



# THE BARKER



OCTOBER 2023



This edition's coverdog is the wonderful Wilbur, posing with his (and Belinda Young's) winnings from our August Trial.

## BRUSH FARM DOG TRAINING CLUB

Training Grounds Location:

Brush Farm Park, Corner of Marsden Road & Lawson Street Eastwood

Mailing Address: 18 Railway Street, Baulkham Hills, 2153

Clubhouse Phone: 9858 5281 (From 1pm Sundays)

Website: [www.brushfarm.org](http://www.brushfarm.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/brushfarmdogtraining](https://www.facebook.com/brushfarmdogtraining)



# BRUSH FARM DOG TRAINING CLUB INC.

Established 1967. Affiliated RNSWCC (Dogs NSW) 1969.



## WHAT WE DO

- ❖ Brush Farm Dog Training Club is a non-profit organisation run by a dedicated team of volunteers, committed to serving the local community and promoting responsible dog ownership. We teach people to train their dog to be socialised and obedient, and promote participation in canine obedience sports.
- ❖ Each year our club delivers over 300 hours of training classes, trains over 500 dogs, & runs three trials, attracting over 250 competitors from across Sydney
- ❖ Training provides a benefit to both dog owners and the wider community - dogs that have participated in obedience training are less likely to be surrendered to pounds and animal shelters due to behavioural problems or aggression than dogs with no training.
- ❖ Attending training for just one hour each Sunday afternoon at Brush Farm Park will give you the skills to train your dog to be a happy, well behaved member of your family.

## MEMBER INFORMATION

- ❖ Sunday training times:
  - 10:00am – 11:00am – Puppies
  - 2:00pm – 3:00pm - Brown & Green classes
  - 3:30pm – 4:30pm - White, Yellow & Red classes
- ❖ New member registration – available every Sunday from 11:30AM with orientation starting at 2PM (without your dog)
- ❖ For sale at the Clubhouse - collars, leads, halters, dumbbells, bum-bags, polo shirts, caps, snacks and drinks
- ❖ Training is rarely cancelled due to rain or extreme heat (35° C and above) – more often than not we are lucky with the weather! If in doubt, please call the Clubhouse after 11am (for puppies) or after 1pm (for all others) to check if classes are on— phone 9858 5281. We try to keep our Facebook page updated as well.

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

- ❖ Payable in February each year, and covering all training and ground fees for the full calendar year:

Adult members \$90	Pensioner members \$75	Junior (under 18) members \$75
Dual/family members \$100 (one dog)	\$120 (two dogs)	(EFTPOS available)
- ❖ There is a \$10 joining fee for new members upon signing up.

## GET INVOLVED

- ❖ General Meetings are held bi-monthly at Brush Farm Club House, Eastwood at 8.00 pm. All members are welcome to come and have a say in our Club's affairs. Supper is served after the meeting.
- ❖ Our Club is run by volunteers - please see Carmen, Heidi or your instructor if you would like to assist by helping set up the training equipment, serving in the canteen, working on our website, training to become an instructor, or assisting with a myriad of other jobs that makes the club run !!!
- ❖ Steward at club trials – Approximately 20 people are needed on each trial day to set up equipment, marshal competitors, record results, staff the kitchen, and pack up. See Heidi to join the Steward Squad.

### CLUB OFFICE BEARERS

President: *Carmen Kong*

Chief Instructor: *Heidi Richardson* 9801 8797

Treasurer: *Kylie Williams*

Secretary: *Richard Watkins*

Vice Presidents: *Anne Affleck, Anna Steinberg*

Dep. Chief Instructors: *Janelle Woodward, Danielle Leong*

Trial Secretary: *Alan Luc*

Registrar: *Karen Forsyth*

Equipment Officer: *Noel Reilly*

Editor 'The Barker': *Natalie Leong*

**Committee Members:** *Angela Munge, Colin Richardson, June Johansson, Caitlin La Rose, Gemma-Louise Sherlock, Camilla Watson*

**Instructors:** *Anne Affleck, Tania Cochrane, Geoff Craine, Vivien Dunkerley, Simon Gray, June Johansson, Carmen Kong, Karen Lamb, Danielle Leong, Natalie Leong, Alan Luc, David Marcellino, Anne Martin, Noel Reilly, Heidi Richardson, Anna Steinberg, Colin Richardson, Richard Watkins, Kylie Williams, Janelle Woodward, Belinda Young, Gemma-Louise Sherlock Camilla Watson*

**Patrons:** *Steve & Vicki Austin; The Mayor of Ryde; Dr Sarah Short*



# CLUB NEWS



## CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK!

Facebook is a great way to stay in touch with us and keep up date with all the latest club news! We also have a FB Group where you can post updates, ask questions and stay connected. We like to post training challenges and videos whenever we get a chance – there’s a lot of great info to be found there!

Link to our FB page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BrushFarmDogTraining>

And our FB group called “BFDTC Members Chat” can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/377721072947770>



## CALENDAR DATES

### OCTOBER

Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	NO TRAINING – Labour Day
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Training
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Training / Puppy Class Starts
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	General Meeting
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Training
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	NO TRAINING Double Rally Trial

### NOVEMBER

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Training
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Training
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Committee Meeting
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Training
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Last Training for the Year

### DECEMBER

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dogs’ Christmas Party!
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## REMINDERS:

- ❖ Please do not leave your children unsupervised. Children running around may frighten or over-excite some dogs. Please remind your children NEVER to approach any dog without the handler’s explicit permission
- ❖ Dogs wearing **BRIGHT YELLOW KNITTED COLLARS** may be uncomfortable around other people and dogs. Please give these dogs the space they need. If in doubt, MOVE YOUR DOG AWAY from stressful situations.
- ❖ All handlers must wear enclosed shoes for safety.
- ❖ All dogs must be kept ON LEASH unless an instructor tells you otherwise.
- ❖ Dogs that have a history of running off during off-leash exercises must use a long lead in class.
- ❖ Please pick up after your dog. Bags and bins are provided.



## FIRST AID & OUR HEARTSTART HS1 DEFIBRILLATOR

A reminder that we have a defibrillator on our premises. It is situated next to the first aid box inside the main entrance to the clubhouse. We encourage all members to be aware of its location. There are fact sheets available upon request.



# CLUB NEWS



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the AGM in August 2023, I was honoured to be elected President, after Noel Reilly stepped down following 40 years of outstanding leadership of the club. Many present at the meeting had stories of Noel being their instructor when they joined the club with their first dog; everyone's love for Noel was obvious, and a reflection of his selfless service to all of us. Noel continues to serve the club as an instructor and a committee member.

I reflect not only on Noel's incredible contribution to the club, but also the contribution of every committee member, instructor, and volunteer who has ever served the club. Our club wouldn't exist without all their efforts.

We also wouldn't exist if it weren't for the dedicated members who attend class every week. I know how hard that weekly commitment can be sometimes, and it feels like the dog is making no progress, but I encourage every member to persist. Your dog will thank you for it, and you will reap the benefits of a relationship with your dog that you may never have dreamt of. Your regular attendance also provides encouragement to other members and your own classmates, perhaps more so than you realise.

Carmen Kong (President, Brush Farm Dog Training Club Inc.)



## THANK YOU NOEL!

There really isn't an adequate way to show Noel how much we appreciate all that he has done for Brush Farm DTC over his many decades of service. His kindness, guidance, knowledge, tireless work ethic, perseverance, sense of humour and positive attitude have shaped the club as it is today.

The great news is that he isn't leaving us completely NOEL-less! He remains on the committee and will serve as equipment officer & coordinator, as well as mentoring our new president as she settles into the role. We held a surprise afternoon tea on September 10 to let him know how great we think he is and hope he enjoys being able to spend time at the club with a bit of a lighter work load in the future!





# JULY & SEPT HANDLERS DAYS



## HANDLERS DAY RESULTS

Handlers Days are an opportunity for a bit of friendly competition – there are ribbons on offer and a fancy trophy for the highest performing team across all three Handlers Days over the year. But more importantly, handlers get to test their own training progress and receive feedback from the “judges”.

Here are the results of our July Handlers Day:

### WHITE

1<sup>st</sup> – Jo Harvey & Ka-Boom (Koolie)

### YELLOW

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Katerina Snow & Rocket (Kelpie X)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Lucas Watkins & Ita (Aussie Shepherd)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Tracy Perkins & Jessie (Australian Cobberdog)

### RED

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Caitlin La Rose & Jessie (Labradoodle)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Michelle Watkins & Otis (Border Collie)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Shannon Agius & Cali (GSD)

### EXPERIENCED

1<sup>st</sup> – Karen Lamb & Sherry (Ridgeback X)



And here are the results from September:

### WHITE

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Pol Miles-McCann & Decker (Great Dane X)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Craig Burnett & Hercules (Shetland Sheepdog)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Nerida Adonis & Archer (Schnauzer)
- Encouragement Award – Jacquie Muffett & Twix (Border Collie)

### YELLOW

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Jo Harvey & Ka-Boom
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sophie Bolton & Chief (GSD)

### RED

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Naomi Shaw & Mallee (Staffy)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Katerina Snow & Rocket (Kelpie X)

### EXPERIENCED

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Richard Watkins & Otis (Border Collie)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Karen Lamb & Sherry (Ridgeback X)





# AUGUST TRIAL PHOTOS

from Belinda Young





# AUGUST TRIAL PHOTOS

from Belinda Young





# TRIALLING TEAMS



## BRUSH FARM DOGS DOING AWESOME THINGS!

We have Brush Farm members participating in multiple dog sports including Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, Agility, Earthdog and Tricks. Here is a selection of amazing results from our trialling teams:

**Heidi Richardson & Cooper** have had multiple qualifications in Advanced Scent Work - Vehicles at Western Sydney Scentwork, Interiors at the Northern Suburbs August trial, and another Vehicles as well as a 3<sup>rd</sup> placing in Containers at Hills Scent Work.

**June Johansson & Eva** qualified in Excellent Vehicles at the July Western Sydney Scentwork trial and in Excellent Interiors at Northern Suburbs. In ACSW trials Eva has also attained her NW1+ title at Paterson and NW1 title at Minto.

**Belinda Young & Wilbur** were highest scoring Brush Farm member in Rally at August trial with a 1<sup>st</sup> place in Rally Novice. They have also had multiple qualifications in Novice Tricks with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place at Northern Suburbs in August.

**Richard Watkins & Zoe** qualified in Rally Novice at our August trial.

**Sophie Bolton & Chief** also qualified in Rally Novice at our August trial.

**Gemma-Louise & Hadley** gained their CCD title at the Blue Mountains Dog Training Club Trial in July

**Kerry McDonald & Poppie** qualified in Rally Excellent at the Blue Mountains DTC Trial.

**Janelle Woodward & Mudgee** gained two Master passes and a Senior Pass at Earthdog in July. Mudgee also qualified in Trick Starters at Northern Suburbs in August.

**Danielle Leong & Nettle** qualified in Novice Vehicles (1<sup>st</sup> place) and Interiors (2<sup>nd</sup> place) at the Pointer Club Scentwork Trial in September. Danielle has also been trialling in ACSW nosework with **Nettle** attaining her ORT title and **Rory** gaining his L1V and NW1+ titles (with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Interiors).

**Natalie Leong & Pippin** achieved the overall Trial Partnership Award at the ACSW NW1+ trial at Paterson.

**Rocky Chau & Taka** were successful at the August Manly Agility trial, two 1<sup>st</sup> places and a 2<sup>nd</sup> and a Novice Agility qualification. Taka also qualified with a 1<sup>st</sup> place in Tricks Novice at Metro Midweek.

**Barbara Horsfield & Henri** have achieved qualifications in Novice Tricks at Metro Midweek and at Coffs Harbour.

**Elizabeth Donahoo & Cello** achieved their Advanced Scent Work title with a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Interiors at the Northern Suburbs evening trial.

**Carmen Kong & Ben** achieved their Novice Trick Dog Title at the Coffs Harbour trial in September.

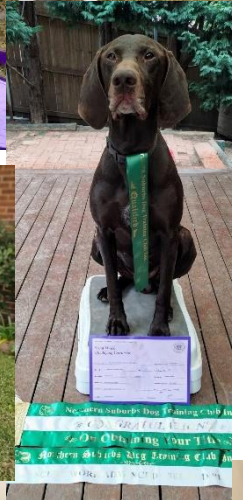
*If you have any questions about working towards and entering dog sports competitions please reach out to any of our instructor team! We regularly have Rally courses set up on the field on Sundays, as well as Trick Dog equipment to play with.*

*For a greater understanding of how competitions work, please consider volunteering at one of our own Brush Farm trials. We have our Double Rally in October and then our Obedience/Rally Trial in March next year. We always need helpers and we'll show you everything you need to know!*





# TRIALLING TEAMS





# SUMMER FUN & SAFETY



Please keep your dog healthy and safe over the summer break by being aware of the following common issues:

## EATING “BAD STUFF”

The festive season is often when pets ingest things they shouldn't. Chocolate, macadamia nuts, and grapes/raisins are common sources of toxicity in dogs. Cooked bones, corn cobs, avocado and mango seeds frequently cause blockages. Kids and visitors can often leave things within a dog's reach that they take advantage of! Please be aware that if your dog eats a large amount of fatty food within a short period, they could be at risk of pancreatitis.

## PARALYSIS TICKS

We live in an area affected by paralysis ticks so ensure you talk to your vet about appropriate preventatives and keep up to date with your chosen products (whether monthly or three-monthly). Remember that your cats should be protected as well!

## SNAKES

Less of a problem locally but certainly something to keep in mind if you go adventuring with you pup over the summer months. Immediate treatment is key for treating snakebites so make a note of the nearest vet in your vicinity and keep in mind that not all vets stock antivenom.

## ALLERGIES & HOT SPOTS

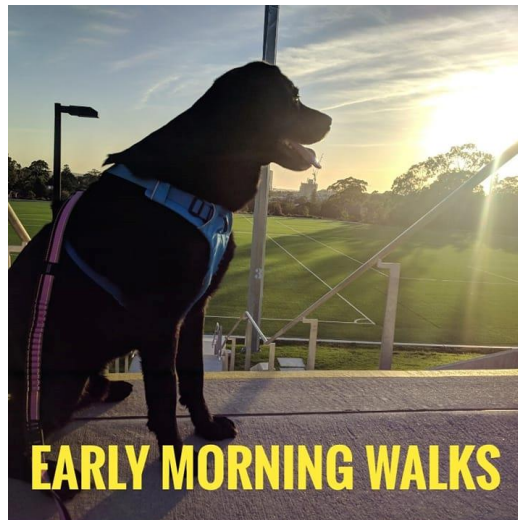
The hot, humid conditions can cause havoc for the condition of many dogs' skin. Any signs of redness, excessive itching, or hair loss should be taken seriously – please see your vet for appropriate treatments.

## HEAT STRESS

Always ensure that you monitor your dogs for signs of heat stress, particularly short-nosed dog breeds. Avoid heavy exercise in the heat of the day, never leave your dog in a car, provide cool shelter and plenty of water, and check the temperature of the roads/pavement you walk on!

**SUMMER SURVIVAL TIPS**

- EXERCISE IN THE COOLER PARTS OF THE DAY
- USE FOOD ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES
- PLAY LOTS OF TRAINING GAMES FOR MENTAL STIMULATION
- WATER-BASED FUN!



**EARLY MORNING WALKS**



**FROZEN FOOD PUZZLES**



**INDOOR TRICK TRAINING**



**WATER PLAYTIME**



# MEET OUR MEMBERS!

## Gemma-Louise Sherlock & Hadley



Continuing on with our Q+A's with members of volunteer team, here is another one of our fabulous instructors and committee member, Gemma-Louise!

*Tell us a bit about your current training partner, what you have achieved with them, and what you are working towards right now.*

Hadley is a 3 year old Cavoodle. We started trialling at the beginning of this year (2023) and have achieved two titles CCD and Rally Novice! We are working very hard on our off leash skills so we can enter CD (Novice) next year. At the moment we are focusing on Rally Advanced and Tricks Starters.

*How did you first become interested in dog training?*

When I was 3 my family got our first dog, and I was obsessed! Over the years with different dogs, I did bits of training and made lots of mistakes. So, when I got Hadley, I knew I wanted to do everything I could to make sure he was the best!

*What do you enjoy most about training, trialling and dog sports?*

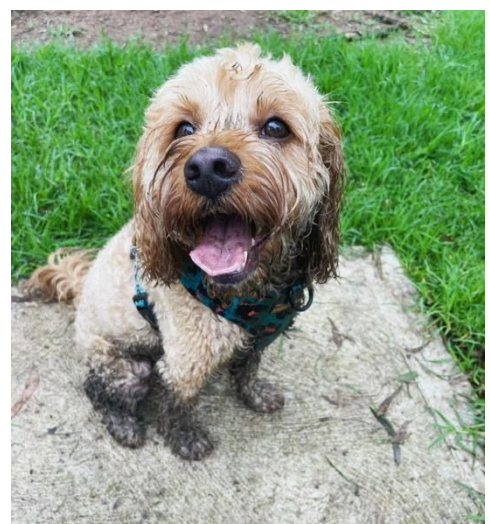
The smile on Hadley's face and the enjoyment of the connection we share. Trialling is so much fun, when you get positive feedback from a judge or follow participant it's a really buzz. I've learnt so much just watching and Stewarding at Trials, not just about Dog Sports but on how to be a better handler.

*What is your dog's best/worst/funniest/most ridiculous habit or behaviour?*

Hadley is very sassy and stubborn. He will look at me dead in the eyes and say, "No I don't want to drop, Mum". Also, he has the amazing skill of finding mud wherever he goes, the smellier the better.

*What is a helpful piece of advice to someone just starting out on their dog training journey?*

Reward your dog more! (Pretty sure that was Richard to me more than once when I was in green class). Also, you (the handler) need to be more exciting to your dog than anything else (This one was definitely from Carmen in Green class).





# DOGS XMAS PARTY INVITE



ALL MEMBERS, THEIR DOGS & FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO:

## THE 2023 DOGS CHRISTMAS PARTY

FANCY DRESS PARADE & COMPETITION ~ GAMES,  
CONTESTS & TEAM EVENTS ~ FASTEST RETRIEVE ~  
FUNDRAISING RAFFLE  
FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3  
FROM 1PM