrace.

This will include organising morning/afternoon tea/supper and lunch/or dinner for stewards and judges.

This also includes making sure there are enough people to staff the canteen on these days, what we are to sell and how much we are going to charge.

This person will have to organise a group of people in order to get this job done. You don't have to be a good cook (others can do that).

There is a 'to do' list to help with the job and people in the club with previous experience to help with advice on how to do things.

You can do just for one trial or take on the job for all trials. It would be good for several people to put up their hands for this one as the job is easier if shared.

(NB: Handlers participating in the trial cannot serve the judges or stewards before they enter the ring so if you only plan to enter Agility Trials you can put your hand up for Obedience Trials or vice versa. You could also delegate some one else to serve the meals to the judges.)

For further information contact **Jane Scorer, Canteen Manager.**

EVENTS MANAGERS: - JOB TAKEN! THANKS TO SAM, BRONWYN & LEE

Responsibilities:

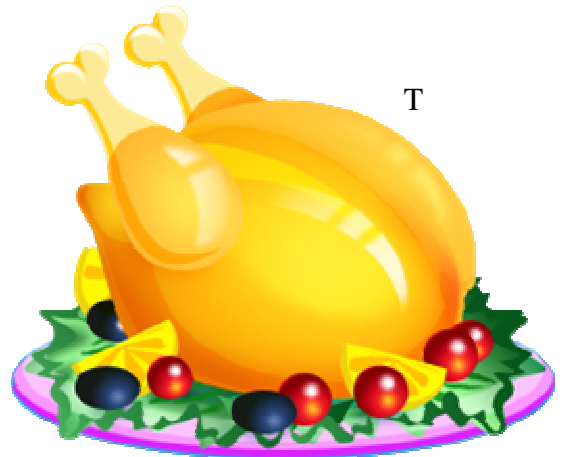
To organize events in which Club members are able to participate.

This position will work very closely with the Obedience Committee.

Events such as, well-known persons to give talks to members on training or different aspects of training.

Events such, as social outings for club members (e.g. trips to Vineyards etc.)

For further details contact **Roddy Macdonald, Chief Instructor (4930 0860), or any Committee member or Instructor**

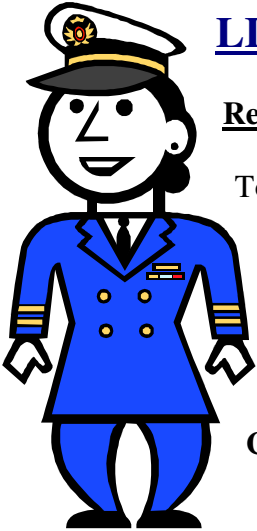


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LIASION OFFICER: - JOB TAKEN! THANKS KYLIE



Responsibilities:

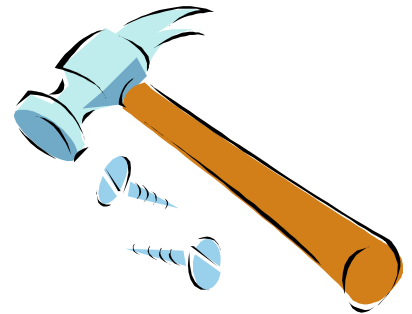
- To liaise with P.S. Council's Australia Day Committee for 2010 for a Canine Demonstration.
- To liaise with Dogs NSW for State Titles in October. To organize stewards and paperwork for same.
- To liaise with the club organizing the Pal Obedience Challenge. To organize teams and paperwork for same.

For further details contact **Roddy Macdonald, Chief Instructor (4930 0860) or Committee Member.**

EQUIPMENT OFFICER - JOB TAKEN! THANKS DES

Responsibilities:

- To ensure that all equipment used on the grounds is in good working order.
- To repair any necessary damages and replace if necessary.
- If any piece of equipment needs to be replaced or repaired the following persons should be notified:-
 - Trialling equipment – Steve Kay, Trial Manager.
 - Agility equipment – Ray Dean, Agility Manager
 - General training equipment- Roddy Macdonald, Chief Instructor.
- For further information contact **Steve Kay or a committee member**



Don't Forget to Visit Our
Website!

www.portstephensdogclub.org.au



Dancing with Dogs Seminar

Sue Adams

A 'Dancing with Dogs' seminar was held in Sydney in December, 5 of our club members attended and Vicki Ethrington was our lecturer. Vicki is a wonderful speaker as she is interesting, great at explanations and has a sense of humour about dogs and humans. Our enthusiasm was only matched by our slight fear of just what had we let ourselves in for! Of course the fact the seminar was on the day that had been appointed to paint the clubhouse was just a bonus for us.

The dogs were ready and anxious to take on the challenge, especially with all the treats on hand. We started off by Vicki explaining how to carry out each move and then we all 'had a go'. We laughed with joy at getting it right and laughed at ourselves when we got footwork wrong, lets just say the dogs were better than there owners in many cases (talking about myself there). Music was added in a little later and we made up and we had to make up a set of movements that suited. I am sure having a sense of rhythm would have made things easier! - it certainly can be taught to the degree required.

DON'T BE TURNED OFF attempting 'Dancing' by the name, it really is another way to teach your dog movement and how to obey word and voice commands and it is FUN FOR BOTH HANDLER and the DOG.

Weimaraner's, Cavalier Spaniel's, Fox Terrier's, Border's, Shepherd's and Labradoodle's - were among the dogs who attended.

At the end of the seminar, dogs were sleeping, people were tired but had a lot more knowledge and we left feeling so elated after such an uplifting experience.



60 SECONDS WITH YOUR INSTRUCTORS!

Brian

1. How long have you been involved with this clubs and how long have you been involved with dogs in general?

I have been a member of this club for 20 years including 10 years as president. We have owned dogs all our lives.

2. What is one thing that people don't know about you?

I am an avid "Jets" supporter.

3. What are you favorite 3 breeds?

Schnauzers (Standard & Mini), Old English sheepdog, Border collie

4. Your favorite saying to do with dogs?

"They love you for what you are"

5. What are your favorite movie / book / musical?

Harry Potter/Any Wilbur Smith/Andre Roué



Sue



1. How long have you been involved with this clubs and how long have you been involved with dogs in general?

2 1/2 years, born loving animals that is why I am a vegetarian but I could not have a dog until I was an adult.

2. What is one thing that people don't know about you?

I like my 'Dictionary of Quotation'- and I collect quotes.

3. What are you favorite 3 breeds?

Gundogs-Lab/Lagotto/Gordon Setter-anything with a tail

4. Your favorite saying to do with dogs?

They're dogs/train don't blame-(courtesy of my instructors -I was listening!)

5. What are your favorite movie / book / musical?

Westerns (I love Country music) / Dirty Dancing.



Jane

1. How long have you been involved with this clubs and how long have you been involved with dogs in general?

I have been involved with this club for about 2 years now. I joined as I wanted help training my new dog Kita. Last year I was asked to become a committee member. This then lead to being secretary mainly due to lack of other willing workers. I did the instructors course with the club as I wanted to give something back to the club. This club has a wealth of experience and has a supportive friendly membership. My training experience is limited but based on personal experience with my 2 dogs and a German Sheppard I had years ago. When I was a kid we always had a dog but never well trained.

2. What is one thing that people don't know about you?

Ummmm not sure..... what my natural hair colour is... even I don't know that..... LOL

3. What are you favorite 3 breeds?

Labradoodles – well bred ones are easy to train
Labradors
Schnauzers

4. Your favorite saying to do with dogs?

Either “A bored dog is a naughty dog.”
Or “A dog is only as good as its handler makes it”

5. What is your favorite movie / book / musical?

Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean
Book: The Belgariad & the Mallorean series
Musical: Rocky Horror or Mumma Mia
..... not sure which





OBEDIENCE

TRIALING DATES TO NOTE

Please consult your Dogs NSW magazine for more information, or check out the gazette online at www.dogs.nsw.com.au for more trial dates as not all trials may not be listed here.

CLUB	DATE OF TRIAL	TOWN/SUBURB	ENTRIES CLOSE
COFFS HARBOUR	SAT 14 & SUN 15 MARCH	COFFS HARBOUR	20 TH FEBRUARY 2009
CASTLE HILL	FRIDAY 20 MARCH	CASTLE HILL	20 TH FEBRUARY 2009
HORNSBY	SATURDAY 14 MARCH	HORNSBY HEIGHTS	21 ST FEBRUARY 2009
BRUSH FARM	SUNDAY 22 MARCH	EASTWOOD	1 ST MARCH 2009



AGILITY

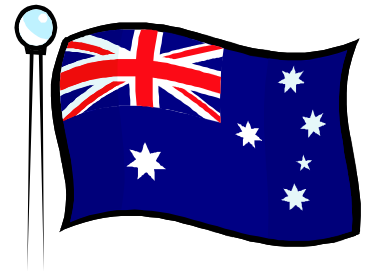
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CLUB	DATE OF TRIAL	TOWN/SUBURB	ENTRIES CLOSE
NEWCASTLE	SAT 7 & SUN 8 MARCH	HILLSBOROUGH	13 TH FEBRUARY 2009
HAWKSBURY	TUESDAY 7 APRIL	ERSKIN PARK	17 TH MARCH 2009



AUSTRALIA DAY EXHIBITION



For Australia Day this year our club put on a demonstration of Obedience and Agility. This went down extremely well and a good crowd attended (Baxter had his own cheer squad).

The Obedience exhibition kept a fairly straight line as we tried to work in unison and overall the dogs (and the handlers) worked very well under the guidance of the Chief Instructor.

Agility was the crowd pleaser of the morning as the crowd loved the dogs racing around – the crowd cheered whether the dogs did what they were told or not! Ray did an excellent job of keeping the crowd informed of the proceedings.

Overall the demonstration was very successful. Thank you to all the club members that attended and helped setup the equipment, and pack it away again. Thank you to Jane and her trailer.

Please see the website for more photo's.: www.portstephensdogclub.org.au





What the Seagull Saw!!

The Seagull has been on his Christmas holidays of late but managed to report back on events of late last year.....

If there happens to be a beautiful, light-coloured Labradoodle in your presence and the owner asks you to treat the dog – FOR GOD SAKES DO IT!

Another lovely Labrador definitely not playing the sled game for Christmas.

It is not technically politically correct to sticky tape any type of costume to your dog - especially little ones.....ever.

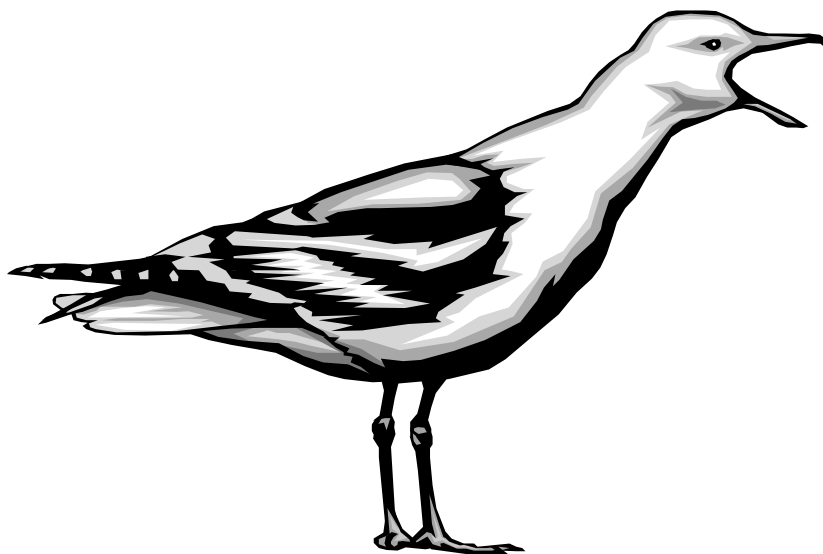
Many, many, people that might want to practice throwing the dumbbell well before they get to the stage of knocking the judge out in the ring.

Many members bombing mock trial under certain new judge (bribes were tried – but none accepted).

A very sexy border who made the seagull very jealous as she managed to *loose* weight over Christmas.

A sea of purple at Hillsborough on the 16th & 17th of January – well done to all. It was a very successful couple of days for the club.

A lot of agility dogs who looked fitter than their owners on Australia Day!





CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE



CLUB POLO SHIRTS

Rugged polo shirt that you dog will soon associate with training!
Includes club badge that is sewn to the front left breast of the shirt.

\$25.00

CLUB WATERPROOF JACKET

Ripstop outer with PVC coating
Chemically treated water repellent outer
Heat-sealed shoulder and arm seams for waterproofing
Anti-pilling polar fleece lining
Removable hood with elastic drawstring and Velcro flaps
Elastic cuffs with adjustable Velcro tabs
All club embroidery included (not shown here)

\$80.00



CLUB SPRAY JACKET

Light spray jacket, great for
spring and cooler summer nights
All club embroidery included (not shown here)

\$37.50



CLUB BADGES

Club badges that can be sewn
onto anything!

\$5.00

