

Wollongong Dog Sports Club

WDSC Inc. Contact



September 2010

Details

WEBSITE:

www.wollongongdogsports.org

EMAIL:

wollongongdogsportsclub@gmail.com

CHIEF INSTRUCTOR:

Siegfried Clever (Ziggy)
Ph: 42619729 or 0403 092272

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 Ros or Ziggy between 5.20 and 5.40pm.

You can also check the website for a notice.

2010 COMMITTEE

President: Ros Grant

Vice-President: Tony Mitchell

Secretary: Renae Adams

Treasurer: Wendy Marczan

Chief Instructor: Siegfried Clever

Social Director: Marian Palmer

CLUB UNIFORMS

We have our club t-shirts, caps & car stickers for sale at training each Monday night.

Shirts are \$25.00

Caps are \$15.00

Car Stickers \$2.00

CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

BOOK THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY

Saturday 11th December

Murphy's Bar & Grill

Princes Hwy, Unanderra

Book with Marian Palmer on 42716016 or at training on Monday nights

More details with prices & menu at next months general meeting



FIRST LIFE MEMBERS OF W.D.S.C.

At our recent Social Night attended by 24 club members, June Mitchell and Tony Mitchell were awarded life membership of our club. Below is a copy of the speech read by Ros as she presented the badges to June and Tony.

We have a wonderful club, we are young and enthusiastic but we certainly wouldn't be in the position that we are in today with out two very special people.....Tony and June Mitchell.

Tony and June are a team. They have been with our group whilst we were at Illawarra Dog Training Club and subsequently when we formed our own club, training at PCYC.

Those times were trying for all of us but Tony and June were always there, offering friendship and organizing the smooth transfer of our container and gear from IDTC to PCYC. Tony became President of our club at that time. We had a period of tranquility at PCYC in 2005 then found out that we would be on the move again.

We spent some time as nomads and with the generosity of SCDT club we were able to train on their grounds. This involved some transportation of equipment and yes you guessed it, Tony and June were always there working for the club.

We then were lucky enough to find a new forever home at FPC. It was decided that we would not take our container that was still at PCYC with us and we were able to source another newer container, Tony made the trip to Sydney to be sure that Wendy and I had chosen the correct one. He "negotiated" a paint job and oversaw the delivery and placement of the container onto our new grounds at FPC.

We all know of Tony's bower bird trait – this was to the advantage of our club when of all things he spotted some light poles at Berkeley Sports and Social Club, he organized transport and with the help of the ever reliable Phil, Peter and Sonny they were delivered to our grounds. He has organized and spread blue metal, had concrete delivered and spread, secured a trailer, dragged the trailer loaded with gear to various trials and demos, re-modeled and erected lighting and loaned his personal generator (using skills that only he could understand) to keep the bloody thing going – without Tony & Phil's efforts and their generators we would not have been able to train.

Then came the major job of erecting our wonderful new lights. Tony and Phil became Sonny's right hand men doing lots of boy things that needed to be done with June at the ready to offer a cool drink and support always. I am sure that Sonny's job was made all the easier for Tony and Phil's input.

All the time, June is quietly beside Tony, making everyone welcome, offering lots of cups of tea in the earlier days at PCYC and then over at SCDT, pushing the lawnmower at FPC, picking up deer and horse poo (no job is too small for our June and it has helped their tomatoes and roses I hear). She has helped Tony with loading and delivering equipment, has never missed a working bee, she has been on our committee in various positions for the whole time of our club's existence.

Both Tony and June are also members of IDTC and have trained and trialed their beautiful Shelties in both obedience and agility. June had great success with Heidi CDX ADX JDX who is now retired and is a Delta Dog and now is trialing Jamie CD JD. Tony is now training his 4th dog. Everyone knows the popular veteran Toby CD ADX JDX. Xena and Georgie are now teaching Tony the ropes. Tony and June also offered a perpetual trophy for our May Trial Veterans event in memory of their beautiful Jasmine.

So as you all know without me reminding you, Tony and June have been a pivotal part of our club in every way...no job is too large or small, they help each member in whatever way they can, they are generally the first to arrive and the last to leave...quite simply I am sure that our club would not exist in it's current form without their constant, unselfish contributions.

We at Wollongong Dog Sports are deeply indebted to Tony and June Mitchell for their valued contribution to our club and for that reason we would like to acknowledge their efforts and honor them tonight by awarding them the very first life memberships of our club.

Thank you June and Tony – you are such an important part of Wollongong Dog Sports.

Ros Grant
President



ABOVE: Tony Mitchell, June Mitchell with club President Ros Grant

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS.....

Charles & 'Georgie'
Alex & 'Jess'
Mark & 'Rufus'
Anlyn & 'Kuma'
Beatrice & 'Cherry'
Pam & 'Bree'
Jordan & 'Sadie'
Barbara—'Sooty & Jemma'

TRAINING REMINDERS

- Beginners (Green Class) be there at 6.15pm to start setting up equipment. Class begins at 6.30pm, starts to finish 7.15pm to pack up. **
- Bring treats, poo bags, water. Take any used poo bags home with you. We can't leave them at the grounds.
- Bring your lid for 'touch training' on contacts. Bring enthusiasm to reward your dog.
- Have fun, have fun, have fun!

** Black Class starts to warm up at 7.15pm to begin at 7.30pm. Be there early to begin putting equipment up and help out with beginners if need be.

Any questions you have regarding your training, please feel welcome to phone the Chief Instructor for help.

FOR SALE

Ferplest Extenda leads

5 metre long leads with solid size clips and a decent soft grip handle.

Suit 0-50kg dogs.

Rec. retail \$99.95

SALE PRICE \$25.00

\$5.00 from each lead sold goes directly to our club



“Flippy Controller has a unique world wide patented device that always keeps the cord/tape stretched. Not like traditional automatic leads, this lead will recoil automatically if your dog moves towards you.”

See Ros Grant at training to purchase one of these leads or phone her to order one on 42712187 .

TRIAL RESULTS

<u>DOG</u>	<u>HANDLER</u>	<u>TRIAL</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>RESULT</u>
Amuaray Oliver	Marian Palmer	Festival of Agility	Novice Jumping 300	3rd
Amuaray Oliver	Marian Palmer	Cav. King Charles Spaniel Show	Novice Jumping	Q 2nd
Kona	Darren Johanson	Sutherland	Jumping Dog Excellent	Q 3rd
Cody	Merrill Leffley	Sutherland	Masters Agility	Q 3rd
Xena	Tony Mitchell	Festival of Agility	Excellent Agility 300	1st
Georgie	Tony Mitchell	Festival of Agility	Excellent Agility 300	2nd
Chelsea	Wendy Marczan	Sutherland	Masters Agility	Clear round, FUN TIME No Quali!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH FROM THE TRIALLERS.....

'We did our run after 10.30 at night, all the more magical as we did it in the frosty mist sweeping majestically across the course. Best not to talk about the agility run earlier.....

Now that's dedication to your trialling Marian. What a long day!



Photo left of Amuaray Oliver.

(Still looking Handsome and Lithe as he runs, just without the mist or the moon).

Photo by club member Laura Turner at the Shoalhaven trial.

YOGI

Our sympathy and thoughts go to Roy Wynn and Vanessa with the recent loss of their beloved dog Yogi

Yogi loved agility before his retirement and was a gentle giant, who ran the courses in his own time—not particularly the judges set time!



An Introduction to Sled Dog Racing

By Karyn Ruskin

One wonders how we end up in certain situations at certain times.....

Yes, I own Siberian Huskies, three of them.

Yes, I understand what they are bred to do.

No, I have never felt compelled to allow them to follow their ancestral beginnings.

Until now that is.....

At the last Siberian Husky Club Specialty show in May, I was asked yet again to go "sledding" with some of the club members, this time with the added bonus of housing, bedding, and alcohol.

This enticed me and the three huskies to adventure down the Hume Highway to Wingello State Forest for the annual "Sled Dog Shield", two days of intense racing held at the end of July.

The only reasons I have not been before are listed:

Camping
porta loos
no showers
freezing temperatures
racing at dawn
freezing temperatures
no showers

But, I digress.....

We arrive at the forest to the mass singing of over a hundred dogs with the addition of scooters and rigs zinging all over the place for training runs. Something tells me that this is serious and not a dawdle in the bush, which was my original thought.

Now, I am not silly and had employed a **musher*** for the weekend to pilot Oliver around the 1.5km course.

Oliver has never had a harness on before, nor has he actually been in a forest either, but he settled in after a while and was happy to sit on the tie out lines with the other huskies, howling periodically.

On the Friday afternoon, the **musher*** harnessed Oliver for a training run, and off they set with a guy on a push bike in front of them calling Oliver to him. They wobbled away, with Oliver zigging and zagging all over until they were out of sight around the corner. My **musher*** friend was horrified that I had actually called out "please don't get him dirty"....

After about 5 minutes they arrived back and Oliver was deemed OK and might be "handy" when he learns the ropes a bit more. I actually was really pleased with myself for owning a "handy" sled dog!

Saturday morning dawned, or did not dawn, as I was awoken at 4.30am with dogs screaming and howling in excitement at the races to come.

The first race started at 6.45am, with the 6 dog teams, 4 dog teams, 2 dog teams and finally the one dog teams which included Oliver.

The start line is counted down from 1 minute intervals with 30 second gaps between teams and the dogs are screaming and leaping in anticipation as they all know what is to come, except Oliver of course.

Oliver sat at the start line, and the holder was trying to get him excited, but he just sat there. The timer counted down and they were off.....well, kind of.

They weaved and wobbled for a while and then they were around the corner and out of sight. With my heart pounding and nerves jumping, I ran to the finish to call him in over the line.



Pge 2

Out on the course, the eventual one dog class winner overtook Oliver, and that was all he needed to get him focused on the job! He chased that team around the course and finished strongly in 7th place.

All the races were finished at 9.00am, and then everyone disappeared, quite odd really for a newbie to witness. It seems that all the people and dogs go back to bed for a while.

Saturday night was spent around the campfire, which was highly enjoyable and made sweeter by endless glasses of chardonnay.

Sunday morning was a repeat of Saturday morning, (see Saturday description above) but this time Oliver hit his harness at the start and really powered around the course. My *musher** was really impressed and had a big grin on his face when they had finished as he had run the course on his own and was convinced he had run faster than the previous morning.

And again at 9.00am, all the races were finished and we were waiting for the times to be posted as these were the final official placings.

Oliver's Saturday time over the 1.5km course was 3 minutes 45 seconds.
Oliver's Sunday time over the 1.5km course was 3 minutes 23 seconds.
Eventual one dog class winner's time was 2 minutes 20 seconds.

Everyone gathered around for the presentations and we were all thrilled to learn that Oliver had placed 7th out of 14 teams!

All in all it was a great weekend, with great company.....I thank everyone for helping with Oliver, loaning equipment, and putting up with my endless questions.

The next club race is the "Mushdown" held at the end of August and is a night race.

And yes, we are attending.....

musher* = idiot who enjoys hurtling through the forest with little or no brakes being towed by a team of excited dogs.

Photo blew: Musher and Oliver



We will have more stories on Oliver's exciting life from Karyn over the coming months.