



Your quarterly dog club update: all the latest on the dogs, people, events and happenings at Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club.

Term 2 enrolments:

[10 Apr \(8pm\) - 15 Apr \(8pm\) 2024](#)



Wow, that was Summer! I think we had one or two nights training that I wore Summer clothes. I hope Autumn is warmer.

What has happened over the summer? Well, we had our annual Championship Obedience show which was well attended. TBCOC has a reputation of holding well-organised shows and once again we achieved the same feedback. Lots of thanks to Sherrie, Cheryl, Sue, Geoff and the huge number of volunteers who turned up to make the day a success. We had many volunteers from the Domestic Obedience side of the club this time around. If you want to help out next year or at the upcoming Rally-O Show in May (see below) then please contact [Lynette](#).

The weather played its part and after weeks of dry weather, at the exact time Geoff Collins was doing the opening address for the show, the heavens opened up and it bucketed down. So out came the gazebos.

We tried a different technique in preparation of the grounds this year. Our mowing contractor, Aaron cut the competition rings at the normal low height but left the outside areas at the highest possible height. This meant that even with the cloud-

burst, the grass remained intact in the high use areas and has only about 10m² will require remedial work compared to about 400m² after last years competition, when the whole area was cut low.

If you have been at the club in the last few weeks you will have noticed the new green fence across the grounds. The grounds are divided into 5 training areas - Area1 being by the club rooms and Area 5 in the old fenced off area. There was a high demand for the fenced off area, especially by the Competition Obedience groups as they do a lot of off-lead work. As we only had Area 5, it became a bit of a nightmare for Lianne and Antonia to schedule in every ones needs. So we put a fence with two gates across Area 4 to see that it meets both the training needs of the club and the Competition Obedience Show needs. If the fence works out then we will look at making it permanent. Until then, you can help by only closing the gates when it is being used and putting the gates up against the outside fences when it is not in use. This will reduce the wind pressure on the temporary fence.

We have many people at our club who put in long hours using positive-training to help their reactive dogs face the world and learn how to respond more appropriately to things that scare them. We can help them a lot by supporting that training... If you're out walking and you come across a handler that is working really hard to get their dog to focus on them instead of barking at everything around it that moves (or doesn't!) and it sees your dog and gets noisy, don't be the handler that says "can't you control your dog, you shouldn't be in the street if you can't control your dog", instead, get your dog to focus on you, so it is not looking at the other dog and give the other handler a lot of room and encourage them to keep trying. I know who I would rather meet.

Craig Prattley
President, TBCOC



2023 Committee Executive:

Craig Prattley - President
Geoff Collins - Vice-President
Erin McKenzie - Secretary
Claudia Samitz - Treasurer

2023 Committee Members:

Lianne Davies - Class Co-ordinator
Antonia Allum - Comms/Web
Jan McKenzie
Bronwyn Weir
Jacqui Austin
Iain Clarke
Glen Robinson
Jenny Greer
Lynette Bell

As well as our committee members, we have a great group of instructors and members who keep our club running, who we would like to introduce you to, so every Lamppost we will publish a profile of one or more of our members and their lovely dogs so that you can get to know your pack.....

Sue Paterson & Pippi



Sue Paterson

I am relative newcomer to the Dog World, having had just two of my own dogs: two Australian Cattle Dogs, Pippi (a blue) and Malu (a red).

My husband and I decided to get a family dog in 2010 and this was Pippi. At first our training journey was a bit bumpy and we failed the equivalent of Dom 2 and had to repeat this (after a sound telling off from our instructor) but in time we all got better with her. Pippi was a patient and kind dog and took all this in her stride. I got hooked on training her and before I knew it, I was competing in Obedience, Agility, and Paws To Music with her. We had many adventures together, traveling the country and competing in shows including national events. Pippi was the first pure bred ACD in NZ to obtain CGC (Canine Good Citizen) Gold and the first to win at a national level in Competitive Obedience.

Then along came Malu in 2015 who was much more of a handful than Pippi, being reactive and a high-drive dog. I am currently competing in Test C in Obedience with Malu and she still continues to teach me new things every day. She's an incredibly capable dog and I'm absolutely sure she can read my mind! She's also the only dog in our household who has learnt to open our food storage bin and help herself 😊. Malu is the second pure bred ACD (after Pippi) to have won at a national level in Competitive Obedience.

I started with TBCOC back in 2017 bringing Malu into the CGC class together with my daughter and her dog Lani (a German Spitz). This was a great place to train my reactive dog and I'm eternally grateful to TBCOC for allowing her into that class. I began instructing at TBCOC a few years after this, starting off with Puppy Class, then moving into CGC and now I'm instructing Introductory Competition Obedience. I also help organise the annual TBCOC Championship Obedience Show, and my dogs and I have also assisted at many of the CGC assessments run by the TBCOC.



- **CGB Assessment** (Canine Good Basics) is 2 April. It is open to anyone who has passed Dom 2. [Email us](#) to register for a place. Once you have passed your CGB Assessment you can go straight into CGC Foundation.

- **TBCOC Annual General Meeting** is 9 April at 6.30pm.
- **Enrolment** for Term 2 2024 opens 8pm, 10 April.
- **Term 2** begins on 29/30 April (Puppy classes begin 22/23 April).
- Term 2 classes will be held at both [Club grounds, Ngatitoo Domain](#) and [Kakariki Stables, Pauatahanui](#).
- **TBCOC Rally-O Championship Show** - 25/26 May 2024.
- King's Birthday observance – there may be no classes 3/4 June– please check with your instructor.
- Graduation for Term 2 will be 24/25 June.
- Don't forget, all enrolment, start and graduation dates are on the [Important Dates](#) page of our website.



Over the last few months again, our members and their dogs have had considerable success in a various tests and trials and continue to have fun!

Our Competition Obedience classes continue to be popular at the beginners' levels, with great success at Elementary level as well as Beginners.

Competition Obedience

Competition Obedience has 5 levels starting at Beginners, going through Novice to Tests A, B and C – Test C being the most senior. Many shows also have an Elementary class which is a lead in to Beginners. Just recently, too,

some other introductory level classes are beginning to be introduced.

Wellington Canine Champ Show - 2-3 December, 2023

Show 1

Lynette Bell & Charlie, 2nd Beginners

Vicky Disbury & Fenric, Beginners Judge's Medal for the most magnificent recall

Sue Paterson & Malu, 1st Test B - now a Test C dog

Rosemary Mortimer & Hector, 5th Test C

Show 2

Lynette Bell & Charlie, 1st Beginners - now a Novice dog

Geoff Collins & Inka, 4th Novice

Angelique Aamodt & Orix, 1st Test A

Cheryl Dickson & Juno, 2nd Test A

Cheryl Dickson & Juno, 3rd Test B

TBCOC Champ Show - 20-21 January, 2024

Show 1

Vicky Disbury & Fenric, 1st Beginners

Rosemary Mortimer & Hector, 5th Test C

Show 2

Erin McKenzie & Harley, 5th Beginners

Irene Kilford & Macy, 1st Test A

Angelique Aamodt & Orbit, 1st Test C

Irene Kilford & Robbie, 2nd Test C

Rosemary Mortimer & Hector, 5th Test C

Show 3

Anna Hunt & Moxie, 1st Elementary 1

Brittany Jones & Fritz, 3rd Elementary 1

Vicky Disbury & Fenric, 1st Beginners – now a Novice Dog

Stephanie McAlister & Frost, 5th Beginners

Irene Kilford & Macey, 4th Test A

Royce Hughes & Blade, 4th Test C

Rotorua - 27-29 January, 2024 (Triple Show)

Show 1

Lynette Bell & Charlie, 5th Novice

Irene Kilford & Macy, 3rd Test A

Irene Kilford & Robbie, 5th Test C

Show 2

Irene Kilford & Macy, 4th Test A

Show 3

Irene Kilford & Macy, 1st Test A

Fielding Ribbon Trial - 6 February, 2024

Luke Gib & Fig, 3rd Elementary 1

Anna Hunt & Moxie, 4th Elementary 1

Luke Gib & Fig, 4th Elementary 2

Lynette Bell & Charlie, 3rd Novice

Erin McKenzie & Harley, 4th Novice

Kapiti - 10-11 February, 2024

Show 1

Lynette Bell & Charlie, were in a runoff for 5th in Novice, missed out but received a special prize

Irene Kilford & Macy, 3rd Test A

Sherrie McIntyre & Ditto, 1st Test B

Stephanie McAlister & Frost, 2nd Elementary 1

David Oliver & Wally, 3rd Elementary 1

Stephanie McAlister & Frost, 4th Elementary 2

Show 2

Lynette Bell & Charlie, 2nd Novice

Jane Gunn & Tosca, 4th Novice

Irene Kilford & Macy, 1st Test A – now a Test B Dog

Cheryl Dickson & Juno, 3rd Test B

Rosemary Mortimer & Hector, 3rd Test C

Horowhenua - 24-25 February, 2024

Show 1

Jane Gunn & Tosca, 2nd Novice

Irene Kilford & Macy, 2nd Test A

Sherrie McIntyre & Ditto, 1st Test B

Irene Kilford & Robbie, 5th Test C

Angelique Aamodt & Turbo, 5th Test C

Show 2

Irene Kilford & Macy, 2nd Test A and top Test A dog for the weekend

Sherrie McIntyre & Ditto, 4th Test B and top Test B dog for the weekend

Irene Kilford & Robbie, 4th Test C

Angelique Aamodt & Turbo, 5th Test C

Fielding - 9-10 March, 2024 (Triple show)

Show 1

Jane Gunn & Tosca, 4th Novice

Irene Kilford & Macy, 2nd Test B

Rosemary Mortimer & Hector, 5th Test C

Show 2

Jane Gunn & Tosca, 2nd Novice

Cheryl Dickson & Juno, 1st Test A

Sherrie McIntyre & Ditto, 5th Test B

Angelique Aamodt & Turbo, 3rd Test C

Show 3

Irene Kilford & Macy, 4th Test B

Irene Kilford & Robbie, 3rd Test 3

Wairarapa - 16-17 March, 2024

Show 1

Vicky Disbury & Fenric, 4th Novice – first time out in Novice

Cheryl Dickson & Juno, 3rd Test A

Sherrie McIntyre & Ditto, 4th Test B

Show 2

Jane Gunn & Tosca, 4th Novice

Angelique Aamodt & Orix, 2nd Test A

Irene Kilford & Macy, 1st Test B

Angelique Aamodt & Turbo, 5th Test C

Cheryl Dickson & Juno



TBCOC dogs have been making their presence felt around the region!

Firstly, three TBCOC handlers and dogs were awarded the Central Region Top Dog Obedience Sashes for 2023:

Lynette Bell and Charlie, Beginners

Irene Kilford and Macy, Novice

Alannah Knapp and Sky Sky, Test B

And to follow on, five TBCOC Dogs gained their SSANZ titles mostly in one weekend:

Antonia Allum and Cairo, Novice

Claudia Samitz & Sol, Novice

Jan McKenzie and Geordie, Novice

Jan McKenzie and Poppy, Intermediate

Kat Thorstrand Mitchell & Opal, Intermediate

Well done everyone!!

Below from left: Lynette Bell & Charlie, Irene Kilford & Macy, Alannah Knapp & Sky Sky



Rally Obedience (Rally-O) Champ Shows

Rally-O has 7 levels – Novice A&B, Advanced A&B and Excellent A&B, as well as Encore which is a course designed with no sits (very good for older dogs). Competitors earn Qualifying Certificates to move up a level and to gain titles.

Fielding - 9-10 March, 2024

Irene Kilford & Macy, 2nd Novice B in both Shows

Wairarapa - 16-17 March, 2024

Show 1

Irene Kilford & Macy, 1st Novice B

Irene Kilford & Robbie, 1st Excellent B

Fun at Rally-O



Scent Work (Dogs NZ and SSANZ)

In Scentwork and Nosework Trials the prime goal is for dogs to gain Qualifying Certificates for finding the Search Odours in a certain amount of time. Awards are also given for teams that have caught the Judge's eye for some attribute of the search – these are more valued than a placing. In SSANZ Nosework, the process for gaining qualifying certificates to move up levels is a little different to that of DNZ but our members really enjoy both codes and appreciate the time people put in to organise, help and judge at all of these trials.

TBCOC dogs have taken part in 4 Trials during the last few weeks.

SSANZ Buried Hide Trial run by Hide and Seek - 2 February, 2024

Hide and Seek is a new organisation associated with SSANZ who specialise in Buried Hides (Sand and Water) Trials. This was their first event and very successful despite the inclement and unseasonable weather.

Qualifiers

Claudia Samitz and Sol, Sand and Water

Jan McKenzie and Poppy, Sand

Jan Voss and Maple, Sand

ACE Dog Training, SSANZ Novice, Intermediate, Advanced Trial - 3-4 February, 2024

Saturday Novice Trial

Antonia Allum & Cairo, qualified in all 4 searches

Claudia Samitz & Sol, qualified in all 4 searches

Marian Holman & Aria, qualified in all 4 searches

Jan McKenzie & Geordie, qualified in all 4 searches for their Novice Title and now an Intermediate dog

Alannah Knapp & Breeze, qualified in all 4 searches, Highest Qualifiers, Fastest Exterior, Judges Choice Award

Saturday Advanced Trial

Jan Voss & Halley, Top Exterior Search

Sunday Novice Trial

Alannah Knapp & Breeze, Novice Container, Vehicle and Exterior

Jan McKenzie and Geordie, Novice Container, Vehicle and Exterior

Claudia Samitz & Sol, Vehicle & Exterior

Antonia Allum & Cairo, qualified in all 4 searches for their Novice Title to become an Intermediate dog and 2nd Highest Qualifier

Vicky Disbury & Freya, qualified in all 4 searches, gained Judges Choice Award for Vehicle

Sunday Intermediate Trial

Jan McKenzie & Poppy, qualified in all 4 searches for their Intermediate title, to become an Advanced dog and awarded the Judges Choice award in the Exterior Search

Kat Thorstrand-Mitchell & Opal, qualified in all 4 searches for their Intermediate title and to move to Advanced

Horowhenua DTC SSANZ Trials, 2-3 March, 2024

Saturday Novice Trial

Jan Voss & Pearl, qualified in 3 out of 4 searches

Antonia Allum & Cairo, qualified in all 4 searches, was the Highest Qualifier in Novice and awarded the Judges Award for the Container search

Jan McKenzie and Geordie, qualified in all 4 searches

Saturday Intermediate Trial

Jan McKenzie & Poppy, qualified in all 4 searches

Sunday Novice Trial

Jan McKenzie & Geordie, qualified in all 4 searches

Sunday Intermediate Trial

Claudia Samitz & Sol, qualified in all 4 searches

Kat Thorstrand Mitchell & Opal, qualified in all 4 searches

Jan McKenzie & Poppy, qualified in all 4 searches

Tararua DTC Buried Hide Trial - 3 March, 2024

Qualifiers

Jan Voss & Maple, Sand and Water

Alannah Knapp & Breeze, Sand

Sheelah Stevens & Sol, Sand

Jan McKenzie & Poppy, Sand

Antonia Allum & Cairo, Sand

Below from left: Alannah Knapp and Breeze, Marian Holman and Aria, Sheelah Stevens and Sol, Jan McKenzie and Geordie, Antonia Allum and Cairo



Introduction to the Use of the 'Marker'

Whether your dog is a lovely domestic pet or a more serious Obedience or Rally-O competitor, training your dog using a marker word is very effective. Markers go hand in hand with positive reinforcement and will make the learning process more efficient, effective and enjoyable for you and your dog.

A Marker is a clear signal used in training which can be a word, sound, a mechanical noise (like a clicker), or even a hand signal, that is used to tell your

dog the **exact** moment they have done something right, that they have earned a reinforcer like a treat and lets them know that you are happy with them. It is like saying “that’s it!” or taking a snapshot of the exact moment.

Eventually, after you have repeatedly *marked* a behaviour during the learning process, you can add a cue (like, Sit, Down, Stay etc). This is explained further, below.

Make sure you do not confuse a Marker with a Cue. They work together but are not the same thing. A Cue is a signal that tells your dog it will be Marked and reinforced when they perform the behaviour you are asking for. A cue might be a word like ‘Sit’ or ‘Down’.

For example, in training your dog to Sit, you would...

- Say the Cue ‘Sit’
- Your dog sits
- The exact moment its bottom touches the ground you *Mark* it
- Then you give the reinforcer – the treat/reward

How to introduce a Marker to your dog...

The choice of Marker (word, clicker etc.) is up to you. If you use a word, to avoid confusion, ensure that it is something that they do not hear at other times. ‘Yes’ is a common Marker, as is ‘nice’, but make sure that the word is delivered in a 'short and sharp' way (like the sound of a clicker).

- *A Vocal Marker* – should be said the same every time. So while the word remains the same, so does the tone, pitch and volume you use. Be reasonably calm with an excitable dog - do not let your excitement confuse, distract or excite your dog too much.
- *A Mechanical Marker (clicker)* – is a good way to remain consistent and it takes away the emotion by making a click sound when pressed. These can't be used in a class environment.
- *A Visual Marker* – less common but can be used by anyone. Particularly useful when training deaf dogs. Make sure your hand signals are obvious and consistent and use the same every time. A thumbs up is a good signal.

Before you start training any new behaviours, your dog needs to know that the Marker, whether vocal, mechanical or visual, is a positive sign.

Charging the Marker: Start by making the marker sound or signal, immediately reinforce with reward/treat. Repeat this *mark-and-treat* exercise several times. Your dog will then expect a treat when they hear (or see) the Marker.

- Have 10-20 small training treats readily available when charging your Marker - a pouch is good so that you can deliver treats quickly to your dog.
- Once you say the Marker word, keep your body as still as possible – this prevents your dog from learning that your hand moving toward the pouch is the Marker.
- You can check how strong your Marker is by waiting until your dog is distracted momentarily (but still calm and well behaved), say your Marker. If your dog immediately turns to you, your Marker has strength, if they don't, go back to charging your Marker.
- If you ever say your Marker (even accidentally), you must always follow with a reward.

When you are first introducing the word to your dog, you are focused on creating an association – Marker word/sound = reward. Never, ever say the Marker word/sound if your dog is doing something you do not want!!

Ways to use your Marker:

1. **Capturing** - reward your dog when they do something that you like. You say the Marker word (or click etc.) as they finish the behaviour – and then reinforce/reward.
 2. **Shaping** - use your Marker word to mark approximations of a larger training behaviour (actions that go "in the right direction"). For example, teaching your dog to go to a place. If they take even one step towards their place, *Mark* then toss the treat away from the place – this action rewards them and also resets them for the next repetition. Then wait until they take 2 steps towards their place before *Marking*. It takes time but eventually, you will have shaped the entire process of going to their place, laying down on the place and staying there.
 3. **Luring or prompting** - use the treat in your hand to guide your dog to the position that you want to train. When they hit the position say the *Marker* word and release the treat. Once the behaviour is learned you can fade out the treats in the hand by using an empty hand (prompt) or hand signal to help perform the behaviour. *Mark* and reward as usual.
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When did dogs become our best friends?

A sweet discovery of an infant found co-buried with a dog in Verona, Italy, over 2,000 years ago gives us new clues to human-dog relationships.

[Read the article on Atlas Obscura here.](#)

SCENT WORK VOUCHER

Don't forget that all TBCOC members receive a \$20 discount on [Scent Imprinting](#) courses with Dogs First. Just visit our [website](#) and enter the

coupon **za4prwjb**.



We hope you have enjoyed our new newsletter!

Please email titahibayobedience@gmail.com if there is something in particular you would like to see in our next edition.

See you next quarter,
The Lamppost Editorial Team

www.tbcoc.org.nz

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