

PAW PRINT

Knox Obedience Dog Club
Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2017

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2016 AWARD WINNERS

Highest Achiever	Marg & Phoenix
Highest Scoring Agility	Steph & Penny
Highest Scoring Obedience	Marta & Mac

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Trevor May

The start of 2017 is a start of a big year for the club; we will be celebrating our 50th birthday in October. 2017 also brings with in some changes. At the Annual General Meeting of the club held in early December a new committee was elected. I welcome both new and present members to what I hope to be another great year at KODC. On behalf of you all I would like to thank the outgoing committee for all the wonderful work they did to keep up the high standard and presence within the community. A special thanks to Vicki Reid the outgoing president who has just completed the second longest term as president in club history (10 years). Vicki now takes up the position of Treasurer.

President	Trevor May
Vice President	Margaretha Hovens
Vice President	Luke Kenny
Secretary	John Nielsen
Assistant Secretary	Megan Pepprell
Treasurer	Vicki Reid
Membership Secretary	Debra Cartledge
Publicity Manager	Luke Kenny
Supervisor Of Training	David Thorn
Catering Manager	To be advised
Kitchen Convener/BBQ	Margaretha Hovens
Refreshments Manager	To be advised
Social Convener	Susan Witty
House Convener	To be advised
Property Manager	To be advised
Dog Shop Manager	Kristen Petersen
Ground Manager	David Thorn
Trial Manager Tracking	Trevor May
Trial Secretary Agility	Marta Schnider
Trial Coordinator Agility	Norman Morcom
Trial Reporter	Nola Williams
Trophy Manager	Patricia Roberts
Liaison	Trevor May/Margaretha Hovens/ Luke Kenny/Henk Morren

For those of you that are or even thinking of competing you should make a habit of personally signing the attendance book, which is available at the canteen. To be eligible for any of the special awards you must have signed the attendance book on at least 10 occasions during the year.

The club runs a number of trials each year. The club will be looking for people as stewards and helpers. You do not need any experience, as instruction will be given. It has been found to be a very educational and enjoyable experience by most. So please give your name to the office.

I am sure that everyone knows that this club is run on a voluntary basis. Hence the club is always happy to have extra helpers. Even if only for half an hour here and there, your help would be much appreciated. If you can help in any way please leave your name at the office.

Till next month

Trevor May

ABOUT PAWPRINT

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Pawprint, our monthly newsletter is full of information, training tips and important news about club happenings. Pick up your copy on the FIRST SUNDAY of each month - they are found on the counter at the club kitchen or the sign-up office window.

THE TEAM

Luke Kenny
Christine Devlin
Marta McKenzie
Nola Williams
Kristy Proudlock
Norman Morcom

Disclaimer

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

Legal note

The Editor and the Committee of the KODC accept no responsibility for the accuracy of



IMPORTANCE OF GOOD HEELING

By Marta McKenzie

Successful obedience is the result of many hours of solid work with your dog. These include improving footwork.

Firstly practice correct footwork without dog. Then when you are working with your dog, your improved footwork will come naturally. There are several methods that work very effectively. The important thing is to select one method that works well for you and your dog and stick with it for now. Some modifications might need to be made as you and your dog progress in the training due to how fast the dog works and the size of your dog. Practice walking in a straight line by walking on lines in a parking lot, or lining yourself up with floor tiles in a long hallway.

Taking first step of heeling.

Starting on the left leg: Probably best for the slower or less attentive dog.

Starting on the right leg: Probably best for the fast, ready to go dog. This start has a tendency to keep the dog in more of a straight line when beginning to heel and avoids a bump on the first step.

The length of the first step of heeling depends on how fast the dog works and the size of the dog. Don't leave your dog behind because you took big step.

Line up to start an exercise with half or full circle to the left with a sit command as you come to a halt. Follow with praise. This gets the dog into the correct position with a minimum of fussing, gives you a chance to praise your dog and makes you both feel more confident at the beginning of the exercise.

facebook

Knox Obedience Dog
Club Facebook Group

Come and join the
Knox Obedience Dog
Club Facebook Group.

XMAS PARTY 2016





OUR BEST PERFORMERS FOR 2016

One of the highlights of our Christmas Party each year is the announcement of our club's highest scoring dogs at trials during the year. For 2016 the perpetual trophy for Highest Scoring Dog in Agility was awarded to Stephanie Hirst and her sheltie Penny. They also took off the trophy for the most successful dog in Agility Games.

Not only did Steph and Penny collect a mountain of competition passes, including many first places, during the year, but they also represented Victoria in the State Team which competed at the National Trial in Adelaide. They were also selected to compete in the Top Dog agility event at the State Trial.



The trophy for the Most Successful Dog in Jumping was won by Alois Schnider and his border collie Chloe. They amassed over 40 passes at the highest (Masters) level during the year, including many first places against the best dogs in Victoria. But their greatest success was winning the Top Dog jumping event at the State Trial run by Dogs Victoria.

For that event our State's 10 best jumping dogs over the year are selected to compete in an exclusive event over a particularly difficult course. The event attracts a large crowd of spectators

NEW RACKS FOR OUR TRAILER

The club's working bee on 22 January saw a big turn-up of agiliteers who worked hard. The equipment shed was cleaned and tidied up beautifully. A new set of racks were added to the side of our equipment trailer to carry the dog-walk frames and the see-saw plank.

Special thanks go to David Devlin for his welding. The job is a fine testament to his skills. David was not satisfied with each welded attachment until he stood and bounced on each arm of the new racking. The new racks make it much easier and safer to load and unload our agility equipment from the trailer.



OUR OTHER TROPHY AWARDEES FOR 2016

Any club member can receive a trophy in December if their dog gains a title during the year. It must be a performance title like agility, obedience or tracking (and not one for conformation beauty contests).

Many of our “agiliteers” are active, and successful, participants at agility trials. We accordingly had some additional recipients of club trophies because of their success in gaining titles during their year.



Susan Witty gained Pep's first titles, namely Novice Agility and Novice Jumping.



Nicole Wain took Kimba to her Novice Gamblers title. And it's great to see Kimba continuing agility trialling (as well as Rally-O) even though she's subsequently lost one rear leg.



Martha Schnider took Bella to Masters Agility and Masters Jumping titles.

PRACTICE DURING THE SUMMER BREAK



Dogs love to keep active. Warmer weather is not a sufficient reason to stop practicing your dog handling skills and having fun. Early mornings and balmy evenings are perfect.

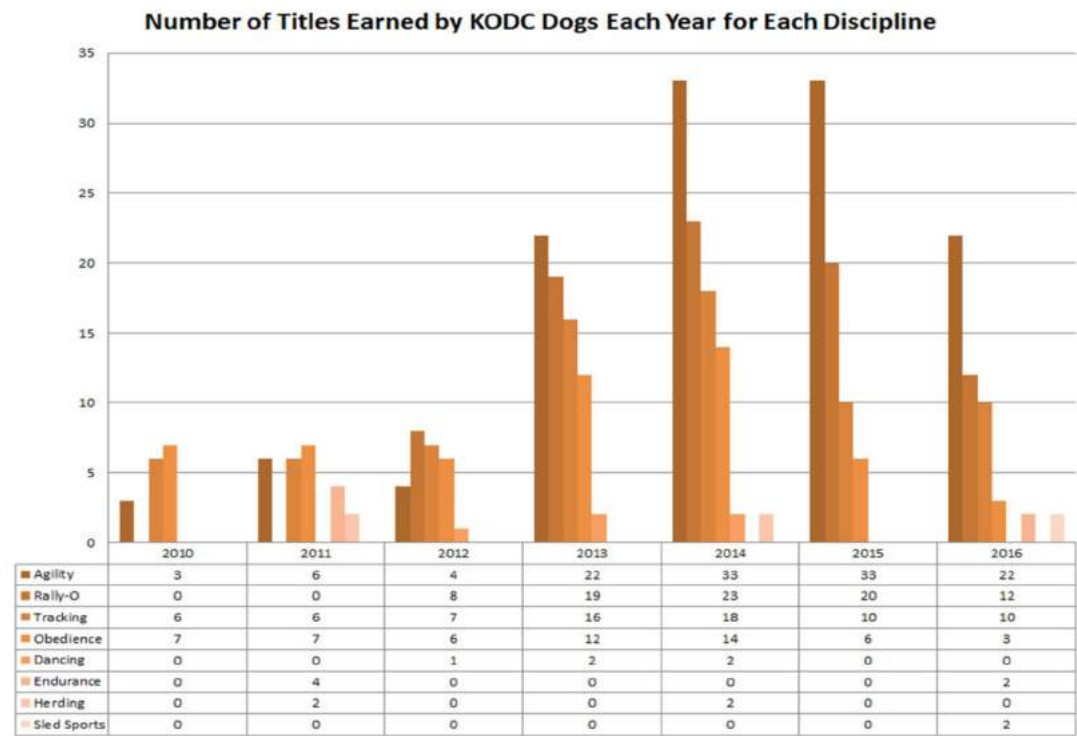
TRIALS REPORT

by Nola Williams—Trial Reporter

There were no trials during December and January due to the silly season pre-Christmas, the recovery period just after, and the potential for hot weather.

So now is a good time to take a bird’s eye review of our club’s successes at trials over the past trialling year (November 2015 to October 2016).

Our dogs gained over 200 passes in trials. This resulted in 51 titles being earned. The chart below provides a comparison with previous years:



We can make some interesting observations. Most apparent is the big rise in Agility from a minor role before 2012 to becoming increasingly the most active from 2013 onwards.

Also clear is the strong rise in Rally-O since its incep-

tion in 2012. Rally-O was introduced, in part, to provide an introduction to the skills required for more formal Obedience competition. But the child has taken an independent trajectory from its parent as Rally-O has introduced more advanced skills, and higher level titles.

The result has been a drop in the number of participants in the more formal Obedience trials. Last year our club had four times as many titles earned in Rally-O than in Obedience.

Many will find it surprising that Tracking has continually featured so strongly. Our club has a very active, and extremely successful, group of trackers. Because they’re “undercover” on Sunday mornings, many club members may not be aware of their activities.

It’s also good to see the occasional title being granted in Dancing, Endurance and Herding.

Finally, it should be noted that last year, for the first time, we saw a title (in fact two titles) in sled sports. These are for dogs trained to pull sleds. Although aimed primarily at husky-type dogs, our club’s first awardees were in fact Dalmatians!



FOUNDATION CLASS

by Christine Devlin

KODC launched a new Foundation class in 2016, which will continue to be offered in 2017. The class starts at 10.50am on Sunday mornings and is held near the Agility trailer.

The objective of this class is to help handlers:-

- build a better relationship with their dog
- understand positive reinforcement training
- learn how to motivate their dog

The Foundation Class is not designed to replace Obedience classes; rather, it is intended to complement the skills learnt in class.

The foundation exercises are applicable for Obedience, Rally-O and Agility competition, however the trusted family pet will also benefit from the fun games that are played.

The Foundation class is open to any dogs, of any age, of any obedience level. All exercises involved in the Foundation Class are low impact – making this a perfect class for puppies and older dogs alike. Young dogs starting a competition career will benefit from the simple sequences, while experienced dogs will gain a greater understanding of exercises by going back to basics.

Low class sizes means the games can be tailored to the individual level for each team. Is this your first time running around a cone – no problem – let's put the cone nice and close. Done this before? No problem – let's move the cone further away and work some distance skills. Still too easy – no problem – let's add 2 cones and work some Agility Handling doing front crosses and post turns.

Typical activities covered in the Foundation Class include:

- Relationship Building - Collar Grab, PB&J, Recalls around the leg, tugging, Drive to Hand
- Shaping – correct mechanics, reinforcement rate, splitting behaviours
- Tricks - Spin, Twist, Pretty, Roll Over, weaving thru legs, backup
- Targeting – Handlers hand, objects in hand, objects on ground, picking up objects, heeling
- Body Awareness - Ladder, Stretching, wobble board, perch work, perch with jump bump
- IYC - Food in Hand, Food on Ground, throwing food, 4 paws on the ground
- Loose lead walking - watch, Intro to the different methods of teaching heel (RZ, pocket heeling, choose to heel)
- Retrieve - give & take, pick up from ground, tugging

KODC Treat Pouches ONLY \$25 AT THE SHOP



- Agility Specific Turns - Cone work (Post Turns, Front Cross)
- Jumping – Start line Stays, verbals, jump grids
- Shadow Handling - small circles, dog on both sides
- Tunnel – Start line Stays, straight tunnel, curved tunnel, find the entrance

If you are interested in joining the Foundation Class, come along at 10.50am on Sunday morning to the Agility trailer and we can play some games!

Bring plenty of treats and a couple of toys that your dog likes to play with.

Three easy steps to follow;

Visit The Good Guys Bayswater and make any purchase greater than \$25

Mention the club before making your payment

Receive Bayswater Bucks vouchers to be returned to the club



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INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

CLUB RULES	Instructors may secure their dogs as they deem appropriate while instructing.
No bitches in season permitted on or near the training ground.	Dogs are allowed in the Clubhouse, excluding areas set aside for the preparation or serving of food, except on such days as Committee considers inappropriate.
No dogs allowed on the ground without a lead, unless under the supervision of an Instructor.	No dogs are to be left in the Office, except those belonging to the Club members working there.
No children other than child handlers permitted on the training ground.	Dog droppings to be cleaned up immediately .
No smoking is permitted while attending class, in the clubhouse, under the covered area outside the Clubhouse, or within 5 metres of any active Class.	Handlers must be a financial member of the club to attend training and use of the club facilities.
No hitting a dog, except when trying to prevent a fight or prevent a dog biting a person.	All members must wear their current membership card while attending training.
Unless crated, Dogs are not to be:	Any dog showing visible signs of any disease or injury will be asked to leave the training ground and to seek veterinary advice.
left unattended,	A dog that has bitten, or in the opinion of the training panel shows an extreme tendency of unprovoked aggression towards people, must be muzzled.
tied to a car,	Members have the right of appeal against muzzling if it can be proved, beyond doubt, that the dog was provoked.
tied to any Clubhouse structure,	Removal of a muzzle will be decided by the committee, at the recommendation of the Training Panel.
left in the Clubhouse, or	
left in the care of children under 10 years old.	

YELLOW BANDANAS	around their dog at all times.
The Knox Obedience Dog Club has available Yellow Bandanas to identify dogs that may need a bit of space around them.	So if you feel your dog needs to be given their own space, then go to the office and obtain a bandana for the day. Please return them when you have finished, so that other dogs can have their turn.
The reason for needing one could be nervousness, recovery from an operation (i.e.: convalescing,) or a dog who is unsociable to people or other dogs.	AVOID DOGS TIED UP AND IN CRATES
When approaching a yellow bandana dog please make sure your dog doesn't go running up to it freely, just as the handler of the yellow bandana dog should be mindful of the space	From time to time Instructors and ring users will tie or crate a dog while they are working or helping other members. Please avoid letting your dog approach any dog without first communicating with its owner.

Knox Obedience Club Membership Fees

Membership	Annual Fee	Joining Fee	Total
Juniors (10-16 years)	\$30	\$25	\$55
Single Adult (17 years and older)	\$50	\$25	\$75
Family Unit (2 memberships included)	\$80	\$25	\$105
Pensioner / Senior	\$30	\$25	\$55
Dual Pensioner / Senior	\$50	\$25	\$75

(Children under the age of 10 are not permitted to have control of a dog in any of the classes)

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	Joining Fee is paid for the first year only, or if membership has not been renewed within 21 days of the due date. The financial year begins on 1st November and ends on 31st October.
	Reduced Fees Apply for new memberships after mid year. See office staff for details

TRAINING CALENDAR

Month	Date	Date	Training	Other Events
February	Sunday	5	Normal Training	First Full Sunday Training 2017
	Tuesday	7	Tuesday Night Training	
	Sunday	12	Normal Training	
	Tuesday	14	Tuesday Night Training	
	Sunday	19	Normal Training	Class Testing (2)
	Tuesday	21	Tuesday Night Training	
	Sunday	26	Normal Training	Class Testing (B, P, 1, 3)
	Tuesday	28	Tuesday Night Training	
March	Sunday	5	Normal Training	
	Tuesday	7	Tuesday Night Training	
	Sunday	12	NO TRAINING	Labour Day Weekend
	Tuesday	14	NO TRAINING	Labour Day Weekend
	Sunday	19	Normal Training	Class Testing (2)
	Tuesday	21	Tuesday Night Training	
	Sunday	26	Normal Training	Class Testing (B, P, 1, 3)
	Tuesday	28	Tuesday Night Training	
April	Sunday	2	Normal Training	
	Sunday	9	Normal Training	No Agility Training
	Sunday	16	NO TRAINING	Easter Weekend
	Sunday	23	Normal Training	Class Testing (2)
	Sunday	30	Normal Training	Class Testing (B, P, 1, 3), No Agility Training

SUNDAY MORNING TRAINING TIMES

First Session (Classes 2, 3 & 4)	8:30-9:30am
Second Session (Baby Puppies, Beginners, Advanced Puppies & Class 1)	9:45-10:45am
Obedience Trial Work	From 8:30am
Rally-O Trial Work	From 8:30am
Agility Advanced Trial Work	8:15-9:00am
Agility Intermediates	9:05-9:45am
Agility Beginners	9:50-10:30am
Foundation	10:50-11:40am

KODC COMMITTEE 2017

President	Trevor May
Vice President	Margaretha Hovens
Vice President	Luke Kenny
Treasurer	Vicki Reid
Club Secretary	John Nielsen
Ass. Secretary	Megan Pepprell
General Committee Members	
David Thorn	Nola Williams
Debra Cartledge	Norman Morcom
Kirsten Petersen	Patricia Roberts
Martha Schnider	Susan Witty

INSTRUCTORS 2017

Baby Puppy - Megan, Patricia
Advanced Puppy - Christine
Beginners - Kristy, John
Class 1 - Bob, Ray, Warwick
Class 2 - Mark
Class 3 - Tim, Peter
Class 4 - John

Agility - Norman, Alois, Wendy
Obedience Ring Work - Marta, Tim, Gordon
Rally Obedience - TBA
Tracking - Trevor
Foundation - Alois, Christine, Anne, Norman



O B E D I E N C E R A L L Y - O

T R A C K I N G A G I L I T Y



KNOX OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC.

(Affiliated with the Victorian Canine Association Inc.)

Knox Park, Cnr. Ferntree Gully & Scoresby Roads, Knoxfield, Vic 3180

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