

Milton Ulladulla Dog Training Club Inc
www.mudtc.org.au

Newsletter



Issue 145

April 2023

Established 1979

In our 44th year

Great Start to 2023

It has been a very busy and exciting start to 2023 for Dog Club. We welcomed 21 new members in February. Our new members attended regularly and almost all graduated from our first Quick Start course to Class 1 on 26 February. This means that Class 1 is a large group and we have had up to 3 Instructors working with Class 1 members.

As a result we have established two levels of Quick Start to give our new members more time to practice before moving into Class 1 and more time for Class 1 members to prepare for their Class 2 assessment.

On 12 February we held our Club presentations with morning tea, once again organized by our fabulous Catering Officer Jenny. It was great to see

so many members were able to attend to receive their awards.

Congratulations to all our handler and dog award recipients of 2022.

All members will have an opportunity to compete this year as preparation is underway to design our 2023 Fun Club Championships which will be held in September. Once the exercises are finalised Instructors will practice them in class with you.

Other fantastic news is that Shoalhaven City Council is in the process of obtaining quotations to construct the two fenced areas, which will be available for Dog Club use, when the Croquet Club moves to South Ulladulla.

Time frame is unknown but the roadworks at the Showground are expected to be completed by June and hopefully the fence construction could start after that is finalised.

Thanks to the initiative of Instructor Rosie Milton Club has introduced Trick training classes which are held 2nd and 4th Wednesdays (4pm) Saturdays (2pm). Any member from any class is welcome to join these classes which last for about 40 minutes.

Follow [this link](#) for more information about Trick Dogs.

Best Wishes

Janet

Newsletter Editor

WHAT'S COMING UP?

ADAA AGILITY TRIAL 21&22 MAY

RSPCA PAWS WALK LIONS PARK 28 MAY

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Special points of interest:

- ◆ Great news about fencing from Shoalhaven City Council
- ◆ Arrangements for 21st and 28 May
- ◆ First Aid Officers

MUDTC Extreme Weather Policy

Reproduced here for member's benefit, as we are holding some classes in the afternoon, when heat may become an issue.

The Club will not conduct, or continue to conduct, official training sessions when the ambient temperature exceeds 35 deg C as measured in the shade of areas used for train-

ing on hot days. Instructors will also use their judgement as to whether or not extreme humidity may cause excessive heat load on handlers and/or dogs, and may choose to abandon or modify training as deemed appropriate, at their discretion. Individual handlers are also encouraged to consider their

particular circumstances (handler/dog team). The handler should always feel free to withdraw from training if she/he is concerned about the effect of the prevailing conditions on their team.

Training will not be conducted during lightning storms.

Events in May

Another busy month ahead with the Club's ADAA (Agility) Competition on the weekend of 20 and 21 May at Mollymook Oval (entrance off Carroll Avenue) over both days. Several Instructors and Committee members will be at Mollymook to help out at the event.

You are welcome to come and see the agility comp in action, and enjoy a sausage sandwich from our catering crew. It is best to leave your own dog at home as they may become excited by all the activity.

Training Classes will go ahead on 21 May at the Showground but

with possibly some adjustments. We will let you know through email and our Facebook what the final arrangements will be for the weekend.

Then on Sunday 28 May the local RSPCA Branch annual fund raising day and Paws Walk will be held at the Lions Park Burrill Lake. Our demo team and several of our Instructors will be busy helping at Lions Park.

Puppy Class will be held as usual at 8.30am at Milton Showground. Arrangements for holding all other classes will be finalised once we have an idea of

numbers attending. This Sunday (7 May) your Instructor will ask you if you will attend a training class held at Lions Park Burrill Lake at 9.45 or attend a class at Milton Showground.

The Paws Walk starts at approximately 11am and so if you attend Lions Park for your class you will be able to join the fund raising walk as well.

Final Arrangements for the AD-DA weekend and RSPCA weekend will be confirmed for members as soon as possible, closer to the dates.

Clicker Training & the Learning Plateau

Beginner training classes at our Club focus on the use of a "clicker" to help train dogs. Clicker training is a reward based training method. It started back in the 1970s and is a no-pushing or prodding, no punishment, enjoyable, fun, easy to understand method of training. Handlers need a "clicker" and some very tasty food treats. These are provided to all new members on their first day. The clicker remains their property, but food treats for subsequent weeks need to be provided by individual handlers. The "clicker"

makes a distinctive click sound when you press it. Every time your dog gets something right it hears a click which means well done you are going to get a treat for doing that. To start with you must get the association in the dog's mind that if it hears a click a reward will follow. To do this "click" and give the dog a treat. Repeat this click/treat exercise until the dogs starts to look for a treat when it hears the click. When practising clicker training at home it is a good idea to find a quiet corner somewhere, so you and your dog can focus com-

pletely on the training. Another important principle of clicker training is that the word for the training exercise, for example "sit", "drop", "stay", is not introduced until the dog is 100% perfect in the particular exercise.

The Learning Plateau In every learning curve there is what is known as a learning plateau. Your dog may suddenly appear to have forgotten things he has learned. This is only temporary so continue with training and perhaps go back to an easier exercise. Most importantly, be patient.

Loose Leash Walking

Article from RSPCA Australia

How to walk calmly and happily on a leash is one of the most important things we can teach our dog. If you've ever walked an overly excited or stressed dog on a leash, you know just it can be frustrating, stressful and sometimes scary.

It's never too late to teach a dog how to walk well on a leash. Whether they are a puppy or an adult, leash and harness training is achievable and essential at any stage of a dog's life.

Understanding poor leash behaviour

For most dogs, walking on a leash doesn't come naturally and they need to get used to it. With vastly superior senses to humans, dogs can see, smell and hear things far more intensely than us and dogs often wish to explore the world at a much faster pace than we do.

However, with time, patience and gentle encouragement, most dogs adjust to walking on a leash. Some will even appreciate the

slower pace, stopping to sniff more frequently and absorb the sights and sounds around them.

Make sure the fit is right

A well fitted harness or collar is essential so your dog can walk comfortably on a leash. The general rule of thumb for collars is that you need to be able to slide two fingers easily under the collar. Puppies grow very quickly, so make sure to check the fit of their harness/collar a couple times a week.

Make sure to invest in a good quality leash that is right for the size of your dog. Smaller dogs require thinner leashes with a small clip, while large dogs should have a thicker leash with a large clip. Leashes should also be long enough to allow your dog some range and ability to explore and sniff the world around them, but not so long that the dog can get themselves into trouble.

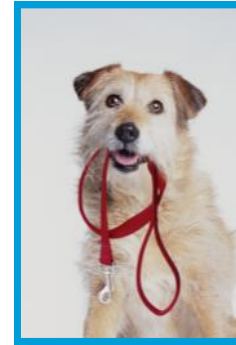
Loose leash walking

Loose leash walking should be the ultimate goal of your training sessions. Loose leash walking refers to when a dog is walking

with a slack leash, without any tension or strain. This is gold standard leash walking.

The best way to encourage your dog to walk with a loose leash is by using a reward-based training method. Essentially, if a dog is walking on the leash without pulling, reward them with a treat. However, if they start pulling or tugging, come to a complete stop and stand very still. This teaches them that pulling on their leash actually slows them down, rather than speeding them forward.

The actual steps for this are discussed in our Club's training classes, and included in Quick Start notes and is one of several options to work with to achieve loose leash walking



Trophy & Award Recipients in 2022



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[Join us on Facebook](#)

where you need to successfully answer 2 questions to be accepted into the private Group.

Committee meetings held bi-monthly at 10.30am at the Showground members are welcome to attend Next Meeting is in June

Articles appearing in this newsletter are considered to be of interest to members, but do not necessarily express the opinions of the Committee or of the Editor

Committee Members:

President Jan Lyall

Vice President Liz Karacsonyi

Secretary Janet Smith; Assistant Secretary Jenny Patch

Treasurer Bea Mies

New Member Officer Colleen Ringe

Catering Officer Jenny Patch

General members Janis Price and Lori Muir

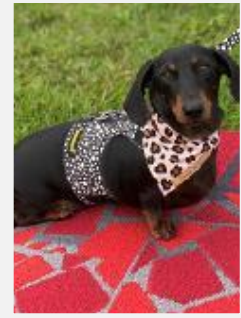
Team Leaders:

Obedience: Liz Karacsonyi

Rally Sub-committee; Carolyn Campbell, Chris Ruelle, Adele Porter

Agility; Jenny Marshall, Rosie Milton

Tricks; Rosie Milton



Thank you Linda for donating these great new mats which Judy likes very much



Thank you Janice for making and donating these tug toys to Club

President's Report

Great to have had so many new members as we start our 2023 year. As reported earlier in February we welcomed 21 members and since then another 14 have joined us with their dogs. Our total membership is 110.

Thank you to instructors and all members for their patience in coping with our temporary facilities on the Eastern side of the Showground. As Janet has already mentioned it is encouraging to know that Council is preparing for our eventual move to the area now occupied by the Croquet Club

After completion of the first Quick Start course we handed our new members a "how did we do" questionnaire and will continue this during the year. Please take 5 minutes to give us your feedback. It is from your feedback that we know what we are doing well and what could be improved.

Committee meetings are held bi-monthly and all members are welcome to attend. If you are not a meeting person then please talk with one of our Instructors or General Committee members, Janis and Lori who will raise your item on the agenda. Sometimes a matter can be dealt with straight away rather than need wait for our next committee meeting.

I am very grateful to members Natalie Moore, Chris Ruelle and Rhondda Hubbard who put their hands up to be our First Aid Officers. Grateful thanks to former member Lisa Martin who was our First Aid Officer in 2022. Natalie, Chris and Rhondda will all be wearing a First Aid badge at training so you will know who they are. We hope their services won't be needed, but it's great to know they are available.

It was wonderful to be able to give Jenny Patch a big surprise



on the occasion of her 70th birthday. She thought that she was merely lunching with two friends at the Ex-Servos Club on 24 April and was completely

blown away when more than a dozen Committee and Demo Team members marched in carrying balloons and singing Happy Birthday. The magnificent cake that had been organised by Bea was enjoyed by all. The surprise was a well-kept secret - Jenny gives so generously to our Club that it was a pleasure to give her an idea of how much she is appreciated

Regards

Jan Lyall - President MUDTC