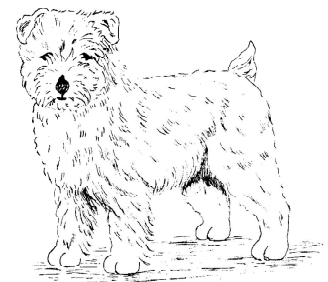
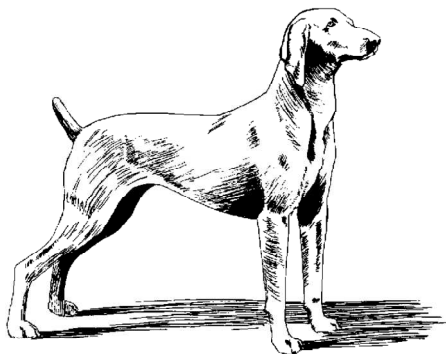
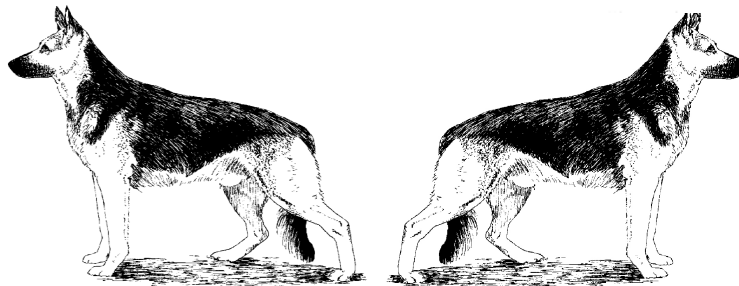
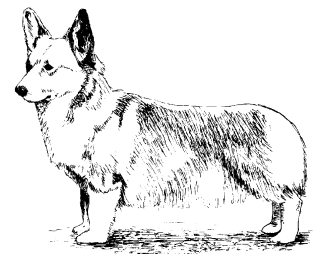
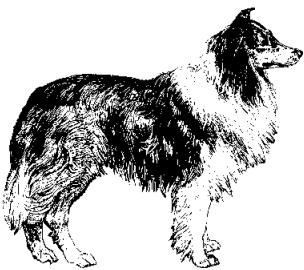
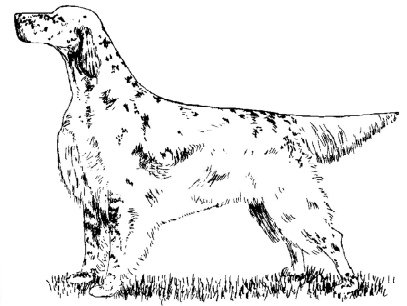


FAITHFULLY YOURS



ESTABLISHED 1954

Incorporation No A5419H

ABN 79 874 613 605

**Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc
Breakwater Road, Belmont Common
GEEELONG VIC 3220
Phone: 5243 4555**

**September 2012
Issue No
235**

GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

Patron – Mr Fred Lehrmann

Office Bearers for 2011/2012

PRESIDENT	Leonie Kelleher	0417358149	Public Officer
VICE-PRESIDENT (1)	Colin Humphreys	52 822 683	Training
VICE-PRESIDENT (2)	Stephen Eldridge		Administration
SECRETARY	Pam Convery	52 414 786	
TREASURER	Kathy Taylor	52 411 886	Property Officer
TRIAL SECRETARY	Janelle Convery	52 414 786	
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	Roland Linford		Equipment Manager
	Victor Douglas	0448415401	Grounds Manager
	Vacant	52 411 886	Hall Manager
	Rebecca Kearney		Social Secretary/Publicity Officer
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NON-COMMITTEE	John Shields	52 641 002	Training Supervisor
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	Vacant		Minutes Officer
	Robyn Youl		Librarian
	Stephen Eldridge		Assistant Librarian
	Pam Convery	52 414 786	Newsletter Editor
	Brendan Jagtenberg	0410 261 393	Webmaster

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the Editor or the Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc. All Committee and Sub-Committee reports bear the name of the respective Club Officers. The Editor and/or Committee reserves the right to correct, alter, re-arrange or refuse, without prejudice, any copy submitted for publication.

Weekday Office Hours:- Monday, 3.00pm to 7.00pm

All correspondence should be addressed to:-

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GEELONG VIC 3220**

If you would like to contribute articles etc. for publication in “Faithfully Yours”, please forward them to The Editor, c/- the above address, hand in at the Office or email to [Pam Convery at janelle.convery@bigpond.com](mailto:janelle.convery@bigpond.com)

Please remember the closing date for all Newsletter items is the 15th of each month

Club website – www.godc.org.au



CLUB CALENDAR

September

Sunday 2 September Normal training. Newsletter available
Wednesday 5 September Committee and Non-Committee nominations close
Sunday 9 September Normal training.
Saturday 15 September Newsletter Closes for articles, reports etc
Sunday 16 September Normal training
Monday 17 September Instructors Meeting – 7.30 pm.
Wednesday 19 September Life Membership nominations close
Sunday 23 September Fun Day including presentations. Also Induction for New Members
Sunday 30 September Normal Training for current Members. New Members Commence Training

October

Tuesday 2 October ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 8.00 pm
Sunday 7 October Normal Training. Newsletter Available
Sunday 14 October Normal Training
Monday 15 October Newsletter closes for articles, reports, etc
Monday 15 October Instructor's Meeting – 7.30 pm.
Sunday 21 October Normal training.
Sunday 28 October Normal training.

CLUB INSTRUCTORS

Vice President (Training) Colin Humphreys
Training Supervisor John Shields
Assistant Training Supervisors Kim Ciezarek
Desma Dickeson

Obedience

Colin Humphreys Val Moeller Wendy Ganly
John Shields Kim Ciezarek Chelsea Virt
Kath Devlin Desma Dickeson David Gravolin
Christine Jagtenberg Victor Douglas Tony Stewart

Agility

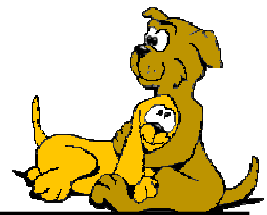
Trish Gavaghan Glenys Murray Alex Shackleton
Bev Petrass Vanessa Bridges
Susan Axe Carole Sparks

Rally O

Wendy Ganly

Flyball

Sally Hunt Nicole Timms



Positions Vacant

Kathy Taylor has resigned as Canteen Manager and is taking on the position of Treasurer, so we are now looking for a Canteen Manager. Kathy is prepared to help with the shopping. If you would like further details please speak to Kathy. Due to ill health John Taylor has had to resign as Hall Manager, if you can help out please let us know

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Presidents Report

Hi everyone and welcome to another edition of Faithfully Yours, as you are all well aware mother nature has been unkind to us again recently and we have had to move training more than once. Please remember to check your emails as Pam always sends out an email if the need is there to move training at any time.

As usual there has been lots happening around the Club, currently we are gearing up for our next lot of Trials, so have a think of how you can help and we would love to have you down helping the Club out. For those that are wanting to look at competing it is a good way for you to learn and see what Trialling is all about!!

We are in need of two people to fill Committee Positions, one is the Hall Manager and the other the Canteen Manager. If you would like to put something back into the Club, how about considering taking on one of these positions, please come and speak to a Committee Member if you would like some more information or would like to volunteer for one of the positions.

Congratulations to those Members who have been recently competing with your dog/s, even though we sometimes don't get passing scores, if we come away with positives it is a good day ☺

Until next time

Leonie

Library Update:

Amie Hughes has generously donated 3 classic books to the library. The Complete Book of Dog Obedience. The Guide for Trainers is by Blanche Saunders was the original 'Bible' for Obedience Instructors. In 1937 Blanche and her friend Helen Whitely took to the roads in U.S. to promote obedience and dog training. They toured the continent with their dogs in a 21 foot trailer to promote the slogan Train Your Dog with obedience demonstrations.

Blanche promoted the newly emerging sport with missionary zeal. The Complete Book of Dog Obedience is the 1954 revised edition of the first book ever written specifically for Obedience Instructors. It is a valuable collector's item. Although Saunders showed an understanding of the modern principles of learning, negative reinforcement procedures played a key role in her method. Her trained dogs, were however, brilliant, happy performers who responded willingly to her.

The German Shepherd Dog by Ernest H. Hart [1910-1985], published 1985 is another 'classic' written by an international judge and member of the Board of Directors of the GSD Club of America. The book is also partially illustrated by him. The G.S.D. breed enthusiast will appreciate the profusely illustrated Breed History, Chapter 2. The section on training features use of the correction chain - the dogs however are focussed and relaxed.

John Cree's Training the German Shepherd Dog [Rev.Ed. 1992] with its extensive coverage of all requirements of obedience trials is applicable to all breeds. The method used is an interesting blend of the 'old' technique using the correction chain and manual handling the dog into required positions [sit, drop] and operant conditioning. For DIY trial enthusiasts diagrams and instructions constructing the High and Long Jumps - p.97 & p. 103.

Available from Geelong Libraries.

Non- Fiction:

*Horowitz, Alexandra: Inside of a dog. What dogs see, smell and know. Simon & Schuster: London, 2012. Also available from Kobo.

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A cognitive scientist, she looks at a dog's view of the world. Experience a dog's perceptual and cognitive abilities and what it is like to be able to smell not just food and 'messages' left by its peers, but also disease in human beings. Her crisp, clear prose style brings you as close to experiencing the essence of being dog without being one yourself.

*Mckenna, Martin: *What's your dog telling you?* HarperCollins Publishers Australia Pty. Ltd.: Sydney, 2011. Also available from Kobo

McKenna's central premise is that dogs are constantly challenging man's authority and need to be shown who is in control every day. Although illiterate, McKenna wrote the book with the assistance of his 16 year old daughter who has done a remarkable job of presenting McKenna's doctrine clearly and concisely. The book is in Question/Answer format and the material is organised into chapters dedicated to topics - Dog Language, The Boss of the Den, Rescue Dogs etc.

His philosophy closely parallels that of Cesar Milan '*No-one can ever be equal to anyone else in the dog world.*' Like Milan he entered his adopted country as an 'illegal' and learn't to speak 'dog' as a child in his native land. Their childhoods are, however, totally dissimilar. Cesar was from a poor but devout, loving Mexican Catholic family. McKenna is Irish from a poor but totally dysfunctional Catholic family. Born in Garryowen in 1962 as one of triplets to a German mother and a violent, drunken father he was severely beaten at home and battled at school with behavioural problems and illiteracy. His solace was the two family German Shepherd Dogs.

McKenna ran away from home after the death of the two GSD's. They were taken by council and put down after he had released them to attack two teachers who had visited his home to complain about his behaviour at school. He roamed Garryowen, with a pack of dogs and claims it was during this period that he learned to 'speak dog'.

Fiction:

Feeling a little overwhelmed by all the recently published books on canine behaviour and training? Relax with the delightful new Chet and Bernie Mysteries written by Spencer Quinn. Chet - the dog is the narrator of these stories. Stephen King calls Chet a canine Sam Spade, full of joie de vivre - and he is! Also available from Kindle

*Quinn, Spencer: *Dog on it. A Chet and Bernie mystery:* Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest N.S.W., 2009

On their first case, Chet and Bernie investigate the disappearance of a teenage girl.

*To Fetch a Thief: [2011] Join Chet & Bernie on the hunt for a missing circus elephant and its trainer.

* The Dog who Knew Too Much [2011] Bernie is invited to give the keynote speech at a private investigator's convention ... meanwhile Chet is being secretly targeted and ...

* Fistful of Collars [2012] Chet & Bernie investigate a movie star with a shady past.

Robyn Youl - Librarian



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Social Secretary's Report

Just a quick note to say thanks to everyone who supported the recent Raffles for the Agility and Obedience/Rally O Trials. It went quite well and a very special thanks to Big John Hartney, John Taylor and any other helpers who spend many hours doing a fantastic job of selling tickets on the day. Also thanks to those who have donated goods for the raffles (always appreciated) especially Best Friends Superstore and ISR Truck City.

Rebecca Kearney.

TRIAL RESULTS

Dogs Victoria – 8th April – Rally O

R Kearney Reuben Pass 88points

S Axe Hector Elite Tunnelers 1 Q 2nd
Elite Tunnelers 2 Q 4th **TNE**
Open Weavers 1 Q 3rd
WV-O Open Versatility
Open Weavers 2` 3rd
Open Touch n Go 2 2nd

Bacchus Marsh

S Axe Hector Open Chances Q
Open Touch n Go Q 1st
O-TG-O
Elite Jumpers 2nd
Open Regular 2 3rd
Open Regular 1 4th

Geelong Obedience Dog Club Rally O - 14th July

R Kearney Reuben Pass 89 points
Pass 75 points **TITLE**

15th July

R Kearney Reuben Pass 82 points
Pass 82 points

Keilor - Sunday 12th Aug

S Axe Hector Elite Jumpers 2 Q 1st
Open regular 2 Q 2nd
Elite tunnelers Q 3rd
Elite jumpers 1 1st
Open regular 1 1st
Open weavers 3rd

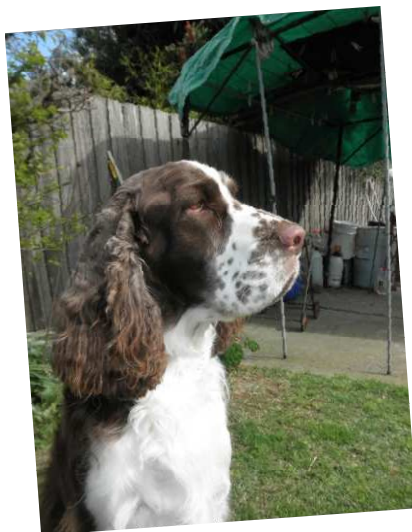
OPEN HIT

GSDC of Victoria Tracking trial 12 August 2012

L Kelleher Brynfield Branko RN TD Test 5 Very Good

R Kearney Lucyollie Reubinallblack Test 2 Good

Brynfield Branko TD RN



Branko came into my life as a 9 week old puppy, I had high expectations for him, we were going to do lots of different activities. Well, we have done lots of different things some better than others!!! We began training in Rally O earlier this year and at Easter we entered 4 trials at KCC Park. Our first 2 trials we won't mention but feeling rejected I fronted up the next day for another 2 trials, hoping for at least 1 pass for the day. To my surprise we gained 2 passes and I was beaming with pride. Eager now to gain that last pass for our title I entered all 4 trials at our recent trials and the first trial for the weekend we gained our Rally Novice title . I went in the ring another 2 times and we gained 2 more passes. Thanks to Wendy

Ganly for all your encouragement and support, and to our trialling buddies, thanks for being there offering support and guidance aswell. Now the fun begins as we train for our Advanced title.

Leonie Kelleher



Lucyollie Reubinallblack (Reuben)

I am very pleased and proud to announce that Reuben has finally gained a Title at the tender age of 8 1/2 years of age! Reuben and I started at the Club when he was 9 month old (and I felt a lot younger) and he proved quite a challenge to train for a first dog owner. To those who say Labrador Retrievers are easy to train because they are food obsessed, think again!

We plodded our way through Beginner, Merit and Graduate Classes and slowly improved as my understanding of dogs improved and started Trialling in Obedience a couple of years ago. We haven't had much success UNTIL Rally Obedience started up at the Club. We immediately saw the benefits and Reuben and I enjoy the challenges presented.

We attended the Dogs Victoria Trial over Easter gaining one pass and had a bonanza at the recent Geelong Obedience Dog Club Rally O Trial on July 14th and 15th gaining 4 more passes and Reuben's first ever Title! We are very stoked and grateful to all those who have helped us along the way especially Wendy Ganly and Janelle Convery for their fantastic advice and continual support.

Rebecca Kearney

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FROM RENEWAL

Type of Membership

Dual	26	Pensioner Dual	5	Single	87
Family	53	Pensioner Family	7		
Life Member	26	Pensioner Single	16		

Where you all live - Postcodes

3018	1	3219	28	3240	4
3111	1	3220	13	3241	2
3206	1	3221	9	3254	1
3211	1	3222	5	3280	2
3212	5	3223	3	3321	1
3213	2	3224	10	3328	1
3214	10	3225	3	3331	6
3215	13	3226	5	3332	1
3216	59	3227	7	3340	1
3217	1	3228	16		
3218	7	3230	1		

Most Popular Dogs Names

Bella	8	Archie	2	Jessie	2
Harvey	4	Buddy	2	Meg	2
Sasha	4	Chase	2	Millie	2
Angus	3	Chelsea	2	Roxy	2
Lexi	3	Ebony	2	Scout	2
Ruby	3	Hannah	2	Skye	2
Alfie	2	Harry	2	Toby	2

Breeds

Crossbreeds	T ogue De Bordeaux	A kita
Border Collie	3 omer Staffordshire Terrier	A ustralian Terrier
Labrador Retriever	C urley Coated Retriever	C hinese Crested
German Shepherd Dog	F ox Terrier	E nglish Setter
Golden Retriever	P oodle (Toy)	F lat Coat Retriever
Cocker Spaniel	B eagle	H ungarian Vizsla
Whippet	B order Terrier	N ewfoundland
Australian Kelpie	B oxer	P haraoh Hound
Cav King Charles Spaniel	E nglish Springer Spaniel	P ointer (English)
Jack Russell Terrier	G erman Shorthaired Pointer	P ortuguese Water Dog
Rottweiler	G reyhound	S chnauzer
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	H avanese	S cottish Terrier
Australian Cattle Dog	J apanese Spitz	T ibetan Terrier
Australian Shepherd	S t Bernard	W elsh Corgi (Pembroke)
Collie (Rough)	W eimaraner	2
Dobermann	A iredale Terrier	1

PURE FUN, PURE SPORT, PURE DANCES WITH DOGS



Dances with dogs is a new fun way to train and compete with your dog. Dances with dogs has two streams, freestyle and heelwork to music. Each stream has four separate levels and titles to each level. The levels are starters, novice, intermediate and advanced.

Freestyle is just that, technical moves to a piece of music. A handler is only limited by their imagination... It's a way of taking all of the tricks and skills you've all being having fun with in the past and choreographing them to music to produce a snappy routine to catch the judges eye.

Heelwork to music involves traditional

heelwork (dogs shoulder to handlers knee) choreographed to a piece of music. The twist is, in heelwork to music there are eight recognised heelwork positions. Doesn't sound so simple now does it? As you progress through the levels, more of the eight positions should be included in a routine so that by the advanced level, the dog should be working in both left and right heel positions as well as front and back cross body heelwork. Add to this that in all eight positions the dog can be moving either forwards or backwards.



Both streams are technically challenging and can draw on skills from both obedience and agility to increase the technical merit of a routine. These can be combined with a repertoire of moves varying from leg weaves and spins to reversing around props and walking backwards on hind legs.



"JILL HOUSTON OBEDIENCE WORKSHOP" 10-11th August, at Bulla.

I attended both days of Jill's workshop, keen to pick up as much as I could from such an eminent Trialler, trainer and Obedience, Rally, DWD and Agility judge.

It became clear that there are three basic concepts that she adopts to ensure success with her dogs. The first is that she regards it as her dog's HOBBY also and as such she insists that it is enjoyable for her dog, hence she does not use any form of correction training. This does not mean that she doesn't train with CONSEQUENCES. She uses food, tug-toys and praise as equal motivators (more on this later) and is careful never to reward a behaviour from her dog when she has done the work!

This means in practice, that if your dog doesn't give you the desired behaviour willingly, then you do not reward. It is therefore really important that every behaviour that you want to achieve is broken down into the smallest of components, so that you teach each individual bit separately, and reward at every step of the way.

The second concept she got across is that to have ANY chance of success with Obedience, it is necessary to teach the dog attention and focus, before you can do ANYTHING that will be required in the trial ring. As she said, if you are not the prime focus for your dog, if you are not the most interesting thing to your dog, then you can't blame/correct your dog for giving it's attention to what it does find the most interesting, e.g. Sniffing the ground, watching other dogs, running off!

Right from the earliest age, she teaches a dog to touch her hand (both sides). This is accomplished with classic operant conditioning, using tiny, soft food rewards. As the dog understands the concept, the time between touch and reward is increased, with the dog understanding that the touch is the "promise" of the reward. With the smaller dogs she uses the target stick. She then USES the touch between exercises, to reinforce to the dog that the reward is coming i.e. it is outside the ring and will come at the end. The concept of multiple or jackpot rewards is used too, so that the dog never knows how big a reward is coming. A word about rewards; she never replaces a toy with food or praise with food - by doing that you devalue the toy and the praise as something the dog will perform for. She believes that all dogs should be trained with both food and tug toys and of course praise. There must of course be an off switch for tugging - it ends when you decide, not the dog. For the reluctant "tuggers" start by using a chicken neck in a sock - tugging will then become a motivator for your dog almost overnight.

The third concept is to keep moving! Particularly with the younger more novice dogs, she teaches everything leading to "heeling" in short 3-5 step bursts, in different directions, but always with rewards and play in between. Jill believes that the easiest way to get a dog bored or frustrated is to concentrate on the static exercises, when the dog wants to move. She works quickly, using a food reward held wide and high to pattern that lovely trotting gait that the best heeling dogs exhibit. Once this is in place she then brings the food ever closer to her leg to pattern the heel position. This position is then also reinforced by using a small step (about the size of the new Geelong yellow pages), to teach the dog hind-leg awareness, and the ability to know what and where it's hind legs are. This is fantastic for those of us wanting to teach our dogs backing up and DWD moves.

What I found rewarding was that some of her techniques are already in use in our Trialling Class on Monday nights, and I now can apply more skills to help our Triallers succeed.

Heather Miller

PURE FUN, PURE SPORT, PURE TRACKING



Overview - Trust Your Dog

The purpose of tracking is for the dog to follow a human scent trail and find the "missing person" at the end. Tracking is an activity that cannot be taught to a dog by a human. All dogs that have the ability to smell can track; some are better at it than others but if push came to shove and they were left in the wild they would all be able to use their sense of smell to locate food.

People have a limited understanding of how scent works, whereas dogs (with their much more sensitive scenting apparatus) understand and work it brilliantly. It is

important that it is understood that the best a handler can hope for, is to hone the dog's natural scenting ability in the desired direction. The dog must use its initiative to achieve in tracking and the handler must remember in tracking the dog is never wrong; it might just need to recheck the direction of the trail until it is sure. The tracking handler's motto is trust your dog. If there is any doubt you MUST believe that the dog is doing the right thing: - don't forget that you can't track, you don't understand the circumstances the dog is working under.

Trials

Tracking trials are held from May through until September each year in Victoria, due to the heat and snake bite danger in summer. The first test is called a tracking qualification test, then you move onto test 1, test 2 (once test 2 is passed your dog will or gained it's first tracking title, which is known as a tracking dog title and your dog will have the letters TD after it's name). Then you and your dog move onto test 3, test 4 and test 5 once these have been completed successfully your dog will have gained its tracking dog excellent title (TDX). Test 6 is the next and last test that you and your dog will undertake in tracking and once this level has been passed, your dog will have attained the ultimate in tracking, it will be a tracking champion.

The first test, (TQT) is 300 metres in length and will contain one 90 degree turn. The time delay between when the test is laid by the track layer and the dog commencing to track is between 10 and 30 minutes. An article (usually a sock) with the tracklayer's scent on it is left at the start flag so the dog knows which scent it is to follow.

Test 5 is laid over a distance of 1200 metres, or 1.2kms, it has a least five angle turns one of which will be acute. The time delay on this test is between 60 and 180 minutes prior to the dog and handler working the track. It has an article at the start flag and three more over the course of the track. Two articles must be indicated by the dog and the track layer found for the dog to obtain a pass.



Test 6 is also laid over a distance of 1200 metres but instead of the article being left at the start flag it is handed to the handler in a sealed bag in the vicinity of where the judge gave their instructions to the track layer. This is what is called a 'blind start'. There is no flag stating where the track layer commenced laying the track, the dog must use its scenting ability to find the track left when the track layer left the area.

Trials generally cost between \$20 and \$35 dollars to enter and, because of the amount of land required are generally held outside the Melbourne metropolitan area. Grassland, Ballard, Inveigh, Broadford and the Mornington Peninsula are regularly used areas. Check-in times are usually around 6.30am and trials are often held over two or three days to ensure as many entrants as possible actually get a track.

PURE FUN, PURE SPORT, PURE TRACKING

You may request a particular day, but note that the trial secretary is not obliged to juggle the entries and it is almost impossible to accommodate all such requests. Be prepared to accept any of the days and you'll be a popular competitor! Note that there are often more entrants than tracks available in which case a ballot is held prior to the trial. When attending a tracking trial, it is considered poor form to not be prepared to lay tracks for other people. Always take at least six articles and put them on when you leave home on the morning of the tracking trial and keep them on your person during the day. The rule book states they must be on your person for a minimum of 30 minutes prior laying a test, by having them on you all day you will never be caught out not being available when a track layer is required. Remembering that you will require unknown people to lay your tracks as time goes on, be prepared to help others as required.

Entry forms for tracking trials are available for purchase from the DOGS Victoria office but you can also use the standard obedience entry form. The test number you are entering should be stated, and your known track layer should be nominated. Also include a copy of your most recent pass, which verifies that you are eligible for a particular test. Include a stamped self-addressed envelope to ensure that the trial secretary sends you a receipt and/ or map of the venue.

Training Method

The basic idea when beginning to track with a dog is to get the dog interested enough in someone to want to follow, and try to encourage the dog to use its nose instead of eye/ears to find the person. The same process can be used to find an object rather than a person, but it's generally easier to get the dog focused on finding a person than an object.

You should always commence tracking training by laying the track with the wind behind you. If you lay the track into the wind it will encourage your dog to wind scent rather than scenting the ground where the track layer has walked.

Have the handler put the dog in harness and attach a training lead approximately five metres in length. Give a favorite toy or favourite treat (reward) to someone the dog knows well. Stand near an obstacle that the dog can't see around or through (like a car or brick wall). Have the track layer make a big fuss of both dog and toy/reward and walk off towards an obstacle they can hide behind (a tree or shed) about 30 metres distant.

Let the dog see the person leave and the general direction they are going in, then move it behind the car. Make a big fuss, "Where is he? Who's got your toy? Where's he gone?" etc to get the dog's interest level up.



Leave about a two minute gap after the track layer has left before moving the dog out to find him. Be consistent with the use of a word for the tracking act i.e. find or seek. Remember the word should not sound harsh in anyway. Use this word now and encourage the dog to find the track layer. i.e. "Find. Where is he?" or "Seek him then". The dog should move in roughly the right direction having seen the track layer leave.

Allow the dog to travel a short distance in the right direction on no more than three metres of lead. Don't allow it to run; steady tension on the lead is the best. If the dog's nose goes down towards ground level, praise and repeat the word in an enthusiastic but non-distracting tone "Find/Seek, good boy". While the dog's nose is down, or is clearly sniffing/scenting allow forward movement, if the dog is just wandering at random, or trying to run in the direction he saw the person leave, gently restrain him and allow no forward movement.

DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES CORRECT THE DOG. Simply encourage the dog to come back onto the track and only then once the dog has indicated the track and you have praised it will you move forward with the dog. Slowly progress towards the track layer hiding place and regardless of the dog's

PURE FUN, PURE SPORT, PURE TRACKING

performance to get there, PRAISE madly. The track layer should make a big fuss of the dog and play with the toy with the dog. The track layer and toy are the dog's reward and should be used profusely to encourage the dog to remain enthusiastic next time.

Do only one or two tracks per training session. Don't be surprised if your dog seems to have little idea of what is required for the first few sessions. Like many activities it can take time for the dog to get the idea, repetition is the key.

As the dog improves, increase the distance, don't allow the dog to see the tracklayer leave, and start to use articles on the ground. The articles can be used to help keep the dog's nose down. Outside of your tracking training, get the dog enthusiastic about picking up socks. Make a game out of it. Then use socks on the track and praise when they are found. Don't fall into the trap of placing them so closely that the dog can see each one and just runs to them. Place them at least 10 metres apart and let the dog scent to them.

Further Information

Further information on tracking can be obtained by reading the ANKC Tracking rule book. To view the tracking rules please [click here](#). The Tracking Club of Victoria also conducts beginners training days for members and an annual workshop weekend which is open to members and non-members. For more information go to www.trackingclubvic.org.au.

Tracking - All Dogs Can Do This

The dog's ability to track is well known. Man has utilised this ability for centuries. Dogs have helped the hunter to find game and food. In France, dogs hunt for exotica like truffles. Dogs have been used by police to hunt criminals and by search and rescue workers to find lost people.



The usefulness of the Swiss Mountain rescue dogs and avalanche dogs is legendary. There are international teams of dogs trained to find victims of earthquakes and other natural disasters. There have been hundreds of dogs of various breeds working at the World Trade Centre, in unimaginable conditions. The wreckage includes glass and sharp objects, rats are a problem, but still the dogs work.

German Shepherd Dogs and gundogs have always been in the forefront as a tracking and search and rescue (SAR) dog, not because they have the best sense of smell, but because of their willingness to work. This

working ability is a key factor in why these breeds are used all over the world for services and SAR work.

For the ordinary citizen, tracking dogs can be a competition sport where dogs compete for ANKC (Australian National Kennel Council) titles. Tracking is something that all dogs can do. It is a natural instinct for a dog to use this sense. From birth a puppy makes its way to its mother for a drink. How? The puppy is born blind. It uses its sense of smell.

The dog's tracking ability is extremely acute; we still don't fully understand the dog's capabilities in this area.. The dog's olfactory sense is much, much more greatly developed than humans. Dogs naturally track for food. You could call this their hunting instinct. We don't have to teach a dog to track; we use their natural instinct to teach them that we want them to follow a certain track. In Australia, apart from police dogs and the armed services, groups of search and rescue volunteers train dogs to find people. From a recreational angle, others train dogs to compete in ANKC tracking trials.

All types of dog of varying breeds complete in these trials from toy breeds such as Cavalier King Charles Spaniels to larger gundogs and working breeds like German Shepherds and Rottweilers.

PURE FUN, PURE SPORT, PURE THERAPY DOG

Do you know anything about DOGS Victoria's therapy dogs?

Neither did I until recently when I was invited to a morning tea with this group of volunteers.

For many years, a group of members were visiting various aged care homes, but as they began to talk to each other, decided that there was a real need for their services and that they should become a little more structured and form the DOGS Victoria therapy dog Group.



This has finally happened and now, under the DOGS Victoria banner, the initial small group of dedicated people has risen to a somewhat larger team who, with their dogs, regularly visit many care homes from Berwick to Rosebud, Toorak and Sydenham.

These visits by the therapy dogs and their handlers are making peoples lives a little brighter with visits from many diverse breeds including Rottweiler, Labrador Retriever, Great Dane, Borzoi, Corgi, Kelpie and Keeshond.



All of the dogs are tested for their suitability to deal with many of the unexpected things that they will encounter in their visits. Things that they will not normally come across in everyday life like, wheelchairs, walking frames, walking sticks and hospital equipment. They must also be sensitive to the ways of the elderly and infirmed.

The residents are so interested in “their” therapy dogs.

Recently Kay and her Borzoi (who do a regular visit to a home in

Toorak) were invited to take part in a fashion show. This was written up in the newspaper and clippings were collected and put up on their notice board - a real highlight for the residents!

We do know that there are many members who are visiting hospitals and homes that are not part of the DOGS Victoria therapy dog group, perhaps you should contact DOGS

Victoria and come under the therapy dogs umbrella. This way you will be afforded all the benefits of the DOGS Victoria insurance and not be exposed to any risk of litigation.

If you think that you might like to volunteer your time and join the DOGS Victoria therapy dogs, you will need to be available during daytime hours, so either not working or a part time worker, if you meet this criteria [send Nicky an email](#) or ring 9822 0887 and I'm sure she will be pleased to hear from you.



Please keep in mind that Nicky coordinates this program as a volunteer in between all the rest of the demands on her time, so please be patient when awaiting a return email or phone call. Nicky does not work in the DOGS Victoria office.

Gwen Ford

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Nomination Forms are now available to nominate or be nominated for the Committee positions as listed below. All Committee positions become vacant at the Annual General Meeting and those current Committee Members wishing to re-stand must nominate again.

Nominations close on Wednesday 5th September. Nomination forms must be completed correctly (one position per form) and placed in the ballot box in the Clubrooms prior to the closing date

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1 x President
1 x Treasurer

2 x Vice Presidents
1 x Trial Secretary/Assistant Secretary

1 x Secretary

(Executive Committee Members must be Members of Dogs Victoria. If you wish to stand for one of these positions, but are not a Dogs Victoria Member, there is provision for the Club to pay your Dogs Victoria Membership Fees)

GENERAL COMMITTEE

There are seven (7) General Committee vacancies for which you can nominate, but at the first Meeting of the new Committee each of those Members must be prepared to accept one of the following positions

Canteen Manager
Social Secretary

Hall Manager
Grounds Manager
Equipment Manager/Assistant Grounds Manager

Publicity Officer
Shop Manager

NON-COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Nominations are also called for the following Non-Committee positions. If you wish to nominate for any of the following positions, please use the Nomination Form provided and place the completed form in the Ballot Box in the Clubrooms. Nominations close for ALL positions on Wednesday 5th September.

Librarian
Display Team Leader
Training Supervisor
Membership Officer

Assistant Librarian
Newsletter Editor
Web Master

Raffle Steward
Minutes Secretary

LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATIONS

Nominations are also called for Life Membership of the Club. If there is someone you think is worthy of Life Membership who meets the criteria, write a brief resume and hand it, in a sealed envelope addressed to, "The Chairperson, Life Membership Sub-Committee", to the Secretary no later than Wednesday 19th September 2012

Life Membership Criteria – 'any person, after a period of 5 years continuous Membership, may be appointed as a Life Member of the Club in recognition of services rendered to the Club. However, under exceptional circumstances the 5-year period may be waived'.

Nomination Form

Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc Nomination Form

Position _____

Nominee _____

Signed by Nominee _____

VCA Membership No
(where applicable) _____

Nominated by _____

Seconded _____

Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc Nomination Form

Position _____

Nominee _____

Signed by Nominee _____

VCA Membership No
(where applicable) _____

Nominated by _____

Seconded _____

Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc Nomination Form

Position _____

Nominee _____

Signed by Nominee _____

VCA Membership No
(where applicable) _____

Nominated by _____

Seconded _____

Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc Nomination Form

Position _____

Nominee _____

Signed by Nominee _____

VCA Membership No
(where applicable) _____

Nominated by _____

Seconded _____

Members can complete one or all of the above nomination forms, but remember if they are not filled in completely they will be invalid. Please use a separate nomination for each position. Nomination forms are to be placed in the Ballot box no later than 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.