



Sutherland Shire Dog Training Club Inc

ABN: 85 904 409 654

THE WAG



Spring edition

September – November
2026

► Our Committee

2

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Brian Jarrett

Vice President

Shanelle Corben

Treasurer

John McGrath

Secretary

Heather McMillan

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The Wag Magazine Editor

Rochelle Luke

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Jason Luke

Agility Chief Instructor

Sandra Walker

Trial Secretaries: Obedience/ Rally/Agility/Tricks

Jan Taylor
Shanelle Corben

Public Officer

Brian Jarrett

COVER DOG

Member: Jane

Dog: HARLOW

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Life Members

- Don Ahearne
- Wendy Bourke
- Ron Brouwer
- Pam Hazelton
- Margaret Keast
- Rene Llewelyn
- Barry Reed
- Noella Smith
- Jan Taylor
- Margaret Taylor
- Kevin Thomas
- Elizabeth (Betty) Walsh
- Peter Waugh
- Peter Stone

♥ Passed ♥

- Bill Barclay
- Joan Barclay
- Tiki Friezer
- Margaret McGarvey
- Anne O'Hara
- Robert McGarvey
- Allan Spratt
- John Mitchell



▶ 6



Club Calendar

Stay up to date on key training, event and meeting dates

▶ 14



Member moments

Every member has a story – this edition we’re catching up with John and Max

▶ 17



▶ Club Reports

Agility, Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, Tricks & Dances with Dogs Results

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► Editor's Note

Rochelle Luke

editor@ssdtc.com.au

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Welcome to this edition of The Wag.

I'm excited to be stepping into the role of Editor and look forward to sharing the news, achievements and highlights that make our club such a great community.

My thanks to Lee Collett for the time and effort she put in to producing our newsletter over the last few years. Her work has helped keep members informed and connected.

As you may have noticed, we have moved publication from bi-monthly to a quarterly format, with each edition following the seasons - Spring, Summer Autumn and Winter.

You'll also notice a new face on the cover! Each edition, we'll be showcasing one of our club's dogs. If you'd like yours to have their moment in the spotlight, you're welcome to nominate them for a future cover.

Inside, as always, this edition is full of member achievements, updates from across the club, and instructor and member spotlights. A big thank you to everyone who contributed.

I hope you enjoy this edition. If you would like to be featured, have a story, photos, articles, or an idea for a future edition, I'd love to hear from you.

► President's message

Brian Jarrett



Let's start by welcoming over 60 new members in June-August. It is great to have you join our club and hope the experience is all you expected.

Our Annual Agility Trial on June 14 was another great success. It was encouraging to see many new volunteers turn up to add to that success. I am sure you enjoyed the day as much as the competitors and their dogs.

I would like to welcome Rochelle Luke into the role of Editor of the Wag, starting off with a bang with this edition. Thank you Rochelle.

Also, we welcome Jason Luke as our new Chief Instructor. Please don't hesitate to stop and have a chat with Jason. Jason brings a wealth of knowledge and experience into this role. Thank you Jason.

A big thank you to Lyn Walsh, who passed this important role onto Jason after 3 years. Lyn has added numerous new processes and techniques to our training regime and luckily she will still be around for some time. Thank you Lyn.

As a reminder, we have our Annual General Meeting coming up on Sunday September 13, directly after classes. It would be great to see as many members as possible there.

Advertise in **THE WAG**

Our very reasonable advertising rates include an initial introduction/bio of your company along with your advertisement.

Contact the editor for details.

SINGLE EDITION

FULL PAGE \$55

HALF PAGE \$40

QUARTER PAGE \$22

3 EDITIONS

FULL PAGE \$165

HALF PAGE \$115

QUARTER PAGE \$66

6 EDITIONS

FULL PAGE \$300

HALF PAGE \$210

QUARTER PAGE \$120

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All contributions for THE WAG must
be emailed to editor@ssdtc.com.au

Contributions must be received at
least two weeks prior to distribution
otherwise inclusion cannot be
guaranteed

Opinions expressed in THE WAG are
not necessarily those of the
Sutherland Shire Dog Training Club
Inc. or its committee.

Any veterinary advice printed in THE
WAG should be checked with your
own vet.



[Find us on Facebook](#)

▶ Club calendar

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Event dates

12 April – Dances with Dogs competition

11 May – Obedience and Rally Trial

17 May – Obedience and Rally Trial

20 June – Tracking Trial and Dances with Dogs competition

18 October – Dances with Dogs competition

6 December – Christmas party



Training dates

No training on Labour Day weekend, Sunday 4 October 2026

The last Sunday of 2026 training will be Sunday 6 December.



Meeting dates

The **Annual General meeting** will be held on SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2026.

Committee meetings are held on the second Sunday of each month after training.

Notice of **Instructors meetings** will be provided ahead of meetings.

REMINDER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2026
see Notice on
Club website and in this edition)

**REMINDER
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS**
begins **Sunday 4
October** and class time
changes to **8.00am –
9.00am**



**NOTICE IS GIVEN OF
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE
SUTHERLAND SHIRE DOG TRAINING CLUB INC.
ABN: 85 904 409 654**

9:45AM, SUNDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2026

SSDTC CLUBHOUSE

All current financial members are invited to attend

AGENDA

1. Open Meeting
2. Attendance and Apologies
3. Confirmation of Previous AGM Minutes 14 September 2025
4. Business arising from the Previous Minutes
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Chief Instructor's Report
7. Trial Secretaries' Reports
8. Result of Ballot for the election of Office Bearers and of Members of the Committee
9. Appointment of Auditor

NOMINATIONS FOR 2026–2027 SSDTC COMMITTEE POSITIONS

In accordance with the Constitution, all positions will be declared vacant and nominations are hereby called for Members of the Committee of Management (Office Bearers and Committee Members) of Sutherland Shire Dog Training Club Inc. for the 2026–2027 year.

Only current financial members of the Club are eligible to nominate a candidate, stand for office, or vote in the election.

Written nominations close at 10am Sunday 23 August 2026. Nominations received after this time cannot be accepted, except where nominations may be called at the Annual General Meeting in accordance with the Constitution.

Sutherland Shire Dog Training Club Inc. Current Committee positions:

Office Bearers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Elected Member x 3

Committee Members

Assistant Secretary
Ground Secretary x 2
Assistant Ground Secretary
Chief Instructor (elected by Instructors July 2026)
Agility Chief Instructor
Trial Secretary (Obedience, Rally, Trick Dog, DWD)
Trial Secretary (Agility)
The Wag Editor
Payment Line Officer x 3

▶ New members

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JUNE 2026

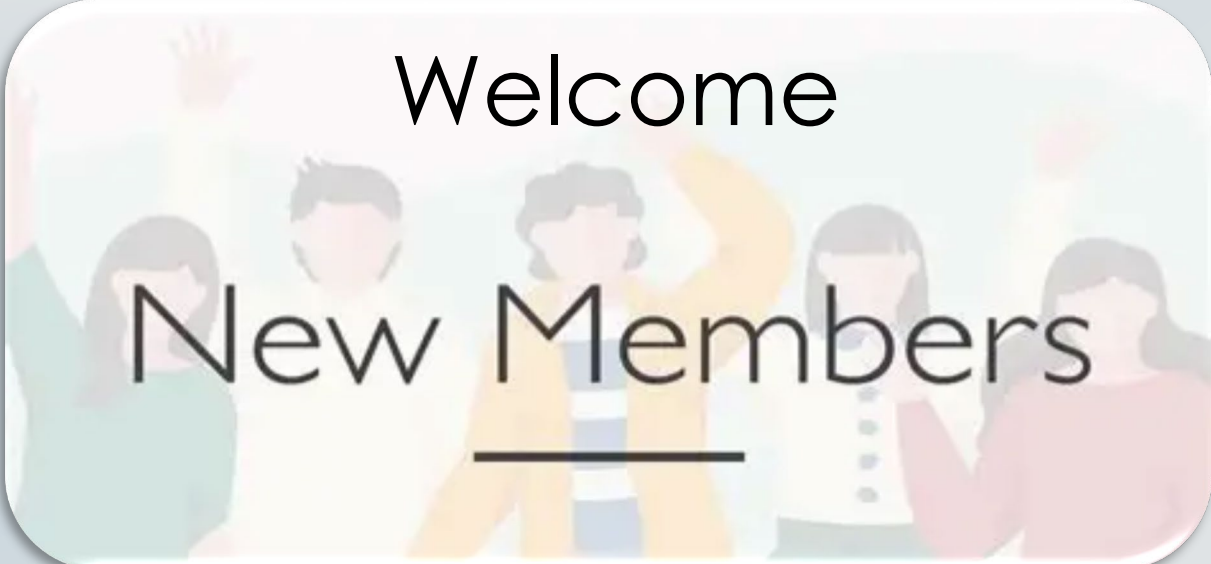
- o Natasha Babayan of SANS SOUCI with Australian Kelpie Rosie
- o Dieter Coetzee of MENAI with Border Collie x Echo
- o Sandra Hindmarsh of with Pumi Trik and x Pippi
- o Roxanne Joyner of MENAI with Border Collie x Echo
- o Brett Lobwein of KURNELL with Labrador Retriever Reef
- o Robyn Mapleson of KIRRAWEE with English Cocker Spaniel x Bestie
- o Michael and Rachael Pedersen of ENGADINE with English Springer Spaniel Charlie
- o Liz Reid-philip of SUTHERLAND with Labrador Retriever Douglas
- o Rhonda Scott of COMO with Poodle x Nocci
- o Sascha Sparks and Jessie Adele Toohey of BANGOR with Dachshund Ginger
- o Angela and Helen Wastie of REVESBY with Border Collie Odin

JULY 2026

- o Clare Armstrong of THIRROUL with Border Collie Raffy
- o Joanne Cordina of WORONORA HEIGHTS with Border Collie x Barry
- o Mitchell Dalglish of CRONULLA with Finnish Hound Lindor
- o Lucy Dwyer of JANNALI with Golden Retriever x Oscar
- o Rod Feltham of PORT HACKING with Australian Kelpie Luna
- o Janette Hawley of JANNALI with Maltese x Bennie
- o Flavio Macedo of JANNALI with Border Collie Sky
- o Kathryn Manuel of KIRRAWEE with Poodle x Lucy and Poodle x Levi
- o Jody Mielke of ENGADINE with Great Dane x Woody
- o Tim Oake of HEATHCOTE with Bulldog Danny and Great Dane Arnie
- o Ronnie Palazzi of KURNELL with Border Collie Peachey
- o Colette Pierce of MIRANDA with American Staffordshire Terrier x Sarabi
- o Kirsty and Paul Ross of SYLVANIA with Golden Retriever x Huxley
- o Paris and Zoe Scholtz of BURRANEER with Poodle x Tilly
- o Leanne Stevens of WORONORA HEIGHTS with Dobermann Nikita
- o Sheena Williams of GYMEA with Dachshund Snoop

AUGUST 2026

- o Melissa Basile of KAREELA with Border Collie x Ruby
- o Donna Bladon of MENAI with Border Collie Pippa
- o Amanda Burton-taylor of GYMEA BAY with Golden Retriever Josephine
- o Aimee Calderara of CARINGBAH with Poodle x Bruno
- o Kristina Culhane of BUNDEENA with Rhodesian Ridgeback x Rocco
- o Kelly Dean-willcocks of CRONULLA with Jack Russell Terrier x Buster
- o Sophie Deavin of JANNALI with Labrador Retriever Remie
- o Lachlan Devlin of KIRRAWEE with Bulldog Pesto and Bulldog Chilli
- o Liam Fiddler of COMO with English Springer Spaniel Willow
- o Eric and Hayley Fiskerstrand of YOWIE BAY with English Cocker Spaniel x Archie
- o Sara Gomez of SUTHERLAND with Australian Kelpie x Blue
- o Nevin Hillyer of COMO with Golden Retriever Cydi
- o Alexis and Mark Kyte of ALFORDS POINT with Labrador Retriever x Minie
- o Saria and Victor Magiros of MIRANDA with German Shepherd Dog x Sylphrena
- o Gemma Montague of SUTHERLAND with Golden Retriever x Shadow



Welcome

New Members

GENERAL REMINDER FOR ALL MEMBERS

Our club enforces a no dog attack policy. This means if your dog has attacked another dog or human, or where that is a risk, you will be asked to purchase a muzzle from the clubhouse (or elsewhere) to use whilst on Club grounds during training sessions.

Please understand that the enforcing of this policy is for the safety of our instructors, members and their dogs

Removal of the muzzle at a future date to be decided by senior instructor(s) assessment on the aggressive dog.

▶ Instructor spotlight

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Chief Instructor

There has been an important change within the Club as we farewell Lyn Walsh from the role of Chief Instructor and welcome Jason Luke.

On behalf of the Committee and all members, our sincere thanks to Lyn for her dedication, leadership and countless hours of volunteered service as Chief Instructor. Her knowledge, encouragement and commitment have helped shape our training program and supported many members. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has contributed in the role.

While Lyn has stepped down as Chief Instructor, we're delighted that she will continue as one of our instructors.

We welcome Jason as he takes on the role of Chief Instructor and look forward to the experience, enthusiasm and leadership he brings. We wish him every success and know he'll have the support of his fellow instructors and members.

Congratulations Jason, and thank you, Lyn.



▶ Instructor spotlight

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Five minutes with Jason

Each edition we will get to know one of our instructors. This quarter we're chatting with our new Chief Instructor, Jason Luke.

Jason brings a wealth of experience with dogs and a strong association with our club to his new role. He first joined the club in the 1980s, returned for a couple of years in the early 2000s, and has been a member for the past five years. He currently owns an Australian Bulldog and has most recently owned another Australian Bulldog and an Australian Cattle Dog, with dogs being a constant throughout his life. Outside the club, Jason's work also involves engaging with and training dogs every day, so dogs are certainly a big part of his life!

Away from work and the club, Jason stays very active and enjoys spending time outdoors. His love of the Australian bush and its wildlife began when he was a young boy and developed into a strong interest in herpetology—the study of reptiles and amphibians. His other interests include fishing, wildlife photography and running ultramarathons, along with all the training and preparation that goes with them.



His training approach is simple: reward-based and patience. He believes understanding canine behaviour—and the needs of individual breeds—is essential to knowing why training works in some situations but not others.

What does Jason love most about being part of the club? The opportunity to help people improve their relationships with their dogs. He particularly enjoys game-based training, proving that learning doesn't always have to feel like work!

Jason describes his own dog, Lulu, as affectionate, playful and closely bonded with him. He also loves how bonded and in tune she is with everyone in the family. Whether she's out and about or relaxing on the lounge, Lulu is happiest wherever her family is.

If you haven't met Jason yet, you'll find him out on the fields on Sunday mornings. Be sure to say hello when you see him.

► Spring into training

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Spring is the perfect time to get outside and have fun with your dog. Whether you're working towards a competition goal or simply want a dog that's calmer around the house and on walks, the new season is a great time to start.

1. **Revisit the basics**
Even if your dog knows them well, practicing in different locations or with gradually increasing distractions can make those behaviours more reliable.
2. **Set a new training goal**
Maybe it's improving recall, relaxed greetings, walking calmly past other dogs or preparing for the next class grading. Specific goals make progress easier to see.
3. **Take training outside**
Your dog might be brilliant at home but "forget" everything when you're somewhere new or exciting. Start your training somewhere relatively quiet and gradually increase distractions. Parks and outdoor spaces can provide great opportunities to practice focus, recall and loose lead walking.
4. **Teach a new trick**
Tricks aren't just party pieces, they're a great way to build communication, engagement and confidence while giving your dog some mental stimulation. Ideas: high five, touch, spin, middle ...
5. **Keep sessions short, positive and fun.**
You don't need a 30 minute training block. A few minutes here and there is incredibly effective. Reward the desired behaviour and always end on a 'win'.

Remember that training shouldn't feel like work. A few minutes of fun and focussed interaction with your dog can go a long way – and you will both enjoy the process!

If you decide to teach your dog a trick – please share some photos with the Editor and we'll include them in an upcoming edition.



Six tips to teach me NOT to come

Credit: McCann Dogs (www.mccanndogs.com)

Call me without training me first

Expecting me to come just because you think I should is the equivalent of expecting a pay check when you have not worked. You need to put in the efforts to teach me if you expect rewards. I was not born with obedience skills. I must be taught to listen using patience and good planning.

Call me when I can't get it right

If you haven't done your homework and the distractions are heavy calling me to come will set us both up for failure. You need to teach me to respond around all sorts of distractions and that means repetition and planning. Take the time to build my response around distractions so I can learn how to be a good dog.

Call me and don't reward me

Dogs do what is reinforcing so if you want me to come when you call me you have to reward me with very high value rewards during the teaching and training phase. Once I am trained you can randomize rewards but whilst I am learning it is crucial that I learn that coming when called is a VERY valuable thing to do. If you do not reward me for coming to you the environment will certainly reward me instead.

Punish me when I do come

If I don't understand yet I will make a mistake at some point. If I ignore you when you call me it's because you haven't taken the time to train me right. If you punish me when I finally do come the next time you call I'll likely avoid you or even run the other way. Since I don't understand what you want you'll become very scary to me and I'll want to be anywhere BUT close to you.

Only call me to come when it's for something I don't like

Dogs do what is reinforcing. That means if I find something pleasant I'll repeat it and if I find something is unpleasant I will seek to avoid the behaviour that brought it on. If you only call me to come when you are ending my play, clipping on my lead, to punish me or call me into the house I'll learn to dislike the word "come" in a hurry.

Call me repeatedly and allow me to ignore you

If you haven't put in the training time you may get lucky for a while but eventually I will ignore you. Calling me repeatedly with no response will reinforce me ignoring your commands.

Dog socialisation - what it is, and isn't

IT IS:

- ❖ Exposure to different sights, smells, noises
- ❖ Exposure to different body handling (cooperative care)
- ❖ Being neutral around people, dogs and children
- ❖ Maintaining focus in highly distracting environments
- ❖ Building positive associations with all of the above

IT IS NOT:

- ❖ Playing with other dogs
- ❖ Meeting all people
- ❖ Going to dog parks
- ❖ Going to dog-friendly patios, restaurants and shops
- ❖ Greeting dogs on leash

▶ Member Moments

John Gibbons and Max

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Max quick facts

- ❖ **Age:** 3
- ❖ **Breed:** Murray River Retriever
- ❖ **Class:** 3
- ❖ **Three words:**
Gentle • Happy • Active

Meet John Gibbons and Max, his three-year-old Murray River Retriever. John has been a member of the club for around two and a half years—pretty much for as long as Max has been old enough to attend.

John originally joined the club to learn how to train and socialise Max, while giving him opportunities to learn and experience things they might not otherwise do. John certainly has the rewards, describing his proudest achievement as seeing and helping Max grow into a well-mannered, well socialised and talented dog.

For John, the best thing about being part of the club is the interaction with like-minded people who love and care about their dogs, while learning how to train Max using positive methods. Having grown up in a time when harsh punishment was commonplace, John particularly appreciates the modern approach of rewarding and encouraging dogs when they get things right and punishment no longer being accepted.

Max certainly sounds like a dog who enjoys learning. John describes Max's nature as characteristic of his breed - intelligent, active, friendly, protective in a non-aggressive way, and loving. He's especially affectionate with John's wife and grandchildren.

John admits that Max has taught him a thing or two as well. In fact, his verdict is simple: "He is smarter than me!". Max can often pick up something after being shown just once—provided John communicates what he wants effectively. Max was toilet trained from day one and needed only one demonstration to master the doggy door. Although, this can also work against John, with Max working out how to steal sausages from places John thought were safely out of reach!



When it comes to mealtimes, Max loves to combine dinner with play. His dry food is put into toys and empty egg cartons, which he rolls and flips around to get to the food. And Max's favourite reward? Dehydrated kangaroo—homemade by John himself.

With Class 4 the next goal, there's clearly plenty more for John and Max to learn together. We look forward to seeing what they achieve!

iPetStore.com.au

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▶ iPetStore is a family owned, Sydney based pet supplies store. Starting in 2013 as an on-line only pet supplies business, their warehouse is now open to the public 7 days week and includes Puppy Preschool and a DIY Dog Wash.

▶ They ship to most places in Australia and offer free shipping to most metro areas. iPetStore can be found at Warehouse 27, 3-11 Flora St, Kirrawee - just down the hill from Woolworths and South Village. There is parking available on the site and they are open Mon-Fri: 9am - 5pm, Sat: 9am-3pm, Sun: 10am-2pm.

▶ All of their products are distributed from their warehouse in Kirrawee. The team is available to chat via phone 9am-5pm (AEST) or if you would prefer, you can email sales@ipetstore.com.au





Kylie's K9 Country Retreat

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REHAB**

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EMAIL : info@k9countryretreat.com.au

WEBSITE : <http://www.anakysamoyeds.com>

Kylie's is the ultimate Farm Stay for your four- legged family member. Offering peace of mind so you can enjoy your time away. Rest assured your dog is having the best time playing and getting cuddles in the open space and fresh air. Drop off your dog for doggy daycare, offering the same optional outdoor extra's as our retreat stays, such as bushwalks and paddock plays, for your dog's fulfillment and enjoyment.

At the Retreat, we also offer Hydrotherapy, a form of resistance training and rehabilitation using our specialised underwater treadmill. These treatment plans provided by our trained hydrotherapists work to relieve pain and inflammation, and promote wellbeing. Proven to stimulate blood flow and relax tight muscles, hydrotherapy is being used as beneficial pre and post operative treatment, as well as an effective form of weight management, fitness training and conditioning.



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TOO FUR
AWAY**

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Training
Grooming
Hydrotherapy
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►Agility Round Up

Robyn Goldsmith

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A big shout out to our Instructor Jan Taylor to wish her well following her surgery. Hoping she is able to join us again soon.

Linda's report from ADAA trial in July.

Catherine and Jack Jack got a 3rd in Elementary Agility with one fault and a 3rd in Starters Jumping with a time fault.

Kasia and Foxy got a 3rd in Starters Agility with 2 faults, a 2nd in Elementary Agility with 3 faults, 3rd in Starters Jumping with 1 fault. They were also in the 3 dog relay with Jaz and I where we placed 2nd with a clear round (Qualification).

Jaz and I got 9th in Open A Snooker, 2nd in Intermediate Agility with 1 fault, and 7th in Open A jumping with a 1.41 second time fault.

And Jaz was awarded his Australian Agility Dog Title on Sunday as well.

Robyn with Saffy got a clear run in Intermediate Jumping. She is 14 and a veteran now so not entitled to a Q.



Linda & Jasper, Kasia & Foxy, Robyn & Saffy, Catherine & Jack Jack

Trial Results

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ADC Pawlympics June 6

Patricia and Ziggy AD 2nd Q; JDX 1st Q

Patricia and Lacey JDO Q; JDM Q

Darren and Winston JDM 3rd Q



Jindabyne & Winston

Sutherland DTC June 14

Patricia and Ziggy – AD 1st Q

Darren and Winston ADM Q 2nd; JDM Q 3rd

Yvonne and Rio JD 1st Q; JDO Q

Hawkesbury ADTC June 20

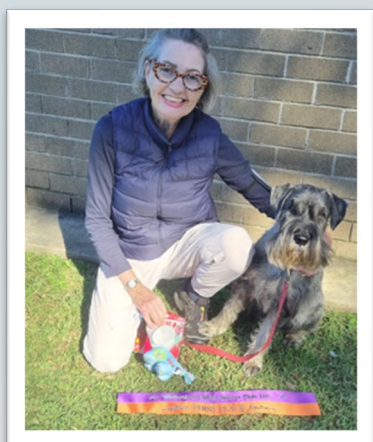
Darren and Winston ADM Q 2nd; JDM Q

Patricia and Lacey ADM Q; JDO

Wollongong DTC June 24

Catherine and Jack Jack JD Q 1st

Patricia and Lacey ADM Q; JDO



Catherine and Jack Jack

Dogs NSW Christmas in July 4 & 5

Patricia and Lacey ADM1 Q; ADM2 Q; ADOQ; JDO Q
Darren and Winston JDM1 Q; JDM2Q; ADM1 Q 1st;
ADM2 Q 1st

*Lacey with her Q cards
from Xmas in July*



ADAA PICSI July 19

Linda and Jasper Team Relay Q;
Katarzyna and Foxy Team Relay Q;



*Linda & Jasper
receiving their title
ribbon from ADAA*

Wollongong DTC July 25

Darren and Winston ADM Q 2nd; JDM Q 2nd; ADO Q

Wollongong DTC July 26

Darren and Winston ADM Q 3rd; JDM Q 3rd

Manly DTC August 1

Patricia and Lacey JDM Q; JDO Q
Darren and Winston JDM Q;

Northern Suburbs DTC August 2

Darren and Winston ADM Q 2nd;

Old English Sheepdog Club August 22

Patricia and Lacey JDO Q

Deer Bush DTC August 23

Robyn and Kobi JD Q 1st
Patricia and Lacey ADM Q 2nd



Robyn & Kobi

2026 Agility Trial

Jan Taylor

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The Club’s annual Agility Trial was held on Sunday, 14th June. Sadly, the competitor numbers were down from last year and this was attributed to the Australian Agility Nationals that were being held in Queensland two weeks after our trial. So, people were travelling north and competing in competitions, like Coffs Harbour, on their way to the Nationals.

Being incapacitated and not much help on the day, I want to say a huge **THANK YOU** to our Club Members that Volunteered. I was so proud of you all. Watching you jump in and do what needed to be done....You were brilliant, and I sincerely mean that! Some of you even attended a training session in the rain on the Long Weekend prior to the trial. Now that is dedication! Also, **THANK YOU** to the Club members who came on the Friday prior to the trial, to measure the field for the two rings needed and prepare equipment. It would be impossible for us to run these events without the support of Club Members. And it is a two-way street because the volunteers get to see another side of the Club that they may not have known existed. The experience could provide them with an opportunity to venture into Agility or Obedience or Rally or Tricks etc. So next time there is a call for Volunteers stick your hand up as it just might open up a whole new world for you and your dog.

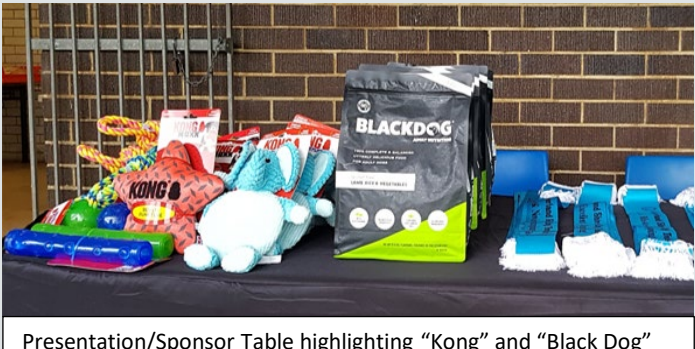
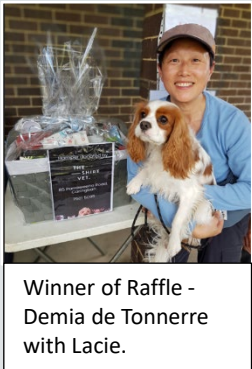


It would be remiss of me not to mention our fantastic caterers – Iris Jezierski and Dianne Cicchetti. The food you both provided was amazing especially the Hamburgers...WOW! To the ladies in the office, Wendy, Andrea and Rochelle, thank you for providing invaluable support and to Shanelle Corben, who got out of her sick bed to sell Raffle tickets.

Also, a special ‘shout-out’ to the Club’s Committee who not only provide encouragement to conduct events at Sutherland but physically help out on the day.



We had some fantastic sponsors, such as “**Black Dog**” who provided bags of food for our Place getters and training treats for all competitors; “**Kong**” for supplying training toys for Place getters; “**The Shire Treats**” for advertising our trial and setting up a stall on the day; and most importantly “**The Shire Vet**” at Caringbah who provided an amazing Raffle (thank you Linda Michel for organising). The money raised will go towards purchasing Agility equipment.





Margaret Taylor – Checking in competitors.

Setting up the rings provided us with a number of teething issues, some of which included: insufficient equipment on the Agility Trailer which we hired from Dogs NSW. That resulted in us having to use our Jumps, a Tunnel and all of our Tunnel Bags. Dot Drescik, Trial Secretary and member of the Agility Committee, came to our rescue when we did not have the code to open the box on the trailer which contained two sets of Timing Gates. When we did gain access, we discovered that one of the Gates did not work so we had to manually time each run on the Agility Ring.

And at the end of the day, a flat tyre on the Agility Trailer added to our frustration. If it wasn't for the intervention of Sandra Walker, (Chief Agility Instructor) who resolved the majority of the problems we had setting up, I doubt that the trial would have got off the ground, and to Margaret Taylor for her invaluable assistance throughout the day.

The weather was a bit of a mixed bag. It started fine, until we had a down-pour mid-morning before fining up again. Thankfully, people were well on their way home just as another storm front came through.

Our Judges were Jason McFarlane (Agility) and Tsuey Hiu (Jumping). Their courses were challenging but a lot of fun. As the trial was on 'Home Ground' a number of our Agilites participated with a few coming away with Passes and Placings.

Our congratulations go to:

Sharon Wee with 'Onetree The Watchmen' - 500 height

- 1st in Master Jumping
- 9th in Open Jumping
- 4th in Open Agility
- 1st in Novice Agility

Darren Lee with 'Winston' – 300 Height

- 2nd in Master Agility
- 3rd in Master Jumping

Patricia Pastana with 'Ziggylou' – 200 Height

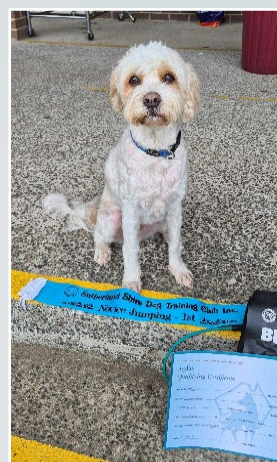
- 1st in Novice Agility

Robyn Goldsmith with 'Sirokko Obi' – 300 Height

- 3rd in Novice Jumping

Yvonne W with 'Rio' – 400 Height

- 1st in Novice Jumping
- 11th in Open Jumping



Yvonne's 'Rio'



Flore-Anne and 'Lumi'. Their first Agility Trial.

► Obedience, Rally, Herding, Scent Work, Tricks & DWD Report Winter 2026

Jenni Gormley

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Castle Hill Scent Work Trial, 30 May

Trevor and Paulette

Containers Advanced, Q; Exteriors Advanced, Q.

Hills Dog Club Scent Work Trial, 30 May

Jaxon and Christie

Interiors Excellent, Q; Exteriors Masters, Q; Judges Choice Award.

Roman and Christie

Exteriors Advanced, Q.

Brush Farm Double Trick Trial, 5 Jun

Ivy and Judy

Tricks Starter, Q

NSW Dobermann Club Trick Trial, Orchard Hill, 5 Jun

Artemis and Pamela

Tricks Intermediate, 1st place, 78.5/80 pts.

Trix and Josie

Tricks Intermediate, Q, 72.5 pts.

Brush Farm Double Tricks Trial, 7 Jun

Denver (Aybydan Calypso Delight) and Lyn

Tricks Starter AM, 1st place, 59.5/60; Tricks Starter PM, 1st place, 60/60; Tricks Starter, title gained.

Trix and Josie

Tricks Intermediate, Q, 77 pts.

Western Sydney Scent Work Club Vehicles Trial, 8 Jun

Magic and Christie

Vehicles Advanced, Q.

Border Collie Club of NSW Rally Trial, 13 Jun

Denver and Lyn

Rally Novice, Q, 93 pts; Rally Novice, title gained.

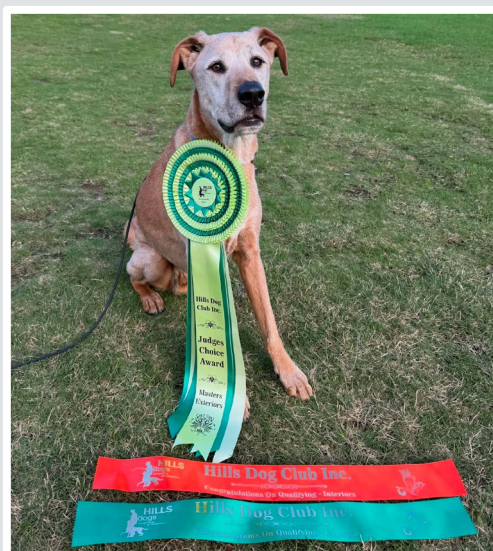
Gypsy (Aybydan Gypsy Pearl) and Lyn

Rally Masters, Q, 91 pts.

Northern Suburbs Dog Training Club Scent Work Trial, 19 Jun

Jaxon and Christie

Vehicles Masters, Q.



Sutherland Shire Dog Training Club Dancing with Dogs Trial, 20 Jun

Kodiak and Linda

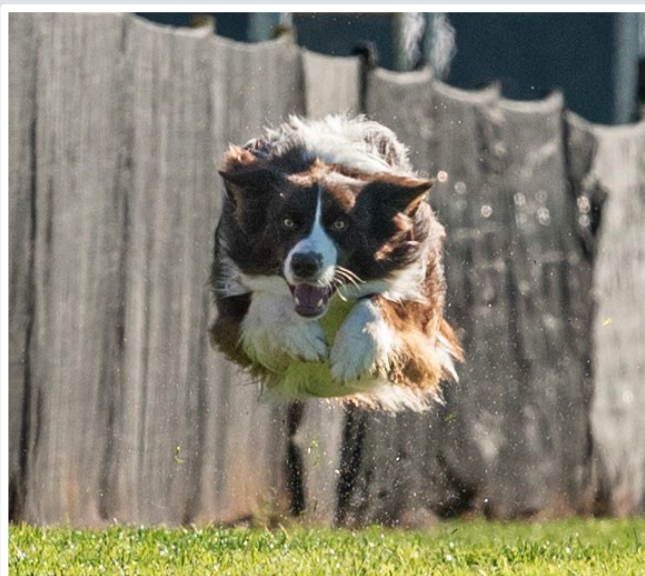
Freestyle Novice, 2nd place.

Ivy and Judy

Dances with Dogs Starter, title gained.

Trevor and Paulette

Freestyle Intermediate, 1st place.



Welsh Corgi Club SprintDog Trial, 21 Jun

Kodiak and Linda
SprintDog, Q runs.

Blacktown Kennel and Training Club Obedience Trial, 21 Jun

Trix and Josie
Obedience CCD, 4th place; Obedience
CCD, title gained.

All Star Obedience Trial, 26 Jun

Ivy and Judy
Obedience CCD, 1st place.

Doberman Club Scent Work Trial, 26 Jun

Trevor and Paulette
Interiors Advanced, Q.

Golden Retriever SprintDog Trial, 5 Jul

Magic and Christie
SprintDog, Q, 13.04 sec, 27.61 km/h, 41
pts.
Roman and Christie
SprintDog, Q, 8.88 sec, 40.54 km/h, 41 pts.

Penrith Kennel and Obedience Club Trial, 12 Jul

Kobi and Robyn
Rally Advanced, Q, 87 pts.
Trix and Josie
Obedience CD, 1st place; Rally
Excellent, Q, 80 pts.

Field Spaniel Club of NSW SprintDog Trial, 17 Jul

Kodiak and Linda
SprintDog, Q runs.
Magic and Christie
SprintDog, Q, 13.00 sec, 27.69 km/h,
42 pts.
Roman and Christie
SprintDog, Q, 9.04 sec, 39.82 km/h, 40
pts

Border Terrier Club Scent Work Trial, 17 Jul

Trevor and Paulette
Interiors Advanced, Q; Exteriors
Excellent, Q.
Trix and Josie
Interiors Advanced, 1st place.

Northern Suburbs Dog Training Club Scent Work Trial, 19 Jul

Jaxon and Christie

Containers Excellent, Q, 2nd place;
Scent Work Excellent, title (SWE) gained.

Dobermann Club of NSW Scent Work Trial, 24 Jul

Roman and Christie

Exteriors Excellent, Q.

Trix and Josie

Interiors Excellent, 2nd place; Exteriors
Excellent, Q.

Western Sydney Scent Work Club Trial, 25 Jul

Jaxon and Christie

Exteriors Masters, Q.

KT and Josie

Containers Masters, 3rd place.

Schnauzer Club of NSW Scent Work Trial, 30 Jul

KT and Josie

Containers Excellent, title gained.

Trix and Josie

Vehicles Excellent, 2nd place.

NSW Scent Work State Titles, 22- 23 Aug

Jaxon and Christie

Exteriors Masters, Q; Scent Work Exterior
Element, title (SWX) gained.

Roman and Christie

Exteriors Excellent, Q; Vehicles Excellent,
Q; Containers Excellent, Q.

KT and Josie

Exteriors Excellent, Q; Vehicles Excellent,
Q.

Trix and Josie

Exteriors Excellent, 3rd place; Vehicles
Excellent, Q; Interiors Excellent, Q



Field Spaniel Club of NSW SprintDog Trial, 2 Aug

Magic and Christie

SprintDog, Q, PB 12.64 sec, 28.48 km/h,
43 pts.

Roman and Christie

SprintDog, Q, PB 8.56 sec, 42.06 km/h, 42
pts; SprintDog Advanced, title (SPRD.A)
gained.

Dogs NSW Endurance Test, 9 Aug

Kodiak and Linda

Endurance Test, Q; Endurance Test, title
(ET) gained.

Northern Suburbs Dog Training Club Trial, 16 Aug

Kobi and Robyn

Tricks Advanced, Q, 91 pts.

Trix and Josie

Tricks Intermediate, Q, 77 pts and 76 pts.

Northern Suburbs Dog Training Club Double Tricks Trial, 19 Aug

Roman and Christie

Tricks Starter AM, Q, 56/60 and 2nd place;
Tricks Starter PM, Q, 60/60 and 1st place;
Tricks Starter, title (TK.S) gained.

► Grading fundamentals

What does it take to grade up?

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Sutherland Shire Dog Training Club provides a progressive obedience training program, allowing members and their dogs to advance through the Club's training classes as their skills develop. Grading provides a consistent way of assessing when a dog and handler are ready to progress to the next level of training. Club Obedience Training Pathway:

Orientation → Class 1 → Class 2 → Class 3 → Class 4 → Club Medal → Club Medal Excellent

Orientation/Club introduction

Provides new members with an introduction to the Club, basic dog handling and communication skills, and the foundations to commence training in Class 1.

Progression to Class 1

Handlers and their dogs attend this class for one week only before progressing to Class 1.



Class 1

Progression to class 2

Grading takes place every Sunday at end of class.

At this level, handlers may encourage their dogs verbally and repeat commands. Checking a dog is not penalised.

Permitted: clicker & food rewards (luring).

Grading requirements

To progress to Class 2, the handler and dog are expected to demonstrate:

- ❖ a developing level of communication between handler and dog
- ❖ the handler's ability to touch, encourage and direct the dog during all heeling patterns
- ❖ heeling with a loose lead (as much as possible)
- ❖ execution of left and right turns and sits
- ❖ basic handling skills
- ❖ the handler's knowledge and ability to communicate commands to the dog.

Class 2

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Progression to Class 3

Grading takes place on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

At this level, handlers may encourage their dogs verbally, but only occasionally repeat commands. Checking a dog is penalised, consistent checking of the dog will result in a failure.

Not permitted: clicker, food rewards (luring).

Permitted: canine bridles and halters.

Grading requirements

To progress to Class 3, the handler and the dog are expected to demonstrate:

- ❖ loose lead (leash) work at all paces
- ❖ heeling at all paces on a loose lead, including sits and stands using signal and voice only. Downs are performed without force, although the dog may be 'guided' down by the lead
- ❖ sit stay: handler beside the dog for 1 minute
- ❖ down stay: handler beside the dog for 1 minute
- ❖ the handler's ability to communicate commands effectively to the dog.

Class 3

Progression to Class 4

Grading takes place on the 3rd Sunday of each Month

At this level, handlers may encourage their dogs verbally but may only issue one command. Handling the dog or checking the dog will incur a penalty. Consistent checking will result in a failure.

Not permitted: clicker and food rewards (luring), canine bridles and halters.

Grading requirements

To progress to class 4, the handler and dog are expected to demonstrate:

- ❖ loose lead (leash) work at all paces, including automatic sit
- ❖ heeling at all paces on a loose lead with sits, stands and downs performed using signal and voice only. The handler is not to touch the dog or guide the dog into position
- ❖ stand for examination, with the dog beside the handler, conducted to the applicable CCD standard. Dogs' paws movement will earn minor deductions as per CCD judging; movement of all 4 paws will result in failure.
- ❖ sit stay: handler 1.5 metres in front of the dog for 1 minutes
- ❖ drop stay: handler 1.5 metres in front of the dog for 2 minutes
- ❖ the handler's ability to communicate commands effectively to the dog.

Class 4 to Club Medals

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Class 4 is the highest level within the Club's regular obedience class grading structure.

Handlers and dogs who have successfully graded to class 4 may continue their progression through the Club's Club medal grading program.

Assessments are conducted under trial-style conditions

Food and clickers are not permitted during the assessment and normal trial-style handling requirements apply.

A qualifying pass obtained at an external trial does not count towards the 3 Club grading passes required for Club Medal or Club Medal Excellent.

CLUB MEDAL

Progression from Class 4

To participate in grading for Club Medal, the dog and handler must:

- ❖ be current financial members of the Club
- ❖ have successfully graded to class 4.

Grading requirements

- ❖ To obtain Club Medal the dog and handler must achieve 3 qualifying passes to the applicable Community Companion Dog (CCD) trial standard through the Club's grading program.
- ❖ Eligibility for Club Medal ceases once the dog has attained it's CCD title.

CLUB MEDAL EXCELLENT

Progression from Club Medal

To participate in grading for Club Medal Excellent, the dog and handler must:

- ❖ be current financial members of the Club
- ❖ have successfully graded to class 4
- ❖ have obtained Club Medal.

Grading requirements

- ❖ To obtain Club Medal Excellent the dog and handler must achieve 3 qualifying passes to the applicable Novice (CD) trial standard through the Club's grading program.
- ❖ Eligibility for Club Medal Excellent ceases once the dog has attained it's CD title.

► Merchandise highlight

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Treat pouches are available from the clubhouse kiosk – only \$15.00 each

TRAINING AND CLASS TIMES

SUNDAY MORNING

Orientation and Classes 1, 2, 3, 4 and the Alternate class run from:

- ❖ 8.00am - 9.00am during daylight savings (summer)
- ❖ 8.30am - 9.30am during non-daylight savings (winter)

Agility training runs from:

- ❖ 8.30am - 9.30am from May to September

MONDAY NIGHT

enquire at Club House on a Sunday

- ❖ **The Help Class** runs from 7:00 to 8:30 pm (invitation only - enquire at Clubhouse)
- ❖ **Rally training** runs from: 7:00 to 9:00pm
- ❖ **Obedience Trial Class** runs fortnightly from 7:00 to 9:00pm (2nd & 4th Monday of each month)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

enquire at Club House on a Sunday

- ❖ **Agility training** runs from 7:00pm to 9:00pm from October to April
- ❖ **Obedience Trial training** runs from 7:00pm to 8:30pm on 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month
- ❖ **Trick Dog training** runs from 7:00pm to 8:30pm on 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month

Classes are not held

- ❖ On public holiday weekends
- ❖ During the Christmas holidays (i.e. from mid-December to the end of January)
- ❖ Trial/competition days (dates are posted on the Club website and Facebook page)
- ❖ Training will also be cancelled if Sutherland Shire Council closes the grounds or the Club deems the grounds to be unsafe.

Updates will be posted on the Club website and Facebook page. Information on Council ground closures is also available on council grounds wet weather line Ph: (02) 9710 0893.

GROUND RULES

Waratah Park

1. Members must be in class by the start time. Instructors have the right to refuse entry to the class if you are late.
2. All members must register at the payment line prior to start of class. No dogs will be permitted to join class without payment.
3. Members without membership badges may be refused admittance to class. If a member has forgotten their membership badge a temporary badge should be obtained from the clubhouse prior to payment of ground fees.
4. No bitch in season will be allowed to attend training.
5. Dogs must be **KEPT ON LEASH AT ALL TIMES** unless under the supervision of an instructor.
6. The handlers of dogs that foul the grounds must immediately clean up and deposit in one of the bins provided on the field or in Council cage.
7. Classes using the Club jumps and/or agility equipment will be responsible for returning the equipment to the equipment room after use.
8. Members must always behave courteously to other members and officials of the Club.
9. Any disputes should be referred to your instructor, the Chief Instructor or a Committee Member at the time of the dispute.
10. Members are responsible for the behaviour of their dogs and for any damage they may cause.
11. Members must wear closed-in shoes.