

# DOG TRACKS

## March Training



**A Sad Soggy  
Story.....**



# Weeks of Rain at Deep Creek

Training has been severely disrupted over the last few weeks due to the rain. Continuing rain can be a disaster at Deep Creek as the volume of water on the ground is maximised by the run offs from the surrounding cliffs.

Worst of all is when the creek rises, as happened a few weeks back, it can completely inundate the park leaving behind a coating of river mud across the grass. Our storage shed was filled with about half a meter of water. Even on a fine day the boggy result of that amount of water makes even walking on the grass difficult and unpleasant and every time it rains the water levels in the ground top up.



A huge thank you to our dedicated agility members who spent the Saturday morning after the flood cleaning out the shed and drying all the equipment.



# Message from the President...

## **The training year has begun**

with a reduced number of training days due to some sessions being rained out. In a recent downpour the clubhouse was inundated with water but there was little damage to club equipment. Thanks to the agility volunteers who removed the equipment and did a thorough cleaning.

## **Membership numbers are steadily growing**

despite the reduced number of training sessions.

## **The financial reports show a modest profit for the year to date**

but the refund of half memberships did cost the club about six thousand dollars impact to the bottom line in this financial year.

## **The on-the-training-ground procedures for hygiene**

has continued during this covid period with now no requirement for NSW Health QR scanning.

## **The club's standing motion requiring training attendees to be double vaccinated for Covid**

will be addressed, and either reaffirmed or cancelled, in general business of the bi-monthly general meetings while the pandemic continues.

## **The recent March 2022 general meeting reaffirmed the requirement for all training attendees to be Covid double vaccinated.**

It was expressed in meeting that there was a duty of care to be cautious to protect training participants.

## **From May membership renewals are open for the next financial year**

which will be back to full annual rates, \$120 for one dog, \$140 for multiple dogs and 50% for pensioners. Members not renewed by the end of July are determined to be not financial and therefore unable to participate in club activities.

## **Please note that as your dog's vaccination fall due you are expected to upload to your club membership file their current certificate, noting that your dog's certificate will indicate which vaccinations are needed year to year**

or a titre test (the titre test is a blood test that identifies if your dog has enough antibodies from a previous vaccination circulating in the blood to provide protection against these serious viral diseases.)

## **Hopefully the winter months will ease the current *La Niña* weather pattern**

and the cycle of rain rain rain will be less soggy.

**As usual the wet weather advice and training information will be posted on the front page of the club website**  
[www.manlydogclub.com.au](http://www.manlydogclub.com.au)

*All the best for your dog training!*

Regards

Peter Coulthart

with editorial advice from his Irish Setter *Hunter*





# MARCH – OH WHAT A MONTH!!!

## **Flyball Nationals, Agility State Titles & the ACT Frisbee Championships.**

Whilst we continue to miss out on our training at Deep Creek due to the ongoing rain and flooding, some of our club members stepped up and played with their puppies across other parts of NSW & the ACT.

### FLYBALL

First up was the rescheduled 2021 Flyball Nationals, which were held at the Belconnen Dog Club between the 12th & 14th of March. Yes, just like everything else, these were meant to occur last year, but COVID and rain meant they were held in March this year. Our Barking MAD Flyball Team attended and came home with some awesome results.



The team competed in Division 4 and came home with Bronze. It was a very close competition and the team did an awesome job. There were also some great individual results including Buddy gaining a 1st Place in Pairs, Pipi won 1st Place followed by Pickles in 2nd place in their division for Beginners Singles. Rosemary King and Tugga reached the fantastic milestone of 1000 points during the competition, which earned them the title of Flyball Masters Champion. Great job Rosemary & Tugga.

There were also some personal bests over the weekend including Pickles and Hazel. Our MAD Open Team also had a great day of racing.



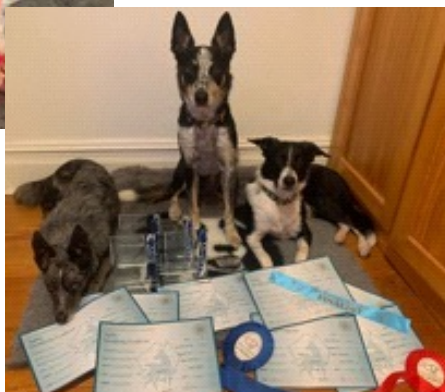
## AGILITY

Just two weeks later it was our Agility Members turn. The 2021 State Titles were meant to be held at the Dogs NSW complex at Orchard Hills on the first weekend of September 2021. Given the ongoing COVID restrictions, these titles were rescheduled to the 26th & 27th of March 2022, to be held again at the Dogs NSW Complex. Then we had rain and lots and lots of rain. The grounds at Orchard Hills was flooded, the building damaged and the complex was closed to all.

The Dogs NSW Agility Committee, not happy to give up, did an amazing job at the last hour and managed to have the State Titles moved to the Penrith City Paceway. Not a normal location for a dog trial but a dog trial it was going to be. The State Titles were on!!!. So then there was the logistical nightmare of moving everything to Penrith, which they succeeded in doing with lots of help, and although Day 2 proved to be very muddy our club members had some astronomical results.



Day 1 consisted of heats in both Jumping and Agility, which moved winners into the finals to be held on Day 2. The results of these finals determined the State Champions of each Height Category and Class. Day 2 also had games. (Gamblers, Snooker and Pairs). Day 1 also saw a number of presentations made for 'Dog of the year', along with Junior Handler awards.



So I hear you asking, who won. Well, the list of members who made the finals is long and distinguished, so we would like to congratulate the following teams for achieving places in the finals.

Rachael F & Zari, Gunilla D & Noddy, Cass F & Kaia, Jenni M & Ronni, Mia C & Bluebell, Lisa B & Dash, Mia C & Polly, Gunilla D & Winx, Molly M & Pickles, Rachael F & Strike, Ashleigh T & Harley, Belinda C & Chloe & Frankie A & Halo.



Starting with our little dogs, we would like to congratulate:

- ★ Frankie & Halo – State Champion Runner Up - JDX 200.

Our 300 height dogs did us proud:

- ★ Cass & Kaia becoming the State Champions for Novice Agility,
- ★ Lisa and Dash are the State Champions for Novice Jumping for the 2nd year running and was also State Champion Runner Up in Excellent Agility.

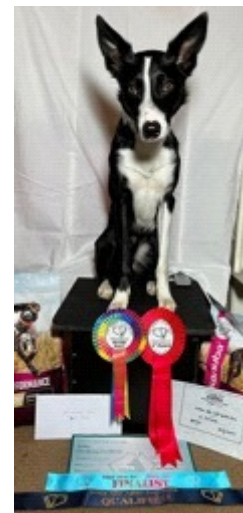
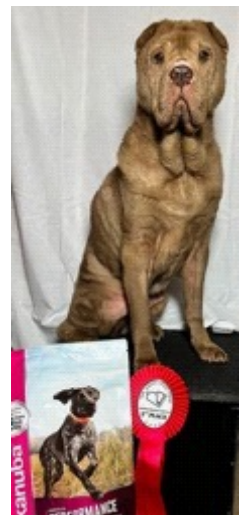
Of our 500 dogs we have the following results:

- ★ Rachael & Zari are the State Champions for Masters Jumping and was the 2nd Runner Up in Masters Agility. Rachael & Zari were also awarded the State Champion's in Masters Gamblers, Masters Snooker & Masters Pairs. This tops off a great 2021 for Rachael & Zari as they also achieved the QLD State Champion Runner Up in Masters Jumping along with QLD State Champion Masters Gamblers & Masters Snooker.

- ★ Rachael & Strike were State Champion Runner Up in Novice Jumping

Games also saw the following success:

- ★ Gunilla & Noddy - State Champion Runner Up – Masters Gamblers.
- ★ Gunilla & Noddy – 3rd Place – Masters Snooker.
- ★ Molly & Pickles - State Champion Runner Up – Novice Snooker
- ★ Ashleigh & Harley – 3rd Place – Novice Pairs.
- ★ Patricia & Skye – State Champion – Excellent Pairs.
- ★ Frankie & Nova – State Champion Runner Up – Excellent Pairs.



Going back to the 2021 awards as mentioned before, our two junior handlers Molly and Mia came away with those awards. Molly with Buddy and Hazel and Mia with Polly. These two are awesome handlers and will have a bright future in Agility.

A final note on the State Titles. Our club supply equipment and run a ring for the entire weekend. This would not have been possible without everyone who put their hands up to help out. Those that did know who they are and these members worked hard packing and unpacking the trailer at the club, set courses, picked up bars, scribed and stewarded across both days. Special thanks goes to Ashley, Glen and Gunilla who put in the hard yards to make this happen. Thank you everyone for making our ring run as well as it did. You are very much appreciated by the Agility Community and the Club.

P.S. Ben from Ben Holmes Photography took some great photos of this event and they can be seen at:

<https://benholmesphotography.shootproof.com/gallery/Dogs.NSW.Agility.Titles.2021/>

For now here is to the rain stopping and training recommencing, so we can prepare for the Manly Club trial and the next State Titles, along with all the other trials between now and then.

## FRISBEE

On the 1st, 2nd & 3rd of April (yes I know it's not March, but oh so close and the week following the State Titles) a few members of our Frisbee devotee's (including Caddy and I) travelled to Canberra to compete in the ACT UpDog Frisbee State Titles. Wow, another great weekend was had by all. I even got to attend and compete, but the rain nearly prevented me from going. My van was moved to higher ground, a location where the water would not reach and my agility gear was packed up and moved, just in time for the roads to go under and the agility paddock to flood. But I was going to this one, rain hail or shine!!!!



So just after lunch on the 31st I packed Moose & Caddy into the car, picked up the van from the local hall and headed south to Canberra. It was probably one of the longest trips to Canberra I have ever had, but after nearly 9 hours we finally arrived and set up for the night.

I met up with Ange & Leire and we prepared for the first day of competition. (Yes you can read between the lines insert ate and drank.)

It's been wet and humid (well actually hot at times) on the mid north coast and by the time I stopped on the freeway just north of Gosford I was looking for extra clothes (and I don't feel the cold), but shorts and a sleeveless top was not cutting it. When I stopped at Pheasants Nest I added a little more clothing. I

feared at this point that it was going to be a cold weekend. I declared Friday morning was the coldest. Ange, Leire and I met for coffee and a muffin and headed to the Belconnen Dog Club. It was that cold I arrived with my pink Oodie on. Pink was the theme for the weekend and the more pink the better. More on that later. Rachael arrived at the grounds on Friday morning, also wearing shorts, and realised it was nowhere near enough clothing. Vince joined us on Friday evening and Melanie met us at the grounds on Saturday morning.



Competition started on Friday morning with both Frisbee and Frisbee / Agility crossover games being played across the 3 days. The last event on Sunday was Freestyle, which is fun to watch and played to music. Some of us went with a motto "throw hard or go home" – so clearly we were there to throw hard and throw hard we did.

What we love most about UpDog is the easy going nature of the organisation and the help that you get when starting out. Caddy, my baby, who has been doing really well at home and in the UpDog Video Games series, was a little distracted (well a lot distracted) and struggled in the new environment. So what did the judges do, they let me bring him back and start again. We did some good things on Friday but got better and better as the weekend progressed.

Now a bit about the teams, we had Ange, our Kiwi Frisbee Chief Instructor who played all the games with her 3 dogs – "Kiwi" Border Collies Fly & Herbie & her Kelpie Harry. Yes Ange is a bit of a sucker, choosing to run 3 dogs in 9 events over the weekend, and doing it well to boot. Leire competed with her two Border Collies Molly & Lucas, Rachael, also with 3 dogs, Border Collies Zari & Strike & her Sharpei Peityn who competed in some of the Agility crossover games only. Vince also played with Molly, Lucas & my ginger BC Caddy, Melanie competed with her NSDTR Nova, and also played a couple of demonstration rounds with her Schipperke's (demonstration rounds allow dogs who are not yet ready to compete to have a play on the day) & then there was Caddy & I. In UpDog, different handlers can run the same dog in the same event, as long as the dog does no more than 10 runs each day. It gives the dog more experience and the ability to catch good throws and some less pleasant throws (as is my case at times).





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So now we get back to my story – Caddy and I. I did say that we got better as the weekend progressed, well most games had between 22 & 30 teams and Caddy and I were mostly at the bottom of the list, which didn't bother me as it was his first ever competition outside of home, so I was just happy he was trying to catch some discs. Well, he came out Sunday morning a very different puppy and in his "Throw and go" round he was focused and on fire. Drum roll please – Caddy got a 10th Place. Such a great improvement and he was very pleased with himself. We did come away with something over the weekend. There were some prizes from one of the Sponsors "Accell Therapy" and we were awarded the Judges Prize for the "Most Improved Beginner Dog". Go the Ginger.

Moose also had a good weekend away, even though he doesn't like to chase a frisbee, he especially enjoyed himself in his newly created bed of clouds.



Lastly, a bit more about the PINK THEME. Eukanuba were the major sponsor of the event and in honour of the sponsor everyone was encouraged to wear pink. Those that wore pink were added into a raffle and the winner came away with a basket of pink toys. Well there were pink leg warmers, pink socks, pink tails on puppies, pink everywhere including our T-shirts, with our logo. Well it appeared to work as Vince was the lucky winner of the Pink Prize..... Vince rocks the pink very well as you can see.



There are more photos available from Moist Nose Pet Photography with links available via the ACT Championships Facebook Page. There are some great action photos, so take a look.

Anyway, that's all for the moment but I am sure there will be more trialling fun in the near future.

**Lots of love from the boys (Gus, Moose & Caddy) and me.**  
*Jo Comber*





# Why can't your dog eat

# chocolate?



## **Easter can be a dangerous time for dogs Easter eggs and chocolate everywhere.**

Chocolate is toxic to dogs because it contains theobromine and to a lesser extent, caffeine. Humans metabolize theobromine easily, but dogs don't. Dogs process theobromine and caffeine slowly, which allows these toxic compounds to build up in their systems and cause clinical signs associated with chocolate toxicity.

But when it comes to toxicity, not all chocolate is the same. What happens if a dog eats chocolate is different based on the type of chocolate they consumed. Baker's chocolate and cocoa, for example, are considered to be the most toxic, then dark chocolate, milk chocolate and white chocolate.

Enjoy your Easter eggs but make sure they are kept well away from your dog with their keen sense of smell they will sniff them out in seconds.

## Easter Nests

- 2 x Eggs
- 1/3 x Cup Peanut Butter
- 1 x Cup Rolled Oats
- 1/3 x Cup Fine Polenta
- 1/4 X Carob Powder
- 30 x Carob Buttons
- 2 x Tablespoons Water



Preheat oven to 180° and line a baking tray. In a bowl whisk eggs and peanut butter together then add rolled oats, polenta and carob powder. Add water if mixture is too thick. Mix until thoroughly combined.

Wet hands and roll into walnut sized balls and place on baking tray. Press a carob button firmly into each ball to flatten the ball slightly. The balls will not flatten or spread during cooking.

Bake for 25 minutes then remove and cool for 10 minutes before transferring to cooling rack.

These will make giving a tablet to your dog easy !

## No Bake Pill Pockets

- 1 x tbsp Milk or Water
- 1 x tbsp Wholemeal Flour
- 2 x tbsps Peanut Butter  
(preferably chunky but xylitol free)



Mix the milk or water with the flour until it forms a smooth paste.

Add in the peanut butter and mix thoroughly. If the mixture is a little too sticky or soft you can add more flour.

Be sure to add very small amounts until you reach a cookie dough consistency. Roll into small balls. The size will depend on the size of the pill you need to hide within it.

Use the end of a chopstick to create a small pocket to place the pill in. Place into a small airtight container and store in the fridge until needed (the pill pockets can also be frozen for a later date).



# Fed up with Wet Towels ?



Head to your favourite car accessory shop and buy the biggest chamois leather cloth you can find.

You'll never need a towel again, just drape the chamois over the dog, squeeze then wring out, keep repeating process.

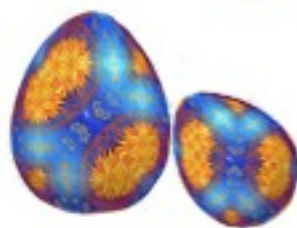


**Congratulations** to our very popular Thursday Obedience instructor Colleen Uren for attaining her Rally Advanced title with her beautiful dog Riley.





# Wishing all our members a very **Happy Easter**



**Editor Wendy Jones**

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