



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



From my annual report; here's how our last year unfolded...

Weather-wise we had rain, rain and more rain; and lots of wind on training nights. Normally, we have had to start watering the grounds in early September through to February. However, this year we started during the last week in December and we are still watering in April (as well as mowing the grass more than ever). The rains caused a minor flood in the clubrooms and the winds were so high that we lost the weather station! It was literally blown off the building, never to be seen again, but it recorded some very large gusts in its last hour.

We carried out normal maintenance on the buildings and grounds, including new locks on the toilet doors after a few people got stuck inside. Flooding inside the clubrooms also required repairs to the carpet.

My favourite subject - the grass: it suffered a little bit over the summer and then we had the great biddy-bid attack! We keep the grass high in spring and summer to retain water but this allowed biddy-bid plants to start creeping across the grounds and by the time we had an attack plan, they had taken over about a quarter of Areas 1 to 4. We sprayed them - which killed them but also a lot of the surrounding grass - so we have resown over 24 kgs of seed and have got rid of about 90% of the biddy-bids.

There has been a lot of good stuff as well...

In the last year we had 615 people training their dogs at TBCOC!!! We ran three Train-the-Trainer courses that were supported well by our instructors. We have added some new instructors who already feel like they are part of the family - Alyssa Chaney and Sacha Parker - welcome!

We have been negotiating a new lease with PCC and this has been quite a task. The new lease considers all of the recent legislation that has affected Ngatitoa Domain and therefore, made it very complicated. Antonia, Geoff and I have been working with PCC to come up with a workable contract that still allows us to maintain the grounds, hold classes and events, and share our grounds with others. It has been quite a battle with lawyers on both sides, and us having to come up with some common-sense solutions. But finally, we have something that will work.

We ran some amazing competition shows during the year, so heaps of thanks to those who helped - especially Sherrie and Lynette. We also ran a very successful Canine Good Citizen assessment. This was the first assessment to include the new café exercises. It was very well run by Kat and her helpers.

And we have two more shows in the planning stages: Rally-O Championship Show & Obedience Ribbon Trial 24-25 May and our first Scentwork Trial 9 August - good luck to Lynette, Erin and their volunteers.

My thank you list:

- Everyone who came to the AGM and the Special Meeting (held to approve the changes to our Constitution) – we could not run them without you.
- To Geoff Collins for resurrecting the weather station, which I use all the time - saves me a lot of travel.
- To Lianne for the huge amount of work she does, with Antonia, as Class Coordinator.
- To Antonia, Geoff and Jan for all the work they did to update our Constitution prior to submitting it in accordance with the new Law required for Incorporated Societies.
- Grateful thanks to Geoff and especially Antonia for the huge number of hours and endless patience needed to get us through the new lease negotiations.
- Special thanks to my regular helpers - who, if you can, always try to help the grumpy old man out when I ask a favour!
- To the committee for keeping us together and solving the big issues. We may not always be perfect but we all contribute to make me proud to say I am the President of Titahi Bay Canine Obedience club.

Craig Prattley, TBCOC President



2025-26 Committee Executive:

Craig Prattley - President

Geoff Collins - Vice-President

Erin McKenzie - Secretary

Claudia Samitz - Treasurer

2025-26 Committee Members:

Lianne Davies - Class Co-ordinator

Antonia Allum - Comms/Web

Jan McKenzie

Bronwyn Weir

Jacqui Austin

Iain Clarke

Jenny Greer

Lynette Bell

Ally Wilkinson

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.....

Karen O'Connor



Karen with Buddy (left) and Grace.

My journey of living with my hairy kids has brought me to help Craig with the puppy classes. I am proud to have been taught by 6 hairy kids who each came

with their own personality, temperament and needs, but my journey to TBCOC was started by Missy.

Missy came to us at 12 weeks of age from a sheep farm. Her mum was a red and white border collie, and her dad was a retired heading dog. She spent her first 12 weeks living in an old, cold concrete stable with her mum and litter mates. She had no training, had never worn a collar, been on a leash or been cuddled by a person – she was 100 percent wild.

In the early stages of our journey Ian and Buddy wouldn't walk with Missy and I – we were on our own. To be fair it was normally silly o'clock when we went out. A dog, a runner, cyclist, motorbike, cat, a loud noise far away, or a leaf fluttering down the gutter could cause a reaction from her that I didn't understand.

We started Dom 1 but part way through I realised Missy wasn't comfortable in a class situation so I made the difficult decision to stop. Missy and I had a couple of 1:1 sessions with a trainer who explained the things that I didn't understand and that was a lot. So began our journey of understanding each other. For me to understand what she was telling me and her to understand what I wanted from her. It has been a wild ride and I have cried a river of tears for my girl but I wouldn't have missed a single minute.

The Covid lockdown was an amazing time in our house. I had the time and the energy to consistently give Missy what she needed. I read, studied, listened to podcasts and put things into practice as much as I could. We grew so much during that time.

My little girl is 8 now and sometimes the world is still a big scary place, but we have built an incredible relationship and some strategies to help her cope. A soft crate in the car, medication and earmuffs for fireworks time (November and New Year's Eve). I have trained her to sit facing me and make eye contact when she is doesn't feel comfortable.

Her housemate Buddy is no longer with us, but a new bloke named Zekey has come to live with us. I wasn't sure how she would take to this new bloke so had a plan B in case we needed it. They have had a couple of discussions, but mostly they get on pretty well.

Regardless of those who have lived with us or those who might live with us in the future Missy will always be my heart dog, I am proud of the progress she has, and continues to make.



Left: Buddy and Missy stick chasing at the beach. Right: Missy and Zekey adventuring.



- Term 2 began on 28/29 April, 2025.
 - **Graduation** for Term 2 will be 23/24 June.
 - Our next **CGB Assessment** (Canine Good Basics) is 30 June/1 July. It is open to anyone who has passed Dom 2. [Email us](#) to register for a place. Once you have passed your CGB you can go straight into CGC Foundation.
 - **Enrolment** for Term 3 2025 opens 8pm, 3 July - [pop it in your diary!](#)
 - Term 3 classes start 21/22 July; Puppy classes start 14/15 July.
 - **TBCOC Rally-O Championship Show** - 24/25 May 2025.
 - **TBCOC Scentwork Trial** - 9 August 2025.
 - Don't forget, all enrolment, start and graduation dates are on the [Important Dates](#) page of our website.
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Again, 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 own club has held its Championship show over this time as well.

Our Competition classes continue to be popular at the Beginners' levels and new handlers are continuing to join our competitors at the shows, 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.

Feilding DTC, 6th February

Luke Gib & Fig, 1st Intro to new Handler

Erin McKenzie & Harley, 3rd Beginners

Kapiti Champ Show 1, 8th February

Alison Chapman & Rosa, 3rd Beginners

Erin McKenzie & Harley, 5th Beginners

Lynette Bell & Charlie, 2nd Novice

Wairarapa Champ Show Day 1, 15th March

Irene Kilford & Macy, 5th Test C

Wairarapa Champ Show Day 2, 16th March

Lynette Bell & Charlie, 1st Novice

Geoff Collins & Inka, 3rd Novice

Irene Kilford & Macy, 1st Test C

Vicky Disbury & Fenwick, 3rd Novice
Jane Gunn & Tosca, 1st Test A
Alannah Knapp & Sky-Sky, 5th, Test C

Kapiti Champ Show 2, 9th February

Lynette Bell & Charlie, 3rd Novice
Vicky Disbury & Fenric, 5th Novice
Jane Gunn & Tosca, 4th Test A

Horowhenua Champ Show Day 1, 22nd February

Erin McKenzie & Harley, 5th Beginners
Vicky Disbury & Fenric, 4th Novice
Lynette Bell & Charlie, 5th Novice

Horowhenua Champ Show Day 2, 23rd February

Alison Chapman & Rosa, 5th Beginners
Lynette Bell & Charlie, 1st Novice
Irene Kilford & Macy, 2nd with a Challenge Test C

Feilding Champ Show Day 1, 8th March

Lynette Bell & Charlie, 4th Novice
Irene Kilford & Macy, 3rd Test C with a Challenge
so now a new Obedience Champion!!

Feilding Champ Show Day 2, 9th March

Lynette Bell & Charlie, 1st Novice and now a Test-A dog
Geoff Collins & Inka, 5th Novice
Rosemary Mortimer & Hector, 3rd Test C
Alannah Knapp & Sky-Sky, 4th Test C

Blenheim Champ Show 23rd, 24th March

Lynette Bell & Charlie, 1st Novice Show 1, 2nd Novice Show 2, 2nd Novice Show 3

Avalon DTC Champ Show, Day 1, 29th March

Erin McKenzie & Harley, 4th Beginners
Jane Gunn & Tosca, 3rd Test A
Alannah Knapp & Sky-Sky, 2nd Test C and best Distance Control
Sherrie McIntyre & Ditto, 4th Test C

Avalon DTC Champ Show, Day 2, 30th March

David Oliver & Wally, 3rd Intro New Handler
Heather Benwood & Aki, 2nd Intro New Dog
David Oliver & Wally, 2nd Elementary
Heather Benwood & Aki, 3rd Elementary
Alison Chapman & Rosa, 3rd Beginners
Vicky Disbury & Fenric, 1st Novice on qualifying points
Jane Gunn & Tosca, 3rd Test A

North Taranaki Champ Show, Day 2, 6th April

Geoff Collins & Inka, 2nd Novice
Alannah Knapp & Sky-Sky, 3rd Test C

Whanganui Champ Show Day 1, 12th April

Lynette Bell & Charlie, 5th Test A
Alannah Knapp & Sky-Sky, 3rd Test C

Whanganui Champ Show Day 2, 13th April

Alannah Knapp & Sky-Sky, 1st Test C with a first place Challenge

Irene Kilford with new Obedience Champion Macy



Zoe Henderson with Suzie, on the Rally-O course



Rally Obedience (Rally-O) Champ Shows

The Dogs NZ code, 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.

A small group of TBCOC teams also compete in New Zealand Association of Rally Obedience (NZARO) Rally Link trials, held monthly - with Standard and Challenge courses.

Horowhenua Champ Show

Day 1, 22nd February

Erin McKenzie & Harley, Qualifying
Certificate, Advanced A for Advanced title

Feilding Champ Show

Days 1 & 2, 22nd/23rd February

Erin McKenzie & Harley, 3rd Advanced A in
both shows

Wairarapa Champ Show

Day 2, 16th March

Irene Kilford & Macy, 1st Excellent A

Tararua Allbreeds Rally O Champ Show

5th, 6th April

Irene Kilford & Macy, 1st Advanced A show 1

Irene Kilford & Macy, 1st Advanced A show 2

Erin McKenzie & Harley, 3rd Advanced A
show 2

Irene Kilford qualified in Rally Encore with
both Macy and Robbie.

Central Allbreeds Ribbon Trial

25th April

Cherie Picking & Tank, 1st Excellent A
Erin McKenzie & Harley, 3rd Excellent A

Monthly NZARO Rally Link

5th April

Standard Course Qualifiers....

Jan McKenzie & Geordie 100

Erin McKenzie & Harley 99

Zoe Henderson & Suzy 98

Claudia Samitz & Sol 97

Challenge Course Qualifiers...

Erin McKenzie & Harley 98

Jan McKenzie & Geordie 98

Alyssa Chaney with Teddy on the Rally-O course



Canine Good Citizen

Canine Good Citizen is an award that any dog can do and we run examination preparation classes in this at the club. From time-to-time different clubs run assessment days where dogs can qualify at four different levels – Foundation, Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

CGC is not easy to pass and to get all four levels can take some months or even a year or two, depending on the amount of work put in. Dogs need to have passed at least Domestic 3 or equivalent (Domestic 2 + Canine Good Basics Exam pass), to be able to enrol for a CGC class. You can find out more about the programme [here](#).

Recent TBCOC results include:

Lynne Barr & Zoe who passed CGC Bronze at Horowhenua's assessment in March

Vicky Disbury & Freya who passed CGC Foundation at Avalon's assessment in April

An autumn night at the clubgrounds



How many classes do we run?

By the time you are reading this, the term would have already started and we thought you might be curious to know just how many people train at TBCOC. Over 2 nights this term we have **21 classes** with, in total, **167 dogs** and their handlers, which include:

- Two Puppy classes
- Five Domestic 1 classes
- Three Domestic 2
- Two Domestic 3
- One Domestic 4
- Four Competition Obedience classes at various levels
- Two Rally-O – Novice and Advanced

- Two Canine Good Citizen



Playfighting or fighting?

Dogs play rough sometimes but there are tell-tale signs that can let you know if this 'ruff play' might escalate into a fight!

At a quick glance, dog play and dog fights appear similar. However, it is good to be able to recognise the signs and body language which will give you a better understanding of when intense, fun play might cross the boundary into actual aggression and fear-based reactions.

Dogs that are playing often exhibit loose, bouncy movements and relaxed facial expressions; and their ears may be perked up or floppy. Playing dogs may be vocal but those vocalisations typically include excited barks, yips or even play

growls. These sounds are often exaggerated and accompanied by other playful behaviours.

Dog play is important for training and development. However, there are times when things can turn quickly to aggression which is why all dog owners need to remain vigilant.

Are Dogs Playing or Fighting?

Even playful interactions can sometimes escalate into fights, especially if one or both, of the dogs are feeling stressed, over-excited or threatened. For example, while excited barking and other vocalisations are a part of play, if they are sustained, not welcomed or too intense, they can also cause things to escalate.

Sometimes, other environmental triggers cause escalation (a person walking by, a car passing, another dog entering the environment and changing the dynamics). Any environmental changes can cause change in behaviour - and then there are the young puppies who don't yet have good self-regulation skills and cannot calm themselves back down.

Signs of Dogs at Play

- **Wagging tails** – especially when accompanied by other playful behaviours
- **Playful growls or barks** – especially when accompanied by a happy expression of the dog's face
- **Playful nipping** – a common form of play but should be gentle
- **Taking turns being dominant or playful** – they may chase each other, wrestle or engage in mock biting
- **No sustained aggression or intent to harm** – playful interactions generally involve brief periods of aggression followed by playful behaviour and rest.

Signs of Dog Aggression (or about to be)

To get ahead of a fight, watch for signals that things are getting serious

- **Tense muscles** – raised hackles and a still tail are often signs of aggression or fear
- **Intense, sustained growls** – or snarls and pinned ears are often signs of aggression or submission
- **Aggressive behaviour** – during otherwise playful biting or nipping, especially if aggressive or accompanied by other aggressive behaviours
- **Growling or snarling** – a common sign of aggression, especially when accompanied by other aggressive behaviours.
- **Baring teeth** – often accompanied by growling or snarling

- **Lunging or biting**- should always be taken seriously
- **Rigid, stiff bodies** – aggressive dogs often have a rigid, stiff body and they may often have their ears pinned back or their tails tucked under their body.

If things do escalate it's important to quickly and safely step in and stop the dog fight. This may depend on where its taking place and who's involved. For example, in the case of 2 dogs who have lived together for years, they may have a history of appropriate communication and healthy play skills; so, there is no need to step in so quickly.

In the case of puppies there will be a different dynamic as they as still learning and you may want to step in more quickly to de-escalate and encourage them to take a break and regroup, before choosing to play again.

Reference: Wholedog Journal



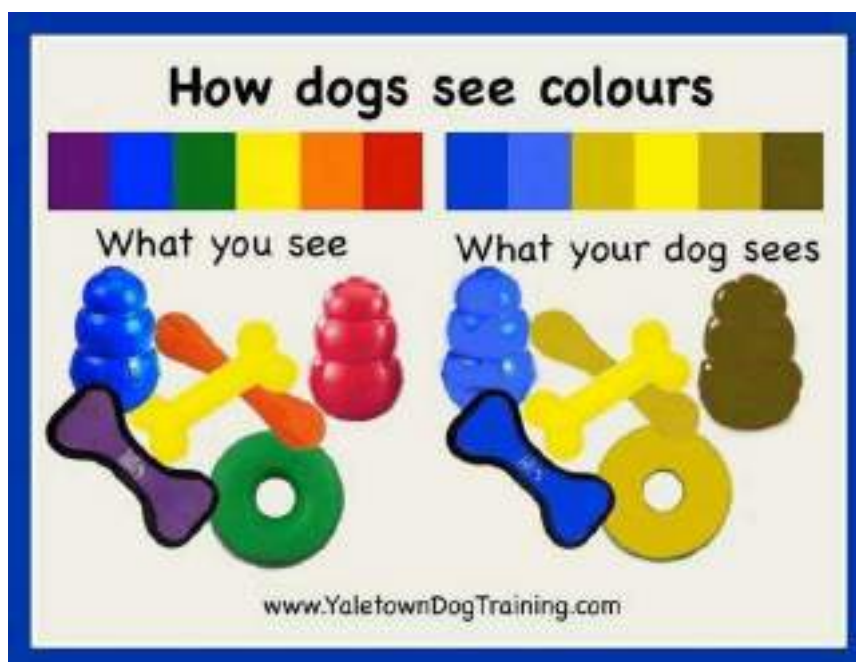


Is your pooch podgy?

A gene associated with obesity - DENND1B - [has been discovered](#) in both Labradors and humans. Finally, we have some solid evidence on why these pups pack on the pounds and can begin to make some solid plans on how to prevent obesity and maintain a healthy weight.

"Studying the dogs showed us something really powerful: owners of slim dogs are not morally superior. The same is true of slim people. If you have a high genetic risk of obesity, then when there's lots of food available you're prone to overeating and gaining weight unless you put a huge effort into not doing so."

Dr Eleanor Raffan, University of Cambridge



EMAILING US?

When you send an email to us it will be answered by one of the wonderful volunteers from our committee Comms Team. Sometimes this can be a very time-consuming job and it would really make it easier for us and you if when you emailed you give us as much clear information as possible, i.e your first and last name; your dog's name and age, especially if you are wanting to know what level your dog should be enrolled in;

what level of training if any, your dog has already had and perhaps its breed or mix; and a clear definition of what you need to know. Then we can get back to you with the information you need as quickly as possible.

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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