



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



A wet Spring has definitely slowed things down a little. Well done to those who keep training through these months - it can sometimes be a real challenge, but our dogs certainly thank us for it.

**Grounds** – after the intensive use of the club grounds during the obedience shows in May, with some careful management, the grounds appear to have recovered. The other night we pulled out a huge number of large weeds and reseeded the areas that take a hammering over winter. A huge thank you to everyone who kept off the roped areas and let the grass do its thing.

For anyone interested (Frank Flash?), we normally go through about 20 kg of grass seed, 3 cubic metres of special lawn mix topsoil and 80 kg of slow-release fertiliser per year. Climate change has meant that our mowing that was done every 20 days in Spring and Autumn is now every 10 days, and our mows every 30 days during the rest of the year are now every 20 days: that's 28 mows + extras for shows.

Our new watering system has been a game changer - it's efficient - the system doesn't operate if there has been rain in the last 24 hours, effective and saves us a lot of labour. It also reduces the water we use; which reduces cost (we pay commercial rates) and helps the council water usage.

**Kakariki Stables** – there have been some changes over winter. Due to colder overnight temperatures, the horses were kept in the arena overnight, but soon they will have new horse stalls that back on to the arena and the old stables will be taken down. The portaloo has been removed and a new toilet building (complete with a

they can't get in the city.

*Craig and Karen's Puppy Class* - while we are talking puppies, it is 5 years since Karen and I joined forces to help people bond with their puppies and gain an understanding of dogs. I had a count, and this term we will reach our 900th puppy in class! Karen and I met in our day jobs, when I started helping Sherrie, one of our most experienced instructors, with puppies. Karen and I talked about her puppy, Missy, who had completed puppy class and a part of Domestic One. Missy didn't like the other dogs being so close - unfortunately, Karen didn't get her puppy until after it had already experienced a bad start in life. This meant that Karen had to do a lot of extra work to make her new puppy comfortable in new situations. However, this has meant that I have someone helping me who understands a lot of what new owners go through and that makes her input so valuable. We are both positive trainers and use games to back up our weekly class sessions.

Let me tell you about one of our experiences. I got a call 4 weeks before term started, from a gentleman who was getting a German Shepherd puppy and he wanted to know how to make his puppy into a nice dog. So, I gave him a couple of things to do to help with bonding till the class started. On the first night, when we do the information talk and I try to tell you everything I know about puppies, he was very attentive and asked great questions which got lots of heads nodding. At the first practical session, he was pulled into class by this very strong excited puppy. Karen gave him some advice, they worked really hard over the term, and at the end thanked us for showing them the basics. It's always very sad to see the puppies go at the end of the term - we watch most double in size and grow in personality - but we feel really proud when we see them doing well in Domestic One. "Look Karen, that's one of our puppies from last term" "I know, I've been watching it - they are bonding well". Well, we got a great treat on Monday night - I was watching a Domestic Two class grade out and the German shepherd (no longer a puppy) passed. The owner came over and told me how much fun he was having with his dog and that any time something didn't work he went back to the basics we had done in puppy class and then progressed.

*Other halves* - just a small note about our 'other halves'. On behalf of the club, I would like to thank all the partners and families for putting up with the person who volunteers for the club as, without them, we wouldn't be such a great club and have so many better-behaved dogs in the area. Thank you for all the time they spend with us and our members.

And while I'm at it, thanks to all the volunteers and instructors - you make TBCOC what it is.

*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.....

Lianne with Willow (left) and Obee

***Lianne Davies***

I have been part of Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club for 21 years. I started in February 2002 with a beautiful Shepherd called Nelly who I thought was very naughty, when in fact she was super smart and needed something to do. So I joined the club and have never left. After a few years I was asked if I would like to be a trainer and here I am, still involved with the club.

I worked with Nelly and Mac through the levels until they were not with me anymore. I now have Obee and Willow and they are my 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> rescue/rehome dogs in 42 years. They have also gone through the grades in the club and are very good dogs (although they are not angels) – Obee has CGC Foundation. I have made many friends with the club and some of these friendships will be lifelong.

with their new dogs - some experienced and some newbies – are always a good mix of people and dogs. Handlers turn up with a variety of leads, harnesses, treats and ideas. First night is a mixture of sorting out leads and getting the handlers to hold the lead correctly for loose lead walking and that is a constant through the whole term. But of course, the proof is on the last night which is graduation night and we see who passes and who doesn't. I suppose the highlight of any term is when handlers click on how a certain instruction works and the light bulb comes on. Of course, the dog has worked this out a few lessons earlier and is waiting for Mum or Dad to catch up.

During my time at TBCOC I have been on the committee for most of my time at club and have been the Treasurer for a total of about 10 years. I am, at the moment, Class Coordinator, for my sins. One of the highlights of year is the Christmas party for the dogs at the end of Term 4. This is a party for the dogs and they have free running (it is not a training session), games (throw the sausage and bring it back whole, races, musical mats) and a couple of swimming pools to cool off in. The dogs have an absolute ball and people have fun too. Some dogs just do not leave the swimming pool!!

TBCOC is a massive asset to our community. Just doing some quick maths, I think that nearly a 1000 dogs have passed through my classes and then we multiply that with all our amazing trainers and that is actually 1000's of dogs in my time with TBCOC. I think I will still be with the club for a number of years yet.

Happy training everyone.

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## Vale Mollie

Recently we received the sad news from Oamaru that Geoff Neil's lovely Mollie had passed over the Rainbow Bridge. Geoff was a longstanding club and committee member and many of you will know Mollie because, along with Max, she was Geoff's faithful companion when he visited the club almost daily to check on things, help with maintenance, keep an eye on anyone coming to work at the club etc.

ing a fun time  
with her doggy friend and  
doggy brother, Max at  
Club.



Right up until the last 3 weeks of her life she was busy doing doggy stuff including Canine Friends Pet Therapy visits to an Oamaru rest-home. She was also known to help at the club during CGC assessments when she was the well-mannered dog that others had to meet during the CGC 'meet the friendly dog and stranger' exercise.

Our thoughts go out to Geoff, Pat and Max – Rest in Peace beautiful girl.



- **Term 4** begins Monday/Tuesday 9/10 October.
- All Term 4 classes will be held at the [Club grounds, Ngatitōa Domain](#).
- Labour Day observance – there may be no classes 23/24 October – please check with your instructor.
- Graduation for Term 4 will be 4/5 December.
- Annual **Dog's Christmas Party** - 6pm, 12 December 2023.
- **Enrolment** for Term 1 2024 opens 8pm, 10 January.
- Annual **TBCOC Obedience Championship Show** - 20/21 January 2024.
- Our next **CGB Assessment** (Canine Good Basics) is 11 December, 7pm. 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.
- Don't forget, all enrolment, start and graduation dates are on the [Important Dates](#) page of our website.



TBCOC Committee have developed a new Code of Conduct for our members. This will be published on our website and also in the next (Summer) Lamppost.

**Maybe I'll get  
some food at  
that campfire.**



**What's the worst thing  
that could happen?**



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!

Unfortunately, there were not many Obedience and Rally-O Champ Shows held over the second part of the winter period so there are fewer of those results in this issue. Nevertheless, our Competition classes continue to be popular at the beginners' levels particularly and as the weather warms up it's time to think about taking your training to the next level and joining our competitors at one of the shows.

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.

### ***Tararua - 26 and 27 August***

#### *Saturday's results*

**Jenny Rutherford & Bob-Bob**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Novice

**Sue Paterson & Malu**, 1<sup>st</sup> Test B

**Alannah Knapp & Sky-Sky**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Test B

**Royce Hughes & Blade**, 5<sup>th</sup> Test C

#### *Sunday's results*

**Aimee Cotter & Laurel**, 5<sup>th</sup> in Elementary

**Irene Kilford & Macy**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Test A

**Cheryl Dickson & Juno**, 5<sup>th</sup> in Test A

**Rosemary Mortimer & Hector** 2<sup>nd</sup> in Test C with young Hector also being the top veteran in the show.

### ***Horowhenua - 9 and 10 September***

#### *Saturday's Results*

**Jenny Rutherford & Bob-Bob**, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Novice

**Alannah Knapp & Sky-Sky**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Test B

**Sue Paterson & Malu**, 4<sup>th</sup> in Test B

#### *Sunday's Results*

**Alison Chapman & Rosa**, 1<sup>st</sup> in both Elementary 1 and Elementary 2

**David Oliver & Wally**, 4<sup>th</sup> in Elementary 1

**Lynette Bell and Charlie**, 5<sup>th</sup> in Beginners

**Jenny Rutherford and Bob-Bob**, 1<sup>st</sup> in Novice

**Cheryl Dickson and Juno**, 1<sup>st</sup> in Test A

**Alannah Knapp & Sky-Sky**, 2<sup>nd</sup> in Test B and Top Test B Dog for the weekend!

**Rosemary Mortimer & Hector**, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Test C

Sue Paterson and Malu (left), Lynette Bell and Charlie (right)





Alison Chapman and Rosa (left), David Oliver and Wally (right)



Anna Hunt and Moxie in Intro Comp (left), Amy Cotter and Laurel (right)



weekend. Well done **Team Juno!!**

Cheryl Dickson and Juno (centre)



Several of our competitive teams have been invited to demonstrate their competitive obedience skills at the National Dog Show which is during the week of 3-7 Oct in Auckland. Not all were able to accept the invitation but those who did and have our good wishes are:

Novice: Jenny Rutherford and Bob-Bob

Irene Kilford and Macy

Test C: Rosemary Mortimer and Hector

Rally-O Advanced: Irene Kilford and Robbie

Jenny Rutherford and Quota

Rally-O Excellent: Irene Kilford and Robbie

Jenny Rutherford and Quota

## ***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.

### ***Horowhenua - 9 and 10 September***

#### ***Saturday's results***

**Jenny Rutherford & Peso**, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Novice B, with Qualifying Certificate

**Irene Kilford & Robbie**, 1<sup>st</sup> in Excellent A, with Qualifying Certificate

**Jan McKenzie & Geordie**, Qualifying Certificate in Encore

#### ***Sunday's results***



Irene Kilford & Robbie, 1<sup>st</sup> in Excellent A, with Qualifying Certificate

Jenny Rutherford and Peso (second from left), Erin McKenzie and Harley (right)



**Jan McKenzie and Geordie** were awarded the Central Shetland Sheepdog Club's annual points' trophy for the Top Achieving Rally-O Dog for 2022.



### ***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. Within the Dog's NZ code, dogs can win ribbons for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places but these

attribute of the search – these are also more valued than a placing. So, like Rally-O it is the Qualifying Certificate that is the prime aim of the game. 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 3 Trials during the last couple of months.

### ***Horowhenua DTC Novice Scentwork Trial - 17,18th June***

During the **Saturday Trial** we had the following TBCOC teams as Qualifiers....

**Vicky Disbury & Freya** – Interior, Vehicle, Containers A & B

**Jo Searle & Daisy** – Interior and Vehicle

**Sue Paterson & Pippi** – Interior

**Jan McKenzie & Poppy** – Vehicle

**Jan Voss & Pearl** – Vehicle & Container A & B

**Alannah Knapp & Breeze** – Container A and they also received the Judges Choice award for the Interior Search where they showed great teamwork

**Sue Paterson & Lani** – Containers A & B

**Jan McKenzie & Geordie** - Container A

In the **Sunday trial**, TBCOC had the following Qualifiers

**Vicky Disbury & Freya** – Exterior, Vehicle, Containers A & B

**Alannah Knapp & Breeze** – Vehicle & Containers A & B

**Sue Paterson & Lani** – Vehicle

**Sue Paterson & Pippi** – Container A

**Jan McKenzie & Poppy** – Exterior and Vehicle and they also received the Judges Choice award for the Exterior Search for teamwork and consistency.

**Jan McKenzie & Geordie** – Container A with a very fast search of 4.88 seconds

*The Teams below also completed the following Dogs' NZ titles:*

**Vicky & Freya** – Novice Scentwork (SN) and Novice Container Search (NCS)

**Sue & Lani** – Novice Container Search (NCS)

**Jan McKenzie & Poppy** – Novice Exterior Search (NES) and Novice Vehicle Search (NVS)

Jan McKenzie's Poppy with twice her body-weight in prizes!



### ***ACE Dog Training SSANZ Novice and Intermediate Trials - 8/9 July***

Novice Trials on Saturday and Intermediate Trials on Sunday.

*Saturday Novice qualifying points*

**John de Roo & Suki** – Vehicle Search

**Kat Thorstrand-Mitchell & Rosie** – Exterior, Interior & Vehicle

**Jan McKenzie & Geordie** – Container, Interior & Vehicle

**Antonia Allum & Cairo** – Container, Interior, & Vehicle; and Judges Choice Award for a very good effort and teamwork in the Exterior Search

*Sunday Intermediate qualifying points*

**Jan McKenzie & Poppy** – Interior, Exterior and Container searches; and the Judges Choice Award in both the Exterior and Container Searches

**Kat Thorstrand-Mitchell & Rosie** – Vehicle and Container searches

### ***Rotorua SSANZ Novice Nosework Trial***

**Kat Thorstrand-Mitchell & Rosie** travelled north to attend this trial where Rosie completed her Novice Nosework certificate





### A Bit About Food – Wet v Dry

When it comes to the choice of food for our furry friends, we all want to do the best for them and there are many choices which often leaves us wondering and debating the pros and cons. What is best for their optimal health and well-being? In this article we are looking at the Wet Food v. Dry Food debate. Some of you will put up your hand and say 'What about Raw Food?' This is a topic for another article and the editorial committee, will, at some stage, ask for an expert to help contribute to this section of the newsletter.

Firstly, **Wet food**, which may come in cans, pouches, or plastic containers. It has a high moisture content and is typically comprised of a base of meat, fish or poultry in gravy, broth, or water. It has often been belittled as the 'junk food of the pet world'; but over recent times the quality has improved and there are some excellent and nutritious wet foods on the market.

*Some of the benefits of feeding wet food, include:*

**Hydration:** The high-water content in wet food helps to ensure that there is adequate hydration, which is critical to overall health of all of our pets. In particular, it helps to maintain a healthy kidney function and helps to prevent urinary tract disease.

**Palatability:** The aroma and texture of wet foods tends to make them more palatable to even the most discerning of eaters. They can also be served warm, which also helps to enhance the flavour and make the food even more appealing. This can be useful for pets that are unwell or recovering from surgery – and even if you are serving dry food, any medications can be given in a dollop of wet food on top of the dry – it works well.

**Texture:** The soft texture of wet food also makes it easier to eat. This can be useful for animals who have had multiple teeth extracted or those that are recovering from or wating for dental surgery.

**Weight Management:** Wet food has a lower calorie density than dry food which means that it can be a helpful tool in managing your dog's weight. The high-water content can help them to feel fuller whilst consuming lower calories.

Secondly, **Dry food**, most commonly thought of as Kibble, has been dehydrated such that the water content is close to zero making it very convenient and shelf-stable.

*Some of the benefits of feeding dry food, include:*

**Convenience:** Dry food offers convenience and ease of storage as it does not require refrigeration and is easier and less messy to measure and serve.



often dictates price so when you are comparing the two, it helps to compare wet with dry within the same product brand – this will help you assess the most cost-effective way of feeding without compromising quality.

**Portability:** Dry food is highly portable and convenient for travel. It can be used for low level training treats, meals on the go and can be fed straight for the hand.

**Dental Health:** The hard texture of dry food helps to act as a natural toothbrush when your pet crunches down, assisting in reducing the rate of plaque and tartar buildup. This can promote healthier teeth and gums. Be aware that if you re-hydrate a freeze-dried or air-dried product before feeding (adding water) the abrasive properties and dental benefits are lost. However, good quality air-dried and freeze-dried foods are much lower in carbohydrates than mainstream kibble – and this gives them good dental protective properties. This is because it is carbohydrates that feed the bacteria that causes plaque and tartar.

In **conclusion**, there are benefits to both wet and dry food but your decision should be based on a number of factors: your dog's preferences, health requirements and your own lifestyle. To achieve optimum health for your pet it is crucial to remember that the food is only as good as its ingredients and must be complete and balanced for your pet's particular life-stage and health concerns. Please consult your vet if you need any specific advice.



**It's 83 days until Christmas!!**

This year's Dogs Christmas Party is on 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm at our [Club grounds, Ngatitoa Domain](#). Along with all the usual Christmas fun, there will be Fetch-The-Sausage, Musical Matts, running races and more.

- BBQ food and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided by club, but **please bring a plate**.
  - There will be prizes for **Best Dogs Fancy Dress**, so dress to impress.
  - Please bear in mind that this is not a training session, dogs will be off-lead and everyone is responsible for their own dog's behaviour *at all times*.
  - If the weather is bad the event will be cancelled. This will be announced on our [Facebook](#) page.
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### Wish You Could Stop Your Dog From Aging?

Humans surround themselves in anti-aging techniques, methods, fads, and wives tales. But what about our canine's, what can we do for them to slow-down or stop the clock? Well a group in the USA have launched the Dog Aging Project - a community based science project to monitor, identify and promote research-based anti-aging methods for dogs. [Visit their website for details.](#)

## EMAILING TBCOC

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](mailto: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](http://www.tbcoc.org.nz)



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