

Wollongong Dog Sports Club



Welcome to the new look newsletter

April 2010

WDSC Inc. Contact Details

WEBSITE:

www.wollongongdogsports.org

EMAIL:

wollongongdogsportsclub@gmail.com

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR:

Robyn McPhee
Ph: 42729375

PRESIDENT:

Ros Grant
Ph: 42712187

TRAINING NIGHT:

Monday nights 6.15 for 6.30pm START

If it looks like rain, or you're not sure if training is on, phone Robyn between 5.20 and 5.40pm.

Upcoming Club Events:

- Saturday 8th May—Working Bee
- Sunday 23rd May—WDSC trial
- Xmas In July Social Night—Details to be confirmed



Figtree Store—a huge sponsor of our club

Please support them when you can

WINNERS.....

Easter Egg Baskets...

Congratulations to Bradley Goodes and Merrill Lefley who were the winners of our two Easter baskets for members who have attended training over the month of March.

A big thank you to all members who came along to training and donated to the baskets.



Training Reminders:-

- **Arrive in time to assist with the gear. If you can't, stay back to help put it away.**
- **Leave your dog secured at your car while you come and pay at the table and set up the equipment**
- **Bring along a poo bag for your dog and if you need to use it, take it with you when you leave for disposal**
- **Don't forget your dog's treats or tug toy for reward**
- **Please keep control of your dog at all times. If you have a beginner dog, be aware that not all dogs like other dogs.**
- **Always ask Ros or Robyn if you are not sure about something, or you have a positive suggestion that could help the club**

Welcome to the new look newsletter

I have changed the format of the club newsletter in readiness for our website upgrade next month.

The newsletter will be available on the website for download.

So, for this month I thought I would introduce firstly myself—the newsletter editor (and WDSC Inc. Treasurer).

Each month we will feature each of the other Committee Members then, work our way through our trial committee and other working members.

Hopefully this will put a 'face to the name' for our newer members as they come along to training on a Monday night.

If you have changed your email address or, have recently acquired an email address, don't forget to let me know as this is the quickest and easiest way for committee members to communicate. I often get mail bounce back and find out later that the address hasn't been used for 'ages'!!!

Wendy Marczan

Club Treasurer and Newsletter Editor

I live at Kiama Downs, I'm an Office Administrator and I train with my dog Chelsea, a tri-colour Collie Rough (Lassie dog).

We started with obedience as soon as I got Chelsea as a 5mth old pup.

We competed in Obedience trials for the first few years and then took a break.

I started agility training when WDSC Inc. was at the PCYC grounds at Nth Wollongong when Chelsea was 5. This is pretty late for agility, but she was much more mature and ready to listen to commands. Our first trial was a WDSC trial in 2006 and we gained our first qualification card in Novice Jumping. As a lot of people with dogs doing trials will tell you, you are then hooked on the competition!

One of the most scary but exciting trials was the Royal Easter Show in Sydney. Mum and Dad had been to a quite a few to compete with their Shelties and convinced me to enter. Chelsea is a very sensitive around loud noises and children. The Royal brings the lot!

I don't know who was more nervous, myself or all the WDSC members who were there competing. We not only picked up a 2nd place, but also her Jumping Dog Title on the same day. She was then 9 years old.

I did have a bit of a family pressure with both my parents starting a tradition that I had to try and continue.

Tony Mitchell had already placed at the Royal in a previous year with his sheltie Jasmine and June Mitchell had picked up a 3rd place with Heidi the year before. More recently Mum also got a 3rd place with Jamie.



Chelsea and Wendy at the Royal Easter Show 2007.

Chelsea is a little unusual for her breed. There are not many Collie Rough's doing agility in NSW. She is only the 7th Collie to gain her Strategic Pairs Title and 9th to gain her Jumping Dog Excellent Title with the ANKC on their records.

They have a very short attention span for training and, they think they know everything when they've been told once. They also tend to lack drive (unlike the Border Collies).

As hard as it is to hold back an excited dog, it's just as hard to excite a slow dog. I do find her very consistent though, and she quite regularly ended up in the winners circle purely because she was a bit slower, but didn't knock the bars down.

She has a good excuse now as she turned 12 this week, but still likes doing agility (with the exception of the weaver poles) and definitely loves jumping.



We still practice obedience when we're down at our local oval doing jumps. I think it does them good to remember they need to be able to sit, stay and come on command for agility as well as at any other time.

Wollongong Dog Sports Club has given us the chance to have a lot of enjoyment with our dogs. The instructors I have had over the years have all been encouraging and come up with different ideas that you take away and try and keep what works best for your dog.

I may still be a 'beginner/ mediocre' handler, but if I can share something that has been given to me that helps, I am more than willing to pass it on.

Being a committee member also gives me the chance to give back. The history of a club and why certain decisions are made starts to make sense once you know the background of a club. Attending meetings and helping make club decisions only strengthens your bond with that club.

Being the Treasurer / Newsletter Editor of Wollongong Dog Sports for the past 3 years has given me a lot of late nights on the computer, but also made me great friends and given me a chance to put back into the community through my dog.



HOT OFF THE PRESS...

Dad (Tony) has taken 3rd place this week at the royal with Xena in Excellent Agility for 2010!! The family tradition continues...

WORKING BEE

Saturday 8th May

10.00am



The club will hold a working bee on Saturday 8th May in preparation for our upcoming trial on Sunday 23rd May.

We need to check all our jump bars are right, our dog walk and A-frame are not slippery, 'spruce up' our gear so it looks good, get the cones in the correct order, check ring ropes, load the trailer for transport and anything else that we can think of to make our trial run smoothly.

All members are asked to help out.

Remember... Lots of hands make light work!

MAY TRIAL BUSINESS

Phil Rath is the Trial Manager for Wollongong Dog Sports Club.

Over the next month, he will be asking our members AND their friends and family if they would be willing to help out at our trial.

If you are willing to be a steward or timekeeper, Phil can help give you some basic training for this.

We also need 'ground workers' to help set up the equipment where the judges want it, put garbage bins out and keep them fresh throughout the day.

Lead runners, to collect the leads from trailers and place at the exit point of the ring.

Check the toilets that there is enough toilet paper, etc.

Sell raffle tickets for our fundraising.

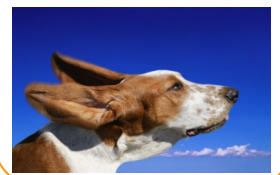
Help pack up the ring ropes and equipment at the end of the day.

An hour or two through the day is plenty if we have enough people volunteer.

It is the best way to find out what happens at a trial from outside the ring before you start competing with your dog.

Please support our instructors as our members by helping out at our trial.

Did you ever notice when you blow in a dog's face he gets mad at you? But when you take him in a car he sticks his head out the window." ~ Steve Bluestone



CLUB UNIFORMS

We have our club t-shirts and caps for sale at training each Monday night.

I am getting down on some sizes for the shirts, so if you want one before our May trial, please see Wendy next Monday night (weather permitting) so if you need a particular size ordered, we can try and get them back in time.

Shirts are \$25.00

Caps are \$15.00

We may also place another order this year for our winter jackets. This is dependent on numbers and prices for 2010.