



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



Welcome to the first edition of our new quarterly newsletter, The Lamppost.

We are now into our second term of Training at Kakariki Stables arena on the Paekakariki Hill Road and it's been a great success. It's in a valley completely sheltered from the north and only gets a breeze when it's a strong southerly. Because it's got such a high roof we hardly hear the rain. In fact, I've got caught a couple of times walking out, not realising it was pouring. We have a wonderful relationship with the owners who have been really positive towards catering for us. Not everyone would let dogs onto a working farm, so it's important we keep picking up our dog poo and keeping dogs on a lead at all times. Every venue has its downsides, and with Kakariki it's the sand floor in the arena - the instructors find that their cars and equipment get full of sand. It also pays to bring a torch as we only have solar lights in the large car park. On the plus side, once all the lights are off – looking at the stars and listening to the moreporks, is heaven.

Training the trainers. All of our trainers are volunteers, however, most have a huge amount of knowledge. One thing we spend membership fees on is improving the knowledge of our instructors, and over the last term we have held two courses at the clubrooms; the first was Pet first Aid, the second was a behaviour talk by local vet-behaviourist, and now Canine Health & Welfare Officer for Dogs NZ, Rhea Hurley. Both courses were really interesting and we learned a lot.

The Grounds. After our amazing instructors and committee, the next most valuable thing we have is our grass. It takes a hammering all year and we spend huge amounts of time and money on it. You can help it remain one of the best training grounds in NZ by not letting your dog dig or scratch, keep out of the mud and water, reduce the amount of running your dog does and of course picking up after them. Five years ago we spent over \$10,000 to re-

now have a new contractor - Aaron. If you see him working hard out there, please say hello but keep out of his way so he can continue to do a great job – the grounds have never looked better.



Pet Expo. For the last 5 years our club has supported the Pet Expo in manning the Dogs NZ stall by ourselves for 2 years and then doing demonstrations of various dog skills. Over the last few years we have done a deal with the organisers to run two demonstrations each day in return for them giving a free stall to the charity Animal Evac NZ. Quite a few of our club members are also volunteers for Animal Evac – check them out, you may need them someday and they have a lot of good advice on how to prepare your dog for an emergency. At the Expo we demonstrated Rally-O, Canine Good Citizen exercises, Competitive Obedience and Tricks. We then invited the

public in to meet the dogs. We had dogs demonstrating perfect heel work, skateboarding skills, controlled stops, perfect stays, good food manners, precision Rally-O work, and then there were the crowd favourites - the ones who decided not be perfect. According to the organiser we were an incredible hit and he wanted to book us for next year now. The great thing was no matter how your dog performed, we love them all and they are all part of "The TBCOC family" - that's what our club is all about.

So, keep training, keep being a responsible owner and picking up after your dog, and most important of all, keep having fun with your dog.

Craig Prattley
President, TBCOC



2022 Committee Executive:

Craig Prattley - President
Geoff Collins - Vice-President
Kat Thorstrand Mitchell - Secretary
Claudia Samitz - Treasurer

2022 Committee Members:

Lianne Davies - Class Co-ordinator
Antonia Allum - Comms/Web
Jan McKenzie
Bronwyn Weir
Jacqui Austin
Iain Clarke
Glen Robinson
Erin McKenzie
Hamish Blank

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



John de Roo and Suki

When Suki and I started this journey, she was just a pup and I was looking for a companion dog, having been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease 6 years earlier. This was also the year I retired because of the illness, from my role as a Software Architect at HP.

With no background in dog training, we started attending the excellent Sunday puppy classes/socialisation run by Jacqui. This led us to TBCOC and Dom 1. After completing Dom 4, we were looking for a new challenge. Having had a small taste of Rally-O in Dom 4, I decided to give Rally-O a go. After Dom 4, I wasn't expecting that Suki or I would enjoy it. However, Suki enjoyed it right from the start and because she did, I did too.

haven't competed a lot but I intend to change that this year. I have also started shadowing the Rally-O Novice class as a new Instructor.

Suki and I do very little formal training. We practice during the last 1/3 of her daily walk, before she has dinner and at any other opportunity. We typically focus most of that on something new or which we have difficulty with. Right now, it's walking backwards and keeping her position at heel during left pivots. Suki absolutely loves stalks of green vegetables such as broccoli so we slice them into big chunks and use these as training rewards at home.

Rally-O appeals to me and I think to Suki because it strengthens the partnership between us, having to perform what can be anything from simple to quite complex manoeuvres at each station. Each course is different and we are always working on new moves which keeps both our minds challenged. Rally-O isn't as precise and serious as competitive obedience and leans more towards having fun as a team. Suki is 7.5 now and enjoys Rally-O as much or more than when we started.

More than a year ago we added in Canine Friends Pet Therapy visits which Suki also loves doing. We currently visit one of the Forensic Mental Health Campuses at Kenepuru every second week. Suki loves people and has made some real friends there.

Over those years, we have been very fortunate to train with and learn from a great bunch of people. TBCOC has a fantastic, friendly and supportive team with a depth of knowledge far greater than Suki and I will ever use. We are very grateful for all the help over the 7 years we have been members. Suki is very grateful for all the games of fetch the sausage (real sausages, not ...) and would like more of these...



- Don't forget, all enrolment, start and graduation dates are on the [Important Dates](#) page of our website.
- **Enrolment** for Term 4 is open 8pm Sunday 21 September until 28 September.
- **Term 4** begins Monday/Tuesday 10/11 October (puppy classes start 3 & 4 October).
- All Term 4 classes will be held at the [Club grounds, Ngatitoa Domain](#).
- Labour Day observance – there may be no classes on this week – please check with your instructor.

- Annual **TBCOC Obedience Championship Show** - January 2023.
- Our next **CGB Assessment** (Canine Good Basics) is 19th September, 6.30pm. It is open to anyone who has passed Dom 2. [Email Kat](#) to register for a place. Once you have passed your CGB you can go straight into CGC Foundation.



Over the last few months our members have had considerable success in tests and trials across NZ, and this is the section of our newsletter where we celebrate all the hard work those dogs and handlers have put into representing our club. And for those who didn't make the line-up this time around, we are still very proud of them and know that they have learnt heaps and had fun!

Maybe it's time for you to take your training to the next level and join our competitors at one of the shows....

Obedience Champ Shows

Competition Obedience has 5 levels starting at Beginners, through Novice to Tests A, B and C – Test C being the most senior.

Alannah Knapp & Sky-Sky: 5th and 3rd in Test A at the Wanganui DTC; 3rd and 2nd in Test A at Nth Taranaki DTC; and 5th in Test A at Tararua DTC.

Angelique Aamodt & Orix: 5th in Novice at the Nth Taranaki Show.

Carla McInnes & Lochi: 5th in Test B at the Tararua DTC Show.

Cheryl Dickson & Juno: 1st and 2nd in Novice at Wanganui DTC; 2nd and 1st in Novice at the Nth Taranaki Show.

Jo Kilmister & Marlin: 1st in Beginners on both days of the Nth Taranaki Show.

Sherrie McIntyre & Ditto: 1st in Test A at Taupo DTC; 2nd in Test A at Napier DTC; 5th in Test A at Tararua DTC.

Rosemary Mortimer & Hector: 5th in Test C, at Wanganui DTC.



Rally Obedience (Rally-O) Champ Shows

Rally-O has 6 levels – Novice A&B, Advanced A&B and Excellent A&B. Competitors earn Qualifying Certificates to move up a level and to gain titles.

Craig Prattley & Abby: 2nd with Qualifying Certificate in Novice A at TBCOC show.

Jan Voss & Halley: 1st in Excellent A at Wanganui DTC.

Jan McKenzie & Geordie: Qualifying Certificate in Novice B and 2nd in Advanced A with Qualifying Certificate at Wanganui DTC; 1st in Advanced A with Qualifying Certificates on both days at the Napier DTC; 1st in Advanced A with Qualifying Certificate and gained RA Title at TBCOC show.

Marion Holman & Eszty: Qualifying Certificate in Novice B; and with **Chai**, a Qualifying Certificate and RAB title in Advanced B, all at TBCOC show.



Trick Titles with 'Do More with Your Dog'

Not every dog owner wants to compete in shows but they find it great fun to work towards gaining Trick Titles with their dogs over 4 levels: Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Expert. It's a great way to motivate and build an unbreakable relationship with your dog. If you want to know more about trick titles, visit [Do More With Your Dog](#).

Over the past few months four of our dogs have gained Trick Titles:

Novice Trick Title (15 tricks) **Lynette Kelly with Charlie**

Expert Trick Title (a minimum of 37 tricks over 4 levels – Novice, Intermediate,



Canine Good Citizen (CGC)

CGC is run over four levels – Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold. It is a very good move to make after you have completed Domestic 3 or passed the Canine Good Basics Assessment.

Recently **Kat Thorstrand Mitchell** passed CGC Bronze and Silver with **Opal and Rosie**, respectively, at the Taupo DTC Assessment.

Here you can see Craig Prattley, Jan McKenzie and Ally Wilkinson being awarded their Silver and Gold sashes at our last Dogs' Christmas Party.



Scent Sports Association of NZ (SSANZ) Novice Nose Work Trials

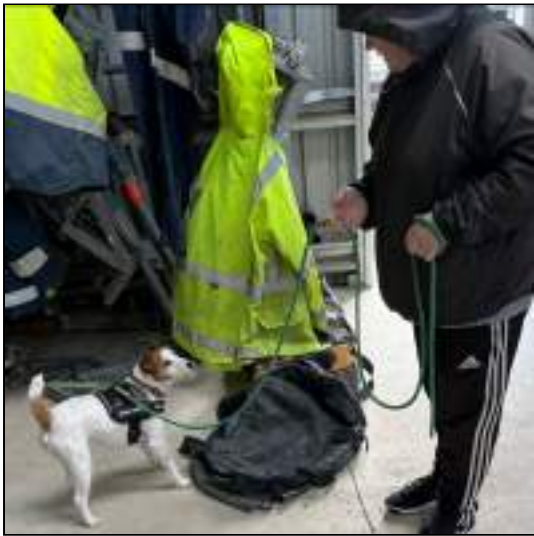
These trials involved 6 Searches – Container, Interior, Exterior and Vehicle which contribute to the Novice Title; plus, Sand and Water Buried Hide Searches which go towards separate titles. Similar to Rally-O, the competitors are working to gain Qualifying Certificates for titles and to move up to the next level. A 'hide' is the scent that the dog has to find and alert to.

Claudia Samitz & Layla: over two trials, have qualified in 8 searches to gain their Novice Title; plus, they qualified in Sand and Water Buried Hides and have earned a 2nd highest qualifier and gained awards for the fastest searches in Interior and Exterior Searches.

Jan McKenzie & Poppy: over two trials, also qualified in 8 searches to gain their Novice Title; and also qualified in Sand and Water Buried Hides. In addition, Poppy gained the Judges Awards for methodical and consistent work with good team work and communication.

Kat Thorstrand-Mitchell and Opal gained a Novice Qualifying Certificate at her first show.

Jan Voss & Maple: gained a Novice Qualifying Certificate.





A few useful tips to help you along...

- Remember that training at club should be supplemented by training at home. We are all very busy but it doesn't take long, just 5-10 minutes 1 or 2 times a day. Think about 'kettle training' – a few exercises while you are waiting for the kettle to boil. Or training during TV ads – you might have to 'paws' the Netflix though!
- If the weather is bad and you really don't feel like venturing out try some indoor training instead, play some brain games, do some scentwork by hiding treats in containers from your recycling bin, teach your dog to [play Quoits](#) or how to [put their toys away](#).
- If you have a really active dog who seems to be on a high, a good arousal-lowering strategy is to allow them to have a quiet on-lead sniff around the perimeter of the grounds before training starts. Also, try other arousal lowering strategies like [pattern feeding](#).
- Practicing until you have a nice solid tie-up means that you can leave your dogs for a minute while you're out and about without them barking, whining or reacting to other dogs etc. Start by tying up somewhere quiet with no dogs. Walk away a short distance, immediately walk back before barking starts and reward – say 'good quiet'. Don't ask for sits or downs – the criteria is purely being tied up and not making a fuss. Gradually increase the time between the return and reward. Keep training sessions short and happy, but do it often, until they are completely relaxed about being tied up.
- To remove the scent from accidents that your cute little puppy has had on the carpet, spray it with a mixture of a water + a washing powder with enzymes (check for colour-fastness first). The enzymes remove the scent of the hormones in the pee, and help prevent re-soiling.



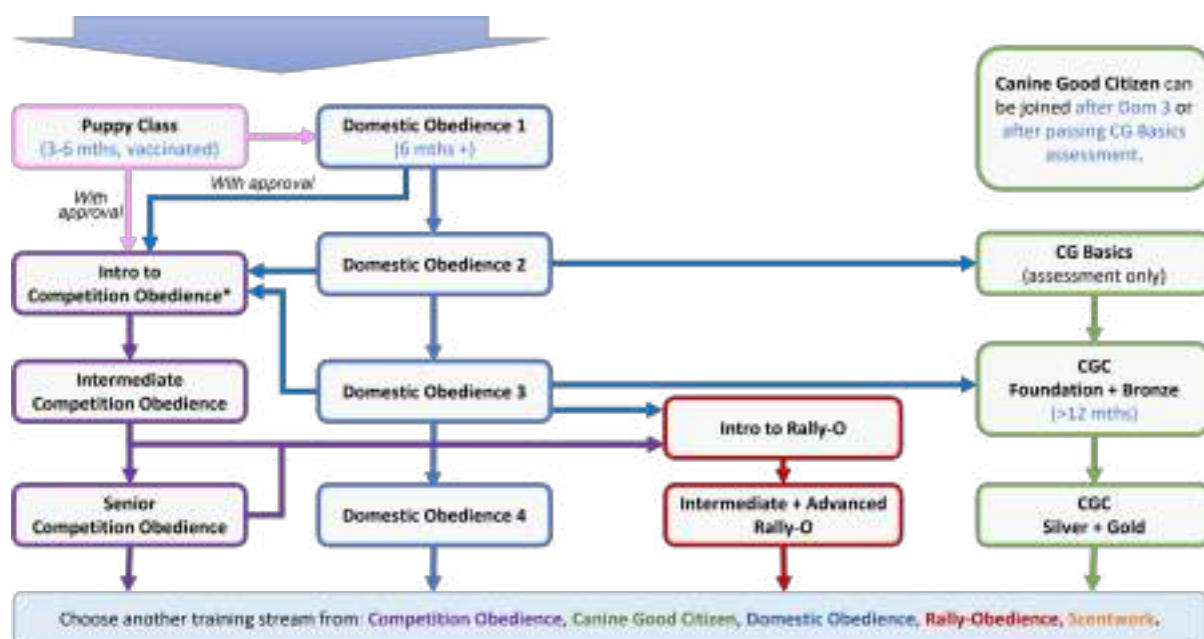
Have you ever wondered if dogs cry?

New research shows that dogs are capable of crying and that they shed tears when they're happy to see us! Check out the full article [here](#).

Thinking about which class to take next?

- Puppy classes – join after 2nd vaccination, from 3-6mths.
- Domestic Obedience – from Domestic 1 through to Domestic 4.
- Canine Good Citizen – from Foundation through Bronze and Silver to Gold.
- Competition Obedience – from Introduction through Intermediate to Senior.
- Rally Obedience - from Novice through Advanced to Excellent.

Have a look at your next training path and which pre-requisites you'll need by clicking on our Quick Reference Guide:



www.tbcc.org.nz

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

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