



September-October 2020



THE MAGAZINE OF THE
CANINE OBEDIENCE CLUB
OF TOWNSVILLE INC

COMPANION DOG MAGAZINE

Front Cover Photo : Julie Doig, Heidi Christoffel, Julie Combridge and Debbie Schmidt practising social distancing and displaying their armbands under the Club's COVID-19 Trial Plan.

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Patron: TBA

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COCT INC LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs D. Dobson (deceased) 1973	Mrs C. Woodward 1985	Mrs C O'Shea (active) 2006
Miss A Dobson (PH.D) 1973	Mrs E.K. Greenwood 1988	Ms D MacIntyre (active) 2007
Mrs. A. Tunstal 1976	Mr D.R. Greenwood 1989	Mr .M Holland (deceased) 2008
Mr E. Morris (deceased) 1982	Mrs H. Taylor 1994	Ms J Forbes-Faulkner (active) 2010
Dr R. Taylor (deceased) 1982	Mr R. Woodward 1996	Ms R Linder (active) 2011
Mr P. Litster 1983	Mrs A. Annesley 1999	Ms L Ashworth 2012
Mrs V. Litster 1985	Mrs S.M. Fielder 2004	Ms J Cussons (active) 2017

**The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor
or Committee Members of the COCT Inc.**

All Office bearers, committee members and instructors of the Canine Obedience Club of Townsville Inc. are unpaid volunteers who give freely of their time in an effort to help you to train and trial your dogs.

General monthly meetings held first Monday of the month February to December at 7.30pm

Annual General Meeting held first Monday in August

Executive Committee meetings held as called by Secretary

Club Web Site: www.coct.com.au



Canine Obedience Club of Townsville Inc



Canine Obedience Club Townsville Inc

President's Report

Happy September and Spring, fellow Guardians. I really hope that this newsletter finds you all well and getting your lives back on track and closer to your pre-COVID rhythm. August was a manic time for your Committee, and I fear that we have burned out our Secretary and overloaded our Vice President trying to keep up (no joke). The behind the scenes work for a return to training and trialling has been relentless. Each time a viable solution was found for a problem, something cropped up to create even more work. It made for a high-pressure environment, far exceeding what should be expected from any volunteer committee.

The result of this hard work has been a pleasure to see. Pet Dog Training under the stewardship of Deb Fazel has run for three weeks now as a great success and well within the bounds of a COVID safe event. Renate has tirelessly applied herself to the setting up of the classes with plenty of help from our other Pet Dog Trainers. A lot of flagged rope, plain rope and ribbons, frame the classes and keep each group at a safe distance from each other. There is a staggered entry and exit by class, which works incredibly well at keeping the participants COVID safe, while having the added bonus of keeping the dogs well separated.

As I type this, we are a day away from running our first Rally-O and Obedience trial for the year. This is an exciting time where we get the opportunity to have ourselves and our dogs assessed for the work that we have been doing in the lead up to these events. It is here that we find out how well our preparation has been and what we may need to work on in the future. These are not competitions of one dog and handler against another, but confirmation of what we have each been doing well and a direction of where to take our training next.

We have our AGM approaching at a great and unstoppable speed and I know that for at least myself, current and recent events have had my focus everywhere else, other than on the AGM. It was certainly quite a surprise for me when I looked at the calendar and realised just how close it is. Presidents are notorious at AGM time for trying to drum up support in order to get volunteers for the many positions. Why should I be any different? The truth is that we cannot achieve our club's purpose without members doing the different tasks needed to run the club. And the way that we achieve this is to have members in various positions, each having oversight of one or more of the club tasks. Many of the positions are not hard to do and only involve a few hours of your time a month. Even if you are time poor, why not approach the committee and find out what you can do to contribute to the continuance and betterment of us all?

Well this marks the end of what is to quote the Queen, our Club's "Annus Horribilis" (it's the politest way that I can write it). Without our incredibly dedicated people, we would have found ourselves with no club activities this year and possibly not during the next year either. It could have been a year with no visible progression for the "Triallers" and just as importantly, no opportunity for the general public to learn how to help make their dogs' better members of the household and the community. During the lockdown and while walking with my pups, I felt incredibly sad to see that there were so many people being dragged down the street by their new reactive "rescue" dogs and knowing that there was nobody to help them. It gave me a fresh perspective on pet dog training and its' great value to the community. So, here's hoping there is a bright future for our country and our club. May we get a good vaccine soon and have a triumphant 2021.

Snow Standen, **President**

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Your Club Membership allows you to not only attend weekly classes, but to also participate in activities and competitions. Non-members are always welcomed at our Monthly Meetings but you need to be a financial member in order to vote on decisions affecting the Club.

- 🐾 Receive emails on upcoming club activities eg Obedience, Rally Obedience and Tracking Workshops
- 🐾 Participate in Club demonstrations eg Townsville City Council Pet Expo
- 🐾 Attend our Monthly General Meetings held the first Monday of each month (except January), and are entitled to vote.
- 🐾 Receive notification via email of Annual General Meeting held in August
- 🐾 Nominate for a Position as either Office Bearer or as part of the Executive Committee (see inside page of magazine for Positions). You need to be a financial member of the Club for a minimum of three months before nominating for a position.
- 🐾 Eligible for annual Title and Perpetual Trophies if competing in trials.

Membership are due for renewal by 30 June each year to continue training and attend club events. Lapsed members will have their names removed from the Club's email list and until renewed can no longer attend classes.

All members are welcome to come along to Obedience, Agility and Tracking Trials to observe or offer assistance with setting up, Stewarding and help in the kitchen. It's a great introduction to the world of trialling and getting to know us better!

.....

*Don't make the mistake of treating your dogs like humans,
or they'll treat you like dogs*

Just Briefly

Club T-Shirts are available from the Club Shoppe on Tuesday night. They are made from a durable cotton material, great for wearing to training, at trials to fly the Club's colours, and will last forever!

Cost - \$46.

Also available at very reasonable prices are cloth webbing leads, martingale collars, long leads, and treat bags



Keep up to date with the rules for
Obedience, Rally-O,
Agility, Endurance and
Tracking

as issued by the ANKC.

They are free to download from their website
<http://www.ankc.org.au/Rules.aspx>

Have you enjoyed your classes, love dogs, and would like to help others train theirs?
The club has openings for several Trainee Instructors.

The minimum requirement is that you have completed basic training and have had some trialling experience, or have been an Instructor in another club.

You will be paired with an experienced instructor who will take you through week by week theory and practical on how to teach handlers to train their dogs.

All instructors are volunteers who started off just like you – taking a dog through classes, graduating into Class 4, and then becoming interested in the training program.

To find out more ask to talk to Deb Fazel, our Training Co-ordinator.

Back issues of the magazine
can be downloaded from
our website www.coct.com.au
Catch up on articles
you may have missed on trials,
behaviour, training and
feature stories.



Calling all Graduates !!

Handlers who have graduated from the Advanced Class are welcome to continue their training in the Pre-Trialling Class from 8.00-9.00pm on Tuesday night.

This Class is less structured than the ones you have previously completed, but can be used to start learning new obedience exercises like heel off lead, change of position, broad jump, and retrieving the dumb bell or just keep skills up to date.

It is a great way to keep your dog active, socialised, and mentally stimulated.

Feel free to let your Instructor know what you would like to learn on the night as classes are quite flexible.

Thursday night training is free and open for all

Advanced and Class 4 handlers who are interested in learning more about competing in both obedience trials and Rally O trials. All handlers wishing to come along and take advantage of this extra free practice time must be available to assist with the set up or pack up of the various courses and also must be willing to assist as stewards in the Obedience rings or assist with the set up, stewarding or pack up of the Rally O courses. We also request handlers bring crates or some other method of restraining their dogs while they assist.

Thursday night set up normally commences between 5:30 pm and 6 pm and the training is normally completed by about 8 pm depending on the numbers wishing to train. We would also like to advise handlers that this free session is also utilised by instructors to train their dogs.

Frisbee Training !!

Second Monday of the month at 6:30pm with sign in at 6:15pm.

Financial COCT Members or Registered Handlers can have a trial night for just a \$5 training fee.

To continue you will need to become a TOADS member. Dog sport approved discs for sale on any training night at club house.



HOW DO I GET INVOLVED WITH COMPETITIONS ??

All dogs regardless of breed can compete in obedience, agility, tracking and endurance, but first you need to join Dogs Queensland (CCCQ). There is a joining fee plus annual fee to pay for either single or joint membership.

PEDIGREE DOGS WITH PAPERS

Download the Application Form for New Membership 2017 from the Dogs Queensland website <http://www.cccq.org.au/New-Member-Information.aspx>.

CROSS BREED AND NON-PEDIGREE DOGS

Download and complete the above form for New Membership PLUS the Associate Register Form <http://www.cccq.org.au/Member-Forms.aspx> – scroll down to Registrations and select Associate Register (AR). Up to two (2) dogs may be registered to a membership with the initial registration, with any subsequent registrations to the membership, to be dogs eligible for registration on the General or Limited Registers. Members who subsequently wish to register extra dogs that have been acquired under special circumstances or from a registered welfare organisation may apply for dispensation to do so. All applications for registration are to be accompanied by a certificate of de-sexing from a veterinarian.

WHAT'S HAPPENIN'?

MONTHLY MEETINGS

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 5 OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.30pm and MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2020. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm at the Clubhouse at Heatley Park. Everyone is welcome to attend if you would like to contribute, offer help or just find out more of what goes on in the running of your Club. We would love to see you there! If you would like to help in any way, no matter how small, it is all appreciated, and is a great way to learn more about your Club and meet new friends.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Club's Annual General Meeting was held on Monday 7th September 2020 and we welcome back our regular stalwarts without whom the Club simply wouldn't exist. If you would like to assist with any position it isn't too late to come and have a chat to one of us on the Committee, and we would be most appreciative to see some new faces. Some of us have been in positions for many years and can't keep going forever, and are looking for the next generation to hand the leash to.



THURSDAY NIGHT OBEDIENCE TRAINING – LIMITED TO 20 PEOPLE

General Obedience and Rally-O practice will recommence on Thursday 9th January 2020 (weather permitting) from 6.30pm for Advanced and Class 4 Members at no additional charge. To make the night all the more enjoyable everyone is expected to help assist in the set up or packing up of equipment.

2020 OBEDIENCE, AGILITY and TRACKING TRIALS

Due to COVID-19 almost the entire 2020 trialling season was cancelled. With restrictions easing late July we were fortunate to hold an Obedience Rally only trial in August, and can do so again in September. Approval is pending for an October Tracking / Track and Search trial, members will be notified by email/facebook on the outcome.

2020 CHRISTMAS BREAKUP / TROPHY PRESENTATIONS

Yes, like it or not we are getting closer to Christmas! Our Breakup and Trophy Presentation night will be on **Saturday 5th December 2020** at the Kirwan Sports Club on Bamford Lane. It will be a great night with heaps of good food, good company, trivia quiz, Christmas Hamper Raffle (donations to the hamper gratefully received!), lucky door prizes and of course Title and Perpetual Trophy presentations. Menu and pricing will be available in the November-December 2020 magazine. Mark the 5th December in your Calendar so you don't miss out!

CANINE OBEDIENCE CLUB OF TOWNSVILLE INC

2020 CHRISTMAS PARTY AND BREAKUP

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5th 2020

From 6.30pm – Dinner 7.00pm

KIRWAN SPORTS AND RECREATION CLUB
BAMFORD LANE, KIRWAN

Come along to our end of year presentation night

Guest Speaker : TBA

Trivia Quiz

Trophy and Title presentations

Great Food and Company!

Cost – TBA next magazine

Instructors and Committee Members free

Menu

TBA next magazine

RSVP to Renate TBA



CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Our popular Christmas Hampers will again be raffled this year,
and we need you to help fill them up!

Donations gratefully received of quality homemade
or purchased human or dog items.

Please leave in laundry basket in clubhouse or with ladies at canteen.



**Tickets on sale 1 October 2020 until drawn at Christmas Party Break Up
Saturday 5th December 2020 - Winners will be notified if not present.**

Tickets : \$1.00 each – Will be available from Clubhouse on training nights or at Christmas Party

TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR REPORT

Hi Everyone.....we're back !!!!!

We are all so happy to be back on the field doing what we love.

It took a lot of work behind the scene to make it happen and required a lot of patience from our clients.

So, thank you to everyone for your hard work and perseverance.

And a big thank you to Dogs Queensland for approving our Covid Safety 2020 Plan.

We appreciate all the work you have been doing with your dogs during the enforced Covid-19 break. Some of the work I have observed in classes is remarkable.

I was lucky enough to see some of the work being undertaken in Joy's Beginners class.....outstanding to say the least. With a class full of Border Collies, of course we expect great things but what I observed was simply gold. Understandably, our attendance rate overall, has reduced in numbers since we began in February. A lot can and has happened in people's circumstances which has influenced their decision or ability to continue with training and we completely understand.

On the flip side is Judy's Intermediate class. Apparently, nothing was going to stop her students from completing their course. I would like to thank Instructors, Lily and Lucy for helping Judy with the large numbers in her class.

Janette has a steady number of attendees in her Advanced class, (including her own young man, Quinn), since our return to training. Welcome back Bailey, Tara, Nugget and Noodle.

Welcome also to Joslyn who has expressed a desire to become an Instructor with the Club. Joslyn has begun her canine studies with the Delta Training Organisation. Our very own Delta trained Instructor, Noel, has taken Joslyn under his wing in his Beginners Class. As per our policy on trainee Instructor intake, Joslyn will be joining Noel's Beginners class in the next intake with her own Kelpie, Ned. Ned will then complete all levels up to and including Advanced. Then Joslyn will be paired with another Instructor for an intake or two. Finally, we will gift Joslyn her very own Beginners class.

We are very excited with the prospect of a new volunteer Instructor. It means we will be able to help even more people in the community with building positive relationships with their dogs.

Thanks Jos and Ned 😊

Have you ever thought of becoming a volunteer Instructor????

If you answered 'Yes' please email me on deb4dogs@outlook.com and we can discuss putting your thought into action.

To all of our current guardian and dog teams, I have it on very good advice that our final night, Tuesday 8th September, will see a large number of upgrades. I am working on the Certificates right now!

Speaking of upgrades, I would like to advise those who achieve an upgrade will be emailed the enrolment form for either the Intermediate or Advanced class. Whichever is applicable.

So, when does the next intake start....6th October 2020. This date is when we will have our compulsory Information evening for all of our new guardians (no dogs please).

Happy training 😊 and remember just a couple of minutes a couple of times a day and include lots of play.

Happy training

Deb Fazel

Training Coordinator

**** **Teach, share, respect, learn and have fun doing it!** ****



Social Distancing of Pet Dog Training Classes set up on Heatley Park





Above: Judy checking that Snow and Joy are observing the Social Distancing Rules under the Club's COVID-19 plan
Below: Debbie and Snow checking the distances between classes.





Above: Judy – what is that under Julie’s pile of training gear?

Below: Debbie – Julie’s toy sausage dog! That’s an easy one to keep under control!



**TRIAL SECRETARY REPORT
DOUBLE OBEDIENCE / RALLY TRIAL 28 & 29 AUGUST 2020**

I would like to start by thanking all the club members who helped at both Friday and Saturday's trials held under the new Covid-19 restrictions. Special thanks go to Janette Cussons our Covid officer, Renate Linder, Janette Cussons and Snow Standen who helped set up the park both days, and special thanks to Joy Tomes for being the toilet monitor and kitchen person, and Debbie Schmidt as ever our Rally O steward.

My thanks also go to Leisa Cassidy who spent hours both days on the computer entering all the data, Linda King as trial secretary and all the other stewards/helpers who made a challenging trial weekend run smoothly.

My thanks also go to all the competitors who abided by all the restrictions and trialled their dogs under less than ideal conditions.

Friday Trial, 28 August 2020

On Friday evening we had several successes with Luci Robinson and 3 Chilli getting a qual in CD and Raelene Gregory and Stella getting a qual in CCD.

In Rally O there were also several successes with Andrea Wohlhuter and Shelby and Annette Wooley and Ace getting quals in Masters. Annette also gained quals with Ace in Excellent B and Advanced B. Amber Morey and Tootsie and Jana Fogerty gained quals in Advanced A and last but not least Snow Standen and Midge and Jessica Dibnah and Fergus gained quals in Novice, all of these successes were achieved despite the strong winds howling across the park.

Saturday Trial, 29 August 2020

On Saturday evening the winds and conditions were even worse but despite the conditions Andrea Wohlhuter gained her first qual in UDX towards her Grand Champion Title with Shelby, but unfortunately that was the only obedience qual for the trial.

In Rally O there was more success with quals to Andrea Wohlhuter and Shelby and Luci Robinson and Chilli getting quals in Masters, Amber Morey and Tootsie and Jana Fogerty getting quals in Excellent A, Julie Combridge and Tara and Raelene Gregory and Stella getting quals in Advanced A and Snow Standen with Midge and Jessica Dibnah with Fergus getting quals in Novice.

Once again thanks to everyone and happy trialling for the rest of the year.

Judy Forbes-Faulkner
Trial Secretary

CANINE OBEDIENCE CLUB OF TOWNSVILLE INC
AUGUST 2020 DOUBLE OBEDIENCE AND RALLY O TRIAL

NQ = No Qual Q = Qualification 😊 T = Title 😊😊

TRIAL ONE Friday 28 August 2020

OBEDIENCE

Judge :	Judy Forbes-Faulkner		
UDX	Competitor	Dogs Name	Score
1st	Andrea Wohlhuter	Shelby	143

Judge:	Roel Wittkamp		
UD	Competitor	Dogs Name	Score
1st	Cathy O'Shea	Dante	132
2nd	Andrea Wohlhuter	Shelby	119
3rd	Renate Linder	Dixie	70
CDX			
1st NQ	Jana Fogerty	Scout	170
2nd	Renate Linder	Lilly	131
3rd	Marilyn McKee	Ollie	92
CD			
1st Q	Luci Robinson	Chilli	192
2nd	Jessica Dibnah	Fergus	66
CCD			
1st Q	Raelene Gregory	Stella	85
2nd NQ	Katie Bognuda	Lochie	79
3rd NQ	Sharon Daniels	Briny	75

RALLY O

Judge:	Julie Doig		
Masters	Competitor	Dogs Name	Score
1st Q	Andrea Wohlhuter	Shelby	96
2nd Q	Annette Wooley	Ace	90
3rd	Luci Robinson	Chilli	84
Ex A			
1st Q	Amber Morey	Tootsie	82
2nd Q	Jana Fogerty	Scout	82
Ex B			
1st Q	Annette Wooley	Ace	86
Ad A			
1st	Julie Combridge	Tara	60
2nd	Raelene Gregory	Stella	56
Ad B			
1st Q	Annette Wooley	Ace	81
Novice			
1st Q	Snow Standen	Midge	88
2nd Q	Jessica Dibnah	Fergus	80

TRIAL TWO Saturday 29 August 2020**OBEDIENCE****Judge:** Judy Forbes-Faulkner

UDX	Competitor	Dogs Name	Score
1st Q	Andrea Wohlhuter	Shelby	196

Judge : Roel Wittkamp

UD	Competitor	Dogs Name	Score
1st	Andrea Wohlhuter	Shelby	161
2nd	Cathy O'Shea	Dante	123
3rd	Renate Linder	Dixie	85

CDX

1st NQ	Annette Wooley	Ace	178
2nd	Jana Fogerty	Scout	140
3rd	Linda King	D'Arcy	110

CD

1st	Luci Robinson	Chilli	154
2nd	Jessica Dibnah	Fergus	119

CCD

1st *	Sharon Daniels	Briny	70
2nd tied	Amber Morey	Tootsie	70
2nd tied	Raelene Gregory	Stella	70

* Awarded 1st as dog completed sit exercise

Rally O**Judge:** Julie Doig

Masters	Competitor	Dogs Name	Score
1 st Q	Andrea Wohlhuter	Shelby	96
2 nd Q	Lucy Robinson	Chilli	92
3rd	Annette Wooley	Ace	84

Ex A

1st Q	Amber Morey	Tootsie	88
2nd Q	Jana Fogerty	Scout	80

Ex B

No entries

Ad A

1st Q	Julie Combridge	Tara	90
2nd Q	Raelene Gregory	Stella	88
3rd	Heidi Christoffel	Mika	76

Ad B

1st	Jana Fogerty	Scout	70
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Novice

1st Q	Snow Standen	Midge	90
2nd Q	Jessica Dibnah	Fergus	87



Above : Julie Doig, Heidi Christoffel, Julie Combridge and Debbie Schmidt practising social distancing and displaying their armbands under the Club's COVID-19 Trial Plan. The wind was a howling gale that night, hence the flying hair!





Left: Cathy O'Shea asking Dante to stand during UD heelwork

Right: Steward Snow places a glove in position while Cathy waits with Dante and Judge Roel Whitkamp.



Above: UD competitors Andrea Wohlhuter, Cathy O'Shea and Renate Linder leave their dogs in the down stay exercise.



Left: Judge Judy places the article for the seek back exercise in UDX for Andrea Wohlhuter and Shelby.

Below: Shelby on the hunt for the article



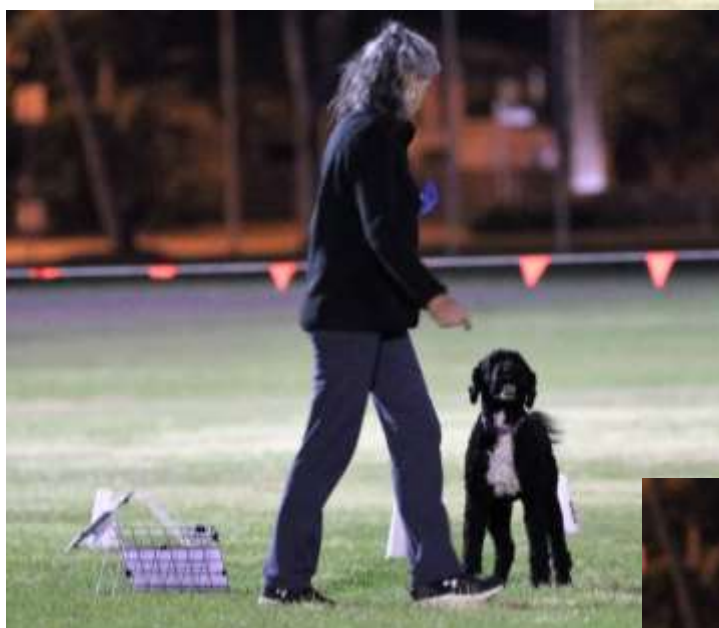
Right: Andrea giving article back to Steward Snow after successful completion of exercise. Shelby looks pretty pleased with himself! And so he should as this team went on to obtain a Qualification score of 196.





Natalie Spence asking Trixie to sit for the “Sit / Walk Around” exercise in Rally.

Trixie having a think about it



And a bit more

Oh, is that what you wanted?!





Marilyn McKee and Ollie executing the 270° right about turn in Rally Masters.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019-2020

Well I'm very sure that nobody could have missed the year that we had once 2020 came around. It hasn't been all bad, but a large part of it was really awful for our hard-working committee members.

Pretty well everything that came across our Secretary's desk required hours of work, was sent off on time and only to be sent back for too many more hours of work. It was relentless. The return to training requirements caused the most work and stress for our Secretary, Vice President, Sport Dog Coordinator and Pet Dog Coordinator. That they achieved it is a testament to their character, they persevered and didn't drop it into the too hard basket, which was an option. Even the new shelter keeps getting push back. Please take the time to thank and congratulate them for their efforts and hard won successes, they did much more work than should reasonably loaded onto members of a volunteer committee.

The good things that came out of this work were a return of Pet Dog Training, return of Obedience Trialling and the grant of a large shelter to be built in front of the clubhouse. Of course, it would be lovely if the bureaucracies underpinning these activities were finished with us, but they are not and there is more work to be done.

Another wonderful outcome of this year is Trick Dog Trialling. Two members went to the first Trials in Cairns and I'm pretty sure that both had a dog titled by the end of the weekend. Fantastic!

Normally, this is the place to chart the course of the next 12 months and explain what we expect the club to do and where we want to be. All I can say that we hope to be closer to performing the activities of 2019, rather than 2020. There really is no road map and it is likely to look more like an exercise in improvisation, as has the year to date.

There is one thing that always needs to be brought up at each AGM, and that is that the club cannot achieve anything without people volunteering, accepting a position and helping with the running of that part of the club. Basically, if nobody steps up, then nothing happens. I know that as a nation that we are busier than ever and we all feel time poor. Most of the committee jobs do not require as much work as you may think and mostly only need a person to turn up a little early for an event and help out during the day. Please, nominate yourself and we will be able to have successful events and lighten the load for the stalwarts of the club.

Finally, I want to give a hearty thank you to the committee and members who have helped the club over the last twelve months. Without you, we would all be sitting home watching bad television.

Yours in dog sports,

Snow Standen
President 2019-2020

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

TRAINING CO-ORDINATOR REPORT 2019-2020

Thanks so much to all of our dog and guardian teams, volunteer Instructors and everyone else who stuck with the club through all the unavoidable changes to the way we do training.

All challenges and changes resulted of course, from that awful C word.....Covid -19.

But not even a global pandemic could keep us down forever. With a lot of hard work, determination, dedication and love of all things dog, a plan was created, approved by Dogs Queensland and abracadabra! - we are up and training again with the first intake for 2020 that started all the way back in February!

Our first intake had five Beginners classes (WOW!), one huge Intermediate class and quite a few attending our Advanced class.

The intervening time between the abrupt stop to our classes back in March and the start up again in September took its toll on our Beginners numbers. On the bright side however, the guardians who were able to continue training enjoyed some very special individual attention.

The Intermediate class did not suffer the same drop in numbers due to the compulsory Covid cancelling of classes. Outstanding everyone. We appreciated your patience and presence.

The training that had obviously gone on with the Intermediate dogs during the enforced break was obvious and resulted in ten upgrades into the Advanced dog class. We certainly hope the training journey for these clever canines. Whether it's in the Advanced class or doing the Intermediate class again it really doesn't matter. We have various training options so please make the most of them.

The Advanced class was well attended with dogs honing their skills.

None of this could have happened without our wonderful team of volunteer Instructors. I will NEVER get tired of saying "thank you" to all of them.

Our Club only exists because a small number of amazing people choose to spend an unimaginable time helping in one way or another week after week, year after year, decade after decade. We love dogs and have a lot of knowledge about training dogs. It is that love and knowledge we love to share with our community. All dogs, all ages (over four months) and all breeds are welcome.

We also love it when people in the Community come forward and offer their help to the Club. This year we welcomed Lucy, who put her hand up to become a new Instructor with the Club. Very well known to the Club, Lucy has trained her talented Staffy X, Chilli, to a very high standard, (lots of titles), in both Obedience and Rally O disciplines. Lucy assisted with classes in the first intake, but will have her very own group in the second (and final) intake for the year. Thanks heaps Lucy.

We have also welcomed Joslyn to the Club who is studying the Delta Dog course and is keen to become an Instructor....yay 😊. Joslyn will take her own dog Ned, a Kelpie, through our classes, then become an assistant Instructor for an intake or two and finally have her very own class.

Volunteering your time to benefit the community and doing something you love at the same is very rewarding. Maybe you would like to do something rewarding too? Please call me to find out how you can help the Club....0419 292 380

Deb Fazel

Training Coordinator. 2019-2020

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : 7 SEPTEMBER 2020
TRIAL SECRETARY REPORT 2019-2020

The trialling year started with the usual August and September trials which were well supported and a great success. Little did we know at that point how long it would be before we were able to trial again. With the drama associated with the COVID 19 virus infections in Australia and the shutdowns across Queensland all trials were cancelled until August.

After many days of applying under the new Covid regulations and with the assistance of Janette Cussons: the club succeeded in being offered the first trial approved in Queensland under the new Covid restrictions. The club members were aware of their responsibilities to ensure the trial was a success and all regulations were followed to the letter.

My thanks go to all our members who put in many hours of work both prior to the trial and at the trial to ensure its success. My report for this comeback trial and the results are going to be published in the next Companion Dog Magazine.

In closing I would like to thank all the members and competitors for their help and enthusiasm during this trying time.

Judy Forbes-Faulkner
Trial Secretary 2019-2020

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

TRACKING OFFICER REPORT 2019-2020

To say that 2020 has not been a great year for anyone in the greater community is an understatement. The outbreak of the COVID-19 global pandemic & it's spread has seen worldwide changes incurring lockdowns & restrictions in all areas including sports, so obviously dog sport was not to be untouched.

The North Queensland & COCT tracking season in particular is short, starting in April & concluding in July, so as mentioned by Debbie, the cancellation of our March Track & Search trial, followed by the subsequent extended restrictions saw the cancellation of our entire season – the first time in the history of tracking in North Queensland & Townsville in particular there has been no tracking other than the small beginner's course held in early February before restrictions took hold & little activity & no trial results to report. We saw some lovely beginner work & although unable to provide further formal training, it would be lovely to hear that these handlers have continued to work on their own & progress their dogs further. In the early stages of any sport, much of our foundation training is solitary one on one work with our dogs.

Late 2019 early 2020 saw initial talks been made regarding a review of the tracking and track and search trials with the possibility of trials being run as either a tracking or track and search trial. This is an ongoing issue which has been postponed, due to the impact of COVID restrictions on T&S judges training which is now required to be extended into 2021 season. It will, however need to be addressed & a decision made next year.

Work is currently in progress to see if a track and search trial maybe held in October – when the March double trial was cancelled by Dogs Queensland the club had asked if it was possible to transfer the trial to October. There is a large amount of work involved in compilation of all Covid Checklists/Plans for Trial approval, this is well in hand subject to the receipt of a formal Council letter of land use approval (now mandatory DogsQld requirement under Covid). Pending approval of a covid plan for the event and availability of helpers maybe we will get to see trackers have one trial for 2020 in North Queensland, although not in the rural paddocks as t's already too hot??? Watch this space.

Regardless all stay safe and may 2021 be kinder to us all as we find a path through the new world order of "normal".

Janette Cussons
COCT Tracking Coordinator
2019-2020



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : 7 SEPTEMBER 2020
TRACK AND SEARCH OFFICER REPORT 2019-2020

To say that 2020 has been an unkind and unfair year to all including the world of dog sports is an understatement. 2020 sees the global pandemic known as Covid-19 commence. The virus emerged in late 2019 in China and around March 2020 was declared a global pandemic.

The COCT Track and Search season starts with a double trial in March. On the Monday night prior to the first track being tracked on the following Friday night all Queensland dog sports events were shut down. This shut down was over the next few months progressively extended until finally the entire tracking season was in shut down. As a result, 2020 sees no track and search happen in Townsville or North Queensland for that matter. So, for the first time since the club has conducted Track and Search there are no results to report.

February 2020 saw a small beginner tracking course run in conjunction with Janette Cussons the Tracking Coordinator. So sad to see some lovely beginner work occur over that weekend with no option to progress club wise due to the dog sports shut down. It would be lovely to hear if any of these handlers and dogs have been able to do a little work on their own.

Late 2019 early 2020 saw initial talks been made regarding a review of the tracking and track and search trials with the possibility of trials being run as either a tracking or track and search trial. This has not progressed for 2021 due to the ongoing requirements for the completion of Track and Search judges training for Janette Cussons. Her training requirements have been extended to sit judge's elevation in 2021 due to covid-19.

Work is currently in progress to see if a track and search trial maybe held in October – when the March double trial was cancelled by Dogs Queensland the club had asked if it was possible to transfer the trial to October. Pending approval of a covid plan for the event and availability of helpers maybe the trackers will get to have one trial for 2020 in North Queensland??? Watch this space.

Regardless all stay safe and may 2021 be kinder for track and search as we all stumble our way through the new world order of “normal”.

Debbie Schmidt

Track and Search Coordinator 2019-2020

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

SPORT DOG OFFICER REPORT 2019-2020

Sadly, to say on the whole sports dog training has not progressed in the way it was originally envisioned. I for one lost some of my training mojo with the loss of my tracking and training mentor Mal Holland in late 2019. The difficulty of finding a “fit” / a place for sports dog training did not help. Then along comes Covid-19..... Say no more. The shut down of all trailing and training be it pet dog or sports dog by Dogs Queensland has meant only now and under strict covid plans is the club able to get back into training and trialling. Class 4 is yet to make a comeback to the training paddock.

However, it is not all doom and gloom.

The final months of 2019 saw Julie Doig run her Rally O stewarding Workshop while only a small number attended the information provided was first class. Julie along with Judy Forbes-Faulkner (Julie’s training mentor for Rally O judges training) provided many well-run training courses (as per a rally O trial) for all to run their dogs through and receive feedback on. The importance of this was seen at the last Rally O trial held by the club in 2019 and the number of new to rally O club members receiving qual cards on the night. Congratulations Julie and Judy for this awesome work.

Congratulations to Julie Doig on achieving her Rally O judges licence in 2019 and a further congratulations on your very successful (lots of quals awarded) on your first judge’s appointment at the COCT August Rally O trials.

The end of 2019 saw a number of training nights working on foundation skills.

With the recommencement of training in February initial discussions were made to change the format of class 4 to a more structured program under the sports dog banner however as these discussions were being started the shutdown occurred which included face to face meeting and the like. Shutdowns were both by the Queensland Government and by Dogs Queensland. As a result, this is still in the very early stages of planning and no change has yet occurred to the format or running of these classes under the current banner of Pet Dog Training.

The Rally O workshop for early 2020 was cancelled. Possibly this will be run after the last trial of the season so watch club news for further details. A little presentation update to be finalised as 2021 sees the commencement of the new rules for Rally (it has lost its O in the new rules). 2021 will also see new rules for Obedience come into effect.

The Tricks Workshop that was to be held with presenter Gay Westmore (the creator for the tricks manual and usb training sticks) had to be cancelled. A Tricks workshop is in the very early stages of planning for 2021. The tricks Facebook group which worked through the starter tricks – “15 tricks in 15 weeks” proved to be a very successful training tool aimed for members to both learn how to do the tricks and how to teach the tricks to others. I have to say this was a most successful training tool with Julie Doig and Gus and Renate Linder and Dixi both entering the triple tricks trial conducted by Dogs Cairns and coming away with their Starter Tricks Titles. Zoe and Lilly also came away for several qual cards – I believe one more each for their starter tricks titles as well.

So, while sports dog training isn’t at the place we had hoped it to be by this time it remains a work in progress. As they say Rome wasn’t built in a day – we will get there.

2021 will see the club hold its 50th Anniversary trial so that’s a fine goal to aim for improvement in all our training.

Lastly, I would like to commend Judy and Janette on their awesome work at getting covid-19 plans approved for not only initially getting Thursday night training happening but then pet dog training back on the paddock and finally the Obedience and Rally O trial at the end of August. While many, many more were involved and also need to be thanked these 2 dealt with the required paperwork and mapping of the club grounds to get us all back out on the paddock. To everyone involved in these plans thank you. Let’s look forward to ongoing training for the rest of 2020 and may 2021 see us working hard and managing with whatever our “new normal” turns out to be.

Debbie Schmidt, **Sports Dog Coordinator 2019-2020**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

TROPHY OFFICER REPORT 2019-2020

PRIZES FOR TRIALS

While we finished our 2019 trialling season the same as usual, who could have known what was waiting for us in 2020. COVID-19 put a stop to all trials until the risk was deemed low enough for us to hold an obedience and rally only trial on 25-26 August 2020, so at least some of the prizes purchased at the beginning of the year before COVID arrived could be used.

As in previous years prizes consisted of a variety of dog treats and toys, chocolates, and the 'funny money' vouchers. Dog or household items were included for a bit of extra variety if I found something at a good price and couldn't resist buying. Special thanks for Debbie Schmidt and her plaiting skills in making up the tug toys, some plain, some with toys attached, and have proved very popular.

With everything increasing in cost there is always the challenge of finding a variety of different and useful items and still stay within the budget for first, second and third place so advantage is taken of sales from various local and online stores where I can stock up the prize cupboard. I think I might have the record for the greatest number of loyalty cards held by a single person, but they all help save the club \$\$'s and allows me to buy more expensive items at a discounted price.

Ribbons purchased in February for Tracking and Track & Search from Australian Show Ribbons in Warwick weren't used as all those trials were cancelled due to COVID-19, so will be ready for use in 2021.

TITLE AND PERPETUAL TROPHIES

A range of wine and drinking glasses, coffee mugs and stubby coolers were available for competitors to select for their 2019 Title Trophies awarded at our Christmas and Trophy Presentation Night. Glasses and coffee mugs were engraved by NQ Plaques and Trophies, the coolers made by The Stubby Cooler Company. Title Patches made by Unique Embroidery were awarded with each Title Trophy.

Overall, six Title Trophies were awarded for Obedience; five for Rally-O; two for Agility; one for Jumpers; one for Tracking; two for Track & Search, and none for Endurance. Compared to 2018, title numbers were considerably down in all events in 2019.

However, making up for that were five Championship Titles, the most we have ever had in one year:- Lisa Sinclair and Coffee Crème, Renate Linder and Lily, and Julie Doig and Zoe in Rally O; Tanya Hill and Isa in Tracking; and Debbie Schmidt and Furi in Track and Search. Photos of each dog supplied by their owners were professionally framed by Top Frames and looked amazing lined up across the trophy table on presentation night.

Of the 23 Perpetual Trophies, eighteen were awarded, one less than in 2018 :- nine in Obedience, three Rally-O, one each for Tracking and Track and Search, one Agility and three Jumpers.



JUDGES GIFTS

\$40 Coles/Myer gift cards were presented to our hard-working Judge's, and I'm sure they would have found something useful or indulgent to purchase from the wide range of stores on where they can be used.

Diane MacIntyre
Trophy Officer 2019-2020

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : 7 SEPTEMBER 2020

DEMONSTRATION & PUBLICITY REPORT 2019 - 2020

DEMONSTRATIONS

The only event the Club attended in 2020 was the Fifth Townsville City Council Get Active Expo held on 12 January 2020 at the Townsville Stadium. As reported by Deb Fazel :- “Our principal ambassadors for the occasion were Lilly the Belgian Shepherd, Coffee Crème the Border Collie and the kids favourite, Chilli the three-legged Staffy cross who stole the show as they demonstrated everything the Club offers the community...well behaved, confident, friendly and most importantly HAPPY dogs. There were almost one hundred displays representing all sorts of activity options for all levels of fitness, age and interest. But ours was the best (we had real dogs!).”



With the spread of COVID-19 all public events were cancelled from March 2020. With restrictions starting to ease it is hoped that the Pet Expo may be held later in 2020 otherwise we'll have to wait until 2021.

Thuringowa Library Display

We were fortunate to be asked by Council to showcase the activities our Club provides through a display at the Thuringowa Library during the month of February. Thanks to Snow and Deb Fazel for setting it up as I was out of action with a broken bone in my foot.



PUBLICITY

Website

Our website has all the info for new handlers wanting to train their dogs with class dates, cost and the forms needed to register. It has issues of the Club's magazines going back to 2009, a photo gallery, Hall of Fame for our Champions (still waiting for stories to go with the pictures for some of our Champions!), and everything to do on trialling.

Facebook

Our Facebook page has been up and running since May 2013 and is steadily growing, with the number of 'likes' now numbering 796, up from 667 this time last year which isn't bad seeing we are a small club. It's an easy and quick way of letting people know of upcoming events or training night cancellations.

Fliers

The Club's Fliers were handed out at the Townsville Get Active Expo, made available at the Thuringowa Library Display, and have been distributed to vet clinics to include in their puppy packs.

Magazine

As editor of the Companion Dog Magazine I've enjoyed putting together the bi-monthly magazine with feature stories on tracking and obedience trials to encourage club members to become more involved in the trialling world, as well as general interest stories.

Particular thanks to Janette Cussons and Debbie Schmidt for their descriptive reports on the Tracking and Track & Search trials and Debbie for the photos; Judy for the Obedience & Agility Trial reports; and Deb Fazel for the Training Co-ordinator report. I'm sure those stories and photos have encouraged new handlers to register for the workshops held throughout the year and boost trialling numbers.

Thankyou everyone who provided articles or photos over the last 12 months, your contributions have made every edition a great read.

Diane MacIntyre

Demonstration & Publicity Officer 2019-2020

PAWS & REFLECT: WHAT OUR DOGS TEACH US

Written by **Louise Harding** from *Animal Talent*, August 2020 for *Australian Dog Lover*
<https://www.australiandoglover.com/2020/08/paws-reflect-what-our-dogs-teach-us.html>

Life today can take a toll. Whether it's the sheer number of responsibilities we juggle or the hectic schedules we keep, life can be exhausting! What we crave is some down time where the constant hum of life takes a back seat for a few moments.

Just like we humans need to **make time to be still, calm and tune in with our surroundings**, so do dogs. During these difficult Covid-19 times while we must remain present, it's equally essential to **reflect on all the little things that bring us joy and positivity**.

In amongst all of the 'busy' it's easy to overlook the importance of **teaching our dogs and perhaps ourselves how to simply 'Be'**.

An exercise as simple as taking your dog out to a public space and sitting quietly taking in all the sights, smells, sounds and just watching the world go by, is a good starting point.

Relax breathe, look and listen to the sounds of a neighbourhood, hear them, smell them, see them and be okay with it all.

Remember, **time you spend with your dog is never wasted**, it strengthens your relationship, trust grows, and you gain confidence as your connection with your dog increases.



I believe **we can learn a lot from dogs about mindfulness**, their lives revolve around living in the moment, being spontaneous while also being aware of the stimulus around them. As intuitive creatures, dogs listen and interpret our tone of voice, body language and energy on an innate level, often more deeply than many of our human friends.

Kindness, gentleness and forgiveness are more virtues dogs gift to us, they have a special way of imparting to us exactly what we need. Never holding a grudge, they greet us with happiness, continually turn to us for affection, guidance and reward. They remind us to be content and to just enjoy the moment.

How to Train Your Dog to be Calm and Relaxed

Turning your back, being still and quiet without eye contact will encourage a dog to be near you in the same space but without the need for interaction.

This helps condition your dog to being calm and relaxed when you yourself are still and thoughtful. Hanging out and being together with your dog without the need for words, or actions is important. We all need some down time.

If your dog becomes frustrated by your lack of attention and begins to bark, it's a good idea to **teach a 'Quiet' behaviour**.

Step 1. When your dog is near you and relaxed and quiet, grab a handful of treats. Now get your dogs attention, say 'Quiet'. If he remains quiet say 'yes' and reward him with a treat.



Step 2. After enough repetitions using the command and rewarding the calm and quiet behaviour, your dog will begin to understand silence is what you're after. **It will probably take several weeks to condition this behaviour** well enough so that you can use it when your dog barks.

Step 3. When your dog woofs a couple of times, use his name to get his attention. Give the 'quiet' command. The minute your dog is quiet, **say 'yes' and reward him with a treat or calming pat**.

Calming Behaviours

✓ **Touch can be a very useful tool** when encouraging calm and relaxed behaviour.

Slow, long, gentle pats down the side of your dog delivered with a quiet and temperate tone of voice induce calming. However, quick pats on the shoulder, delivered with an excitable tone of voice will arouse your dog and incite activity.

✓ **A 'chin rest' is a simple calming behaviour** that you can teach to your dog.

Simply let your dog rest his chin in your hand, then reward him with gentle soothing pats. As your dog grows more familiar with this behaviour you can increase the duration of time. In addition to be a calming behaviour, this is a great precursor to other co-operative care behaviours.

Mindfulness Exercise

Once your dog has learned to be calm and relaxed in your presence without craving the need for constant stimulation you move on to mindfulness exercises. **Mindfulness is important because it teaches a dog to settle when your energy changes** and allows a dog to rest his mind and body.

Here is a simple mindfulness exercise to get you started.

Go to the beach, sit in the sand and encourage your dog to lie next to you. Sit quietly, acknowledging the environment around you. Feel the warmth of the sun, the breeze, listen to the sounds of the ocean, scrunch the sand under your toes.



Watch as each wave rolls into the shore, imagine your cares are riding that wave and as the wave breaks on the sand your cares are scattered and swept back into the sea as the water recedes. They are yours no more to hold. Repeat this until you feel your energy calm.

Now that you are in a state of peace, you can involve your dog with an easy mindfulness exercise.

Keep your gestures and body movements small and understated and without speaking, gently put your hand under your dog's paw.

Feel the weight of his paw in your hand. Hold his paw for 10-15 seconds, gently place it back on the sand. Remaining silent, repeat with the other paw.

Lie on Your Mat

Another great tool is to teach your dog 'lie on your mat' as a reliable command. Why? Because it's important that your dog learns to settle. Teaching your dog 'lie on your mat' is achieved by conditioning him to a command such as 'on your mat' and encouraging him to lie on a mat or rug on the ground.

This then becomes his chill out spot. Remaining there until you release him.



Before you commence teaching this, it's a **good idea to have trained your dog to have a 'down' command.**

Step 1. Give your dog a mat or blanket that becomes his spot.

Step 2. With your dog on-lead, point to the mat and give the command 'On your mat' encouraging him to lie down. Say, 'Yes' and reward him with a treat.

Step 3. After a few repetitions, gradually increase the time you expect him to remain on his spot.

Stress Reduction

Did you know that **sniffing for dogs is a great way for them to reduce stress?**

There is no need for them to have eye contact or direct interaction with a person or dog. I think we may all be able to relate a little to the stress of constant direct interactions.

Sniffing and scent matching games are fun for your dog, exercising his brain and focusing his attention on a task.



Snuffle mats and snuffle balls are a favourite with my clients and their dogs. You can purchase them ready-made or if you are even the slightest bit crafty, you can make your own. Now there's a great lockdown activity! Your dog can even be practising his 'lie on your mat' behaviour while you are busy making.

So, what is a Snuffle Mat or a Snuffle Ball?

They are quite simply, rubber mats and balls with soft strips of material threaded through their holes and tied off. Polar fleece material works well as the fabric choices. It's a great way to recycle old jumpers.



What's so great about Snuffle Mats?

Snuffle mats and balls provide mental stimulation and are heaps of sniffing fun for your dog, they are washable, transportable, and easily repaired

How does my dog use a Snuffle Mat?

To play the snuffling game, all you need to do is place a few of your dog's favourite treats randomly through the mat and let your dog sniff them out. My tip is to use treats that aren't too moist to avoid ending up with a very messy mat.

Remember, **you should always supervise your dog's snuffling games.**



Above all, cherish the time you spend with your dog. Connect with your dog and build an awesome relationship and you too will experience one thing I know to be true... **having a dog in your life is the best thing ever!**

There's no need to take my word for it, [the benefits of dog ownership](#) are widely documented. They help relieve our stress, lessen loneliness, keep our secrets and love us unconditionally. How amazing is that!

Whether our days have been joyous or devastatingly sad our dogs are there for us. They truly are our best friends.

About the writer



Louise Harding is a professional dog trainer, animal wrangler, presenter and author. She's trained numerous sled racing, agility and obedience champions. Her company, **Animal Talent**, supplies trained animal actors to the film and television industries. She's also a member of AAPTD and DOGS NSW and a proud life member of the *Manukau Dog Obedience Club*.

Louise presents regularly at major events, seminars and community gatherings. Her greatest desire is to help humans understand their dogs.

Her first book ***Nose to Tail: A Holistic to Training your Dream Dog*** was published in 2018. She's recently released [The Nose to Tail Workbooks](#), an essential guide for any dog owner offering very practical advice and easy to follow instructions with space to record your progress and questions.

THINKING OF GETTING A NEW DOG?

Getting a new dog or puppy can be a very exciting time but taking some time for pre planning can make their transition into your home much less stressful for everyone. Heres some things to consider before bringing home your new dog or puppy.



RESEACH THE BREED

So you've decided you want to add a dog to your family. Now is the time to decide on the breed or type of dog you are looking for and if they are suitable for your home. Some breeds of dogs need much more exercise than others, some breeds are better suited to appartment living than others, some make wonderful famiy pets whilst others are more suited to smaller family units. You can also consider if a puppy, young dog or senior dog would be reight for you. If you want a dog to go hiking and running with you its probably best if you don't pick a breed of dog that tends to prefer the couch potato lifestyle.

FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR DOG

While this is not always possible if you can, find out about your dog's preferences. Ask if they have favorite toys, how they have reacted around dogs and other pets. On these ones you can ask for more specifics. Ask how they behaved when seeing a dog on a walk, while they were eating, snuggling with you or enjoying a long lasting chew. Do they have any particular fears or do they get overly excited by certain things. You are not being judgemental, simply gathering information to help the transition into your home. Although dogs can act completely different in a new home it is still useful information to have.

A BIT OF HOME

If possible bring something home with them that has scents and smells that they are familiar with as this can definitely help them settle in a new environment. If adopting a dog from a foster home ask them for a blanket they were used sleeping on. It's also a good idea to get a few days worth of food as well while you transition to a new food.

DOGGY PROOFING

Some of the biggest struggles new dog owners face is destructive chewing. Dogs don't come knowing what they can and can't chew so prevention is key. Make sure and remove things you think your new dog may chew. If it's not avaiable to them they can't chew it: just make sure they have something suitable to chew. There may be some rooms that are going to be off limits to your dog so make sure and keep doors closed or install baby gates. You'll also need to check food labels and other household products to make sure there's nothing toxic to dogs in them. Xylitol can be fatal to dogs if ingested and can be found in many foods including chewing gum and peanut butter. Some plants may also be toxic to your dog so make sure they are removed or inaccessible to your dog. It's always good to remember that placing something at the back of the counter may stop a daschund but it's not likely to deter a determined labrador. You may also need to change your own habits so that food isn't left unattended on the coffee table and shoes are placed out of reach of your new family member.

DOGGY ESSENTIALS

There are some essentials you can get and these include: a 4-6 feet leash (no retractables just now), a flat collar and ID tag or collar with name embroidered (remember puppies may need several as they grow), food and water bowls, a bed, crate or play pen and long lasting chews. Once you have that you can add poop bags, enzymatic cleaners, grooming supplies, harness, treat pouch and baby gates to the list. We can sometimes get excited buying lots of toys for our new family member but its probably best to wait a little while until you find out what they really love. There's no point spending lots on plush soft toys if your dog loves nothing better than a rope tug toy! Start with one of each of the more common types such as ball, tug toy and squeaky toy.

CREATING YOUR DOG'S SPACE

You will probabably need to do some rearranging before your dog comes home. Do you know where you want them to sleep at night and stay when you are out? Have you a designated room or will you be using a crate? Whatever you decide remember that dogs either crated beside a window or having free access to look out all day may find it harder to relax. Giving them space in a quieter spot may be a better option. You'll also need to decide if you will have separate dog beds for when you are home and where they will be or if you're happy with them sleeping on the couch. This may change once your dog arrives as it may find its own space but generally being close to you but out of high traffic areas is best.

EVERYTHING ELSE DOG

You've thought of the main things but there's lots of little things to consider such as where your dogs food and water bowls will be? Where will their food and medications be kept? Where are their leashes and poop bags going to stay? where will their grooming suppllies be kept and are you going to have a toy box are you ok wth them being scattered around the house? If you ave a pool and they love to swim, where will you keep towels to dry them off before they come back inside?

HOUSE RULES

This can be one of the biggest struggles for any family. Its important to set out your expectations before you bring your dog home. If you don't want to feed the dog from the table, or let them on the couch then everyone must agree to this. If some family members allow something that another one doesn't it can become very confusing for your dog. Set up realistic expeditions. You can agree that you won't feed from the table but without training it may be unrealistic to expect your dog to walk nicely on a leash or sit to greet visitors without training.

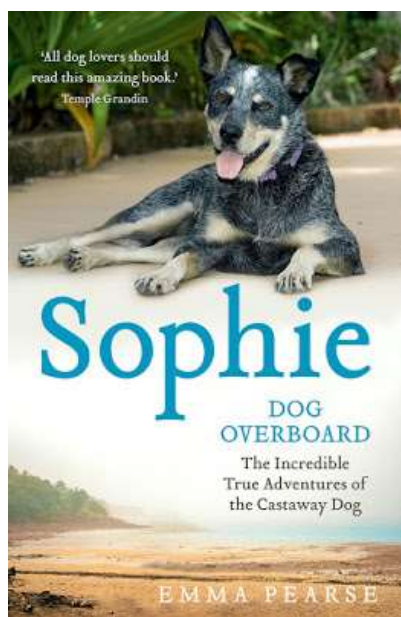
Email: doglover@thebryis.com

Tel: (832) 928 4170

BOOK REVIEW

SOPHIE - Dog Overboard

by *Emma Pearse*



The story that became a global sensation, now sold for film, of Sophie, the amazing [Australian cattle dog](#) who fell off a yacht, was feared lost, yet swam six miles through shark-infested waters to a remote Whitsunday island where she survived for five months before being miraculously reunited with her amazed owners.

When Jan and Dave Griffith's beloved cattle dog, Sophie, fell overboard from the family yacht during rough weather, she feared the worst. But Sophie, a true Aussie battler, wasn't going to give up that easily. She swam six miles through shark-infested waters to a remote Whitsunday island where she survived for five months before being miraculously reunited with her amazed owners. Sophie, a highly domesticated dog, had been living ferally - and

surviving. Yet one glimpse of her owners when they were reunited was enough for the old Sophie to re-emerge.

This is an amazing, inspirational story of survival, loyalty and what binds animals and humans together.

Paperback, 320 pages

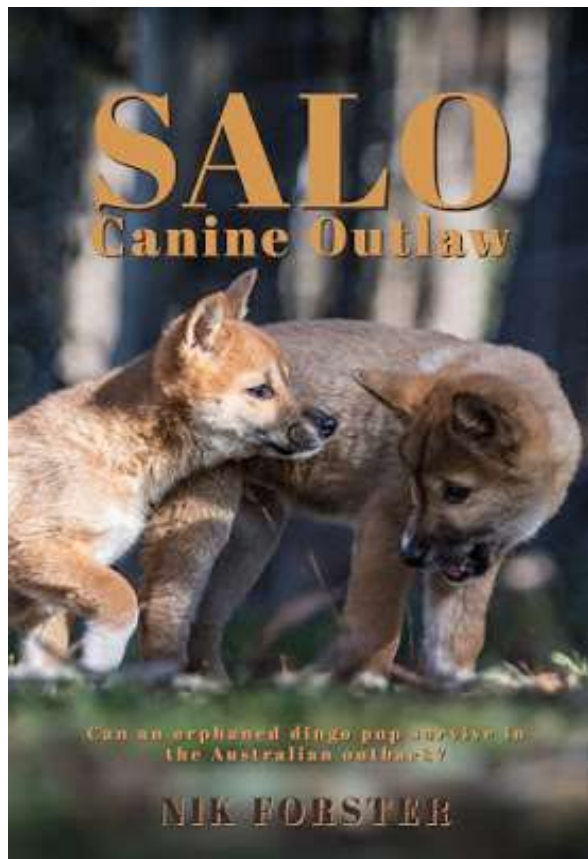
Publisher: **Hodder & Stoughton**, 8th September 2020

RRP: \$21.99 at www.booktopia.com.au

SALO - Canine Outlaw

by **Nik Forster**

This is the story of Salo, a dingo pup near to death, rescued by David Waringales, an elderly Aboriginal man who lives a solitary life in the outback. He raises the pup with young ones from his own dog, Tessa. A violent storm from the south disrupts his life and forces his dogs to fend for themselves and commit the unforgivable crime; killing sheep. In no time they have a bounty on their heads.



The native Aboriginal population welcomed the dingo to their fires, not only did they have them as companions but as a food source and means of warmth at night, at the same time incorporating them into their spiritual lives.

The large dog, ignorant of his ancestry, made his way through the tangled heath and up onto a small rocky embankment that sloped upward from the dense vegetation. He coughed, as near as a dingo gets to bark, and greeted his mate.

Book sales help the [Bargo Dingo Sanctuary](#)'s conservation and breeding programs.

Paperback, 160 pages

Publisher: **Dandiprawn Productions**, 7th April 2020

Price: \$19.95 (special offer) from [Forster Books](#)

CANINE OBEDIENCE CLUB OF TOWNSVILLE INC 2020 OBEDIENCE AND AGILITY TRIAL CALENDAR

ENTERING TRIALS

Preferred method of entry for trials is through K9 Entries.

Click here to start <https://www.k9entries.com/using.php>

COMPETITORS PLEASE NOTE

It is an expectation that competitors will assist with ring setups, changes and stewarding when requested
Open Agility offered on all trials

DATE	TIME	TRIAL	JUDGES
April Double Trial – CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19			
April 3 rd	7pm	Obedience all levels	Cathy O'Shea
April 3 rd	7pm	Rally O all levels	Roel Wittkamp
April 4 th	3pm	Jumpers all levels	Tim Fairchild
April 4 th	3pm	Agility all levels	Roel Wittkamp
April 4 th	7pm	Jumpers all levels	Tim Fairchild
April 4 th	after gamblers	Agility all levels	Roel Wittkamp
April 4 th	7pm	Obedience all levels	Cathy O'Shea
May Double Trial – CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19			
May 15 th	7pm	UDX	Barbara Murfet
May 15 th	7pm	UD CDX CD CCD	Tricia Williams
May 15 th	after UDX	Rally O all levels	Barbara Murfet
May 16 th	2pm	Jumpers all levels	Tim Fairchild
May 16 th	after Agility	Snooker all levels	Annette Gniel
May 16 th	4pm	Rally O all levels	Barbara Murfet
May 16 th	7pm	Obedience all levels	Barbara Murfet
May 16 th	7pm	Jumpers all levels	Annette Gniel
May 16 th	after pairs	Agility all levels	Tim Fairchild
July Double Trial – CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19			
July 17 th	7pm	Obedience UD CDX CD CCD	Lisa Sinclair
		UDX	Cathy O'Shea
July 17 th	7 pm	Rally O all levels	Maryanne Fazekas
July 18 th	2pm	Jumpers	Tim Fairchild
July 18 th	after Gamblers	Agility all levels	Roger Padfield
July 18 th	4 pm	Rally O all levels	Maryanne Fazekas
July 18 th	7pm	Obedience UD CDX CD CCD	Maryanne Fazekas
July 18 th		UDX	Cathy O'Shea
July 18 th	7pm	Jumpers all levels	Roger Padfield
July 18 th	after Pairs	Agility all levels	Tim Fairchild

DATE	TIME	TRIAL	JUDGES
July/August Double Trial – CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19			
July 31 st	7pm	Obedience UD CDX CD CCD UDX	Lisa Sinclair Judy Forbes-Faulkner
July 31 st	7 pm	Rally O	Julie Doig
August 1 st	2pm	Jumpers all levels	Roel Wittkamp
August 1 st	agility after	Gamblers all levels	Heather Northover
August 1 st	4 pm	Rally O all levels	Julie Doig
August 1 st	7pm	Obedience all levels	Judy Forbes-Faulkner
August 1 st	7pm	Jumpers all levels	Heather Northover
August 1 st	pairs then	Agility all levels	Roel Wittkamp
August Double Trial – WAS HELD, OBEDIENCE & RALLY ONLY!			
August 28 th	7pm	Obedience UD CDX CD CCD UDX	Roel Wittkamp Judy Forbes-Faulkner
August 28 th	7pm	Rally O all levels	Julie Doig
August 29 th	4pm	Rally O all levels	Julie Doig
August 29 th	7 pm	Obedience UD CDX CD CCD UDX	Roel Wittkamp Judy Forbes-Faulkner
September Double Trial – WILL BE HELD, OBEDIENCE & RALLY ONLY!			
ENTRIES CLOSE 14.09.2020			
Sept 25 th	7pm	UD CDX CD CCD UDX	Tricia Williams Judy Forbes-Faulkner
Sept 25 th	7pm	Rally O all levels	Andrea Wohlhuter
Sept 26 th	7pm	UD CDX CD CCD UDX	Tricia Williams Judy Forbes-Faulkner
Sept 26 th	7pm	Rally O all levels	Andrea Wohlhuter

Why Title A Dog?

Not just a brag, not just a stepping stone to a higher title, not just an adjunct to competitive scores, a title is a tribute to the dog that bears it, a way to honor the dog, an ultimate memorial. It will remain in the record and in memory for as long as anything in this world can remain. Few humans will do as well or better in that regard.

And though the dog itself doesn't know or care that its achievements have been noted, a title says many things in the world of humans, where such things count.

A title says your dog was intelligent and adaptable, and good-natured. It says that your dog loved you enough to do things that please you, however crazy they may have sometimes seemed.

And a title says that you loved your dog, that you loved to spend time with it because it was a good dog, that you believed in it enough to give it yet another chance when it failed, and that, in the end, your faith was justified.

-Sandra Mowery

CANINE OBEDIENCE CLUB OF TOWNSVILLE INC 2020 TRACK and SEARCH AND TRACKING TRIAL CALENDAR

COST : \$20 per entry (NO breakfast for Track & Search)

Entries close 14 days prior to the trial

NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED

Contact Tracking Co-Ordinator Janette Cussons for further information

Mobile 0417614261 | Email jcussons2@bigpond.com

NOTES FOR COMPETITORS

- 🐾 Fields restricted to 8 per trial
- 🐾 Handlers restricted to no more than 1 entry in a trial unless less than 8 entries
- 🐾 Ballot to be held if more than 8 entries per day
- 🐾 Entry fees refunded to balloted dogs

All trials – vetting 5.30 am, start 6:00 am

ALL CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

Date	Trial	Judge	Location
Sat March 21	Track & Search	Roel Wittkamp and Debbie Schmidt	Annandale and Aitkenvale
Sun March 22	Track & Search	Roel Wittkamp and Debbie Schmidt	Annandale and Aitkenvale
Sat April 11	Track & Search	Roel Wittkamp and Debbie Schmidt	Annandale and Aitkenvale
Sun April 12	Tracking	Roel Wittkamp and Debbie Schmidt	Alice River
Sat May 9	Track & Search	Heidi Christoffel / Debbie Schmidt	Annandale and Aitkenvale
Sun May 10	Tracking	Janette Cussons / Debbie Schmidt	Alice River
Sat June 13	Track & Search	Annette Dobson / Debbie Schmidt	Annandale and Aitkenvale
Sun June 14	Tracking	Annette Dobson / Janette Cussons	Alice River
Sat July 11	Track & Search	Coral Pethers and Deb Lamprecht	Annandale and Aitkenvale
Sun July 12	Tracking	Coral Pethers and Deb Lamprecht	Alice River



BACK PAGE FUNNIES



L'art



L'artiste



TRIED TO
CATCH FOG YESTERDAY

PLS NO



MIST



When I say
"I'M JUST GOING TO
THE TOILET"
my dogs hear
"FAMILY MEETING,
ASSEMBLE NOW!"

When women get to a
certain age, they start
accumulating dogs.
This is known as
Manypaws.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

THE END