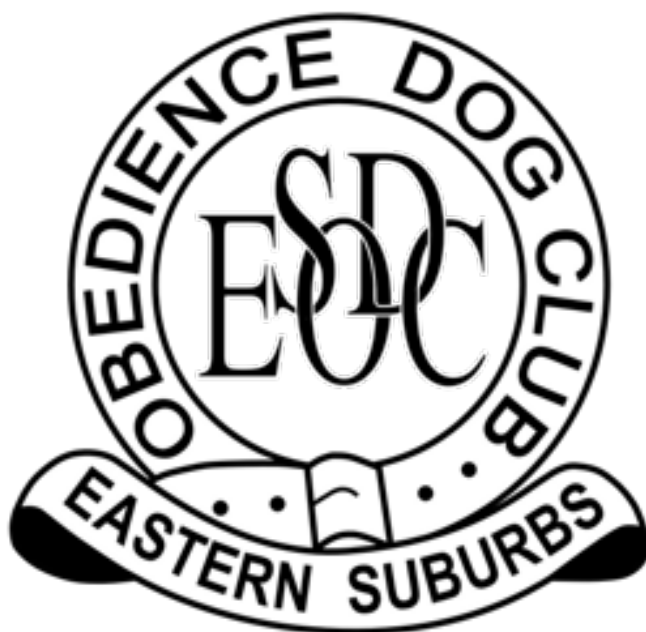

Newsletter



Christmas 2024



INTRODUCING YOUR NEW COMMITTEE

Office Bearers

President	Rhonda Cheesman	0408 388 066
Vice President	Brian Arter	9874 1432
Secretary	Liz Bruhn	0410 258 944
Treasurer	Tamara Taylor	0407 096 261

General Committee

Anne Smith, Andrea Sciberras, Dodo Kelly, Debra Conway

While the executive committee remains the same, We thank our outgoing committee members, **Martin Rowledge** and **Briar Sutherland** for all of their help and support this year. We also welcome **Debra Conway** to the General Committee.

Email esodcmitcham@gmail.com

Website www.esodc.org.au

Facebook [Eastern Suburbs Obedience Dog Club](#)

President's Annual Report



Welcome, Welcome to all our members, our committee, instructors, and helpers. It's great to see so many faces on what was predicted to be a lousy and rainy day. Thank you for venturing out to support our Annual General Meeting.

A sincere thank you to all my committee this year, we have achieved a great deal as a team, and I could not have done it without you.

What a year of change it has been, both for the club, and each of us as individuals... This is not an inclusive list, but let me cover a few of our highlights.

We have reviewed and rewritten our training material, and continue to roll out new class offerings as needs arise, or as instructors become available.

In our desire to provide transparent management, we are writing up most of what we do (and why we do it) into policies or guidelines. This provides clarity and accountability for all our members, across the club.

We have expanded our core group of instructors and just recently trained up more.

We ran an extremely successful Open Obedience and Rally Trial with 115 competitors.

Several members have trialled our own dogs in our leisure hours and been hugely successful in the many sporting disciplines we compete in.

We have battled the wet weather on more than one occasion, and our grounds have coped!, even more surprisingly we have coped!

We have achieved new ground entrance signage from the Whitehorse Council, finally recognising our club's regular Sunday use of the grounds.

We were successful in receiving a WCC grant partially funding our Defib purchase. We also trained up 5 first aiders, who are on the field every Sunday.

We are providing wonderful weekly instruction for our club members, and in turn they are doing amazing, growing their own dog handling skills. It is a joy to watch the improvements over "just a few weeks" in the capabilities of both the handlers and their dogs.

We rolled out a club uniform, initially for instructors and on-ground support, but in time I hope we can make them for sale to everyone.

We revamped our existing website a lot, and utilised the website, Facebook page, Newsletter and emails to communicate more efficiently and effectively to our members.

So much change, and so much more to come.



President's Annual Report (cont)

What are we still working towards. A newer, more smart-phone capable website; one with online new members' registration, or renewals together with payment facilities. A nice to have members only section where our governance documents can be accessed, and where our training material (both our class content, and our trainee instructors course material) can be viewed, and reviewed.

I especially love that we are still considered a relatively small Community based Dog Club, and achieve the results that we do. We are friendly, supportive and always ready to help with advice or attention whenever we can. We are tiny in comparison to our bigger neighbouring clubs, but achieve great training results for our members.

I am proud of my committee and eternally grateful to their commitment to our club, and to me personally. We have all worked hard and consistently throughout the year. A 100% volunteer workforce.

Thank you to each committee member, our Vice President Brian, who definitely has been a strength for me, each time I remember to reach out.... Our Secretary, Liz, whose constant admin work behind the scenes keeps this club functioning. Our Treasurer, Tamara, who has expanded the money and members functions to include an amazing level of up to date members' record keeping. Our outgoing Chief Instructor, Martin, who headed up the Training Panel which reviewed and rewrote all of our class

training material; as well as created our Instructors program, course material and its delivery. Thank you Martin for your amazing support and best wishes in your recovery. Also outgoing is Briar Sutherland, your presence around the club, especially on Fun Days will be genuinely missed. Thank you for your valuable years on the committee and on field presence. We look forward to seeing all your sporting achievements with your amazing working dog pack. To Andrea who has made it to club more times than she's missed, thank you, outstanding effort indeed, also best wishes in your recovery. To Anne and Dodo, general committee in title, but always offering me valuable support, and forever ready to pitch in and help out wherever needed. Dodo, thank you for running yet another successful raffle today. You definitely rock the raffles.

To my husband Roger, and unofficial grounds keeper Willie, thank you for your patience, I know I've tested it a few times this year.... your's and Matt's support in setting out our rings and all the equipment each and every week has been a huge success in helping us to run our ring work classes. And Alan, your unofficial presence in the Obedience ring is truly appreciated too.

Last, but not least, thank you for the opportunity to lead this great club into yet another year of fun, training adventures and all things canine!

Rhonda Cheesman
President



Chief Instructors Annual Report

I hope the fun day was a great success, my apologies for being unable to attend it and the AGM.

We have had a very busy year, and I would like to think a successful one as far as our offering to the community is concerned.

At the beginning of our 2024 season our Committee established a Training Panel with the remit to develop a new training program for our club and its members. Over the next 4-months the program was developed and in May approved by the committee, which was then rolled out beginning of June. Many thanks to Dodo and Tamara for your help and support throughout the development process.

Since the introduction of our new formal training structure, we have had:

69 members graduate from Foundation class.

69 members participating in Intermediate class with 41 graduations.

41 members participate in Advanced class with 12 graduations.

Throughout 2024 year we have had:
105 new members.

35 renewed memberships

In addition to our formal classes, further training opportunities offered by our club after graduating the advanced class are up and running, with further training for those interested in Competitive Obedience (classwork and ringwork), Rally, and our Social class has recently commenced.

In order to continue to support the clubs activities a second round of Instructor training was offered, the formal classes of which have just been completed, with 5 members participating. The Trainee Instructors will be taking to the field next year when we return to assist in taking the classes and, when ready, take classes of their own.

At this point I would like to recognise the contribution of all our Instructors and Volunteers who make this possible. It has been no small task to develop the program, support each class on a weekly basis, prepare the ground and rings each week before members turn up, and ensure that we are able to deliver these classes every week come rain or shine. So, a heartfelt thank you to all of the positive contributors, without whom we would not have a club.

And also, a thank you to our dedicated members who turn up every week, practice what they are taught throughout the week, and have managed to progress through the various levels. Seeing your enthusiasm to work with, have fun and connect with your dogs is why I continue to volunteer...

On a final note, as I complete the year as ESODC's Chief Instructor, I would like to thank the President, Committee, Instructors and Members for your support throughout the year. It has been my honour and privilege to have been the first CI here for many years, and now the role has been reestablished, I look forward to supporting whoever takes it on in 2025.

Martin Rowledge
Chief Instructor

Christmas Fun Day



After all the rain the day before and despite a nasty looking forecast our fun day was bright and sunny and not too hot.

There were plenty of activities to try with the ring up and running with Dodo and Alan both there ready to put anyone who wanted a go through their paces. I'm sure the popularity of this activity had nothing to do with the lollies and dog treats at the entrance!! There was also a rally course and the mini agility for everyone to have a try out with if they wanted.

Once everyone had arrived it got more competitive with "walking" races for ladies, gents and children. This was one time when no one was being a tree and a little pulling on the lead was perfectly OK.

We followed up with a game of "Rhonda Says.." and then a team cone weaving relay race. I did notice a certain amount of jockeying for team mates in this one, not that I'd accuse any of our members of being excessively competitive.

The last competition was for best Christmas dressed dog and owner, which was a very hard decision. There were some amazing costumes again this year.

We finished up with a sausage sizzle (thank you Andrea and Roger), and prizes including the snakes in a jar guess (thankyou for taking it around Anne, don't think we've ever had so many guesses). And then it was time for the raffle that Dodo had organised for us.

What a Wonderful end to our training year.

Thank you to all the member who stayed for the AGM following. Your support means a lot to the Committee.

Liz Bruhn



Annual Achievement Trophies

Rhonda Cheesman with **T. GrCh. TS.Ch. Belcroft Believe in Diamonds CD. RE.** (better known as Meka) achieved both **Track and Search Dog Grand Champion** and **Tracking Grand Champion**. This is an amazing achievement and takes Meka as far as she can go in tracking competition.



Dodo Kelly with **Winterset Heidi of Cairnlea CD. NRA.** (Heidi) achieved **Open Retrieving Ability**. She and **Clannard O Danny Boy CD. RN. TDX. QND. NRD. ORA.** (Danny) with the help of Alan Tee also achieved **Track and Search Dog and Tracking Champion**. Well done to all of you.

Karen Hailey and **Pippa** achieved **Rally Novice** this year. This is Karen's first year competing, well done both of you.



Melissa Murdoch and **Ch Hueze Northern Star** achieved both **Working Novice Pack Dog** and **Working Pack Dog**. Melissa lives too far away to attend often but is a life member, her trophy was collected by Barbara East.

New Life Member

Anne Smith joined ESODC in May 2014 with Callie her yellow Labrador. Over the past decade, Anne has been a valuable club member, serving the club as both committee member and instructor for most of her membership. She was part of our skeleton team who kept the club active and afloat during the COVID years.

Anne is still active in the club helping out with the Obedience Trial, on the field every fun day, and currently taking photos around the grounds for us to use in our website redevelopment, newsletter and publicity brochure. Congratulations.

Rhonda Chessman



Start up for 2025

Our start up date for 2025 is 2 February.

Before we return you will receive an email letting you know which class you will be in, your start time and who your instructor will be. If you have any concerns with the time or class you are in, let us know as soon as possible so we can reallocate where possible.

Please also note that for the first time in many years we are changing our fees. From the new year, when your fees come due the costs will be as follows:

Single new membership \$90
Family new membership \$120

Single renewal \$60
Family renewal \$90

** Clarification of terms –*

Single is one handler with one or more dogs

Family is two or more handlers with one or more dogs.

Safety for your dog over the Christmas and New Year season



Christmas and New Year ... it's a busy time of year and we want to make sure we are looking after our pups. So, here are a couple of things to keep in mind ...

#1 – Microchip up-to-date

Hopefully everyone has their pup microchipped. It is an important thing to keep up to date. Because if your pup gets out whoever finds them can take them to a vet who will scan their chip and they have access to your details and can get in contact with you.

Can't find your email from Central Animal Records? They should email you annually, but if you can't find it, stop in at your vet. They can scan your dog and help you update the information on record.

#2 – Dogs collars on

When you are having friends and family over, make sure your pets have their collars on. Just in case they make a quick escape out the front door, someone can take a hold of your pup by the collar.

#3 – Close the front door and side gate

With family and friends coming and going from your house ask them to close the door behind them. Whether it's the front door, back door, garage or side gate, it's important they are closed and closed properly to keep your pets on your property. Not everyone has pets and those that don't have a pet don't think to make sure doors and gates are closed behind them. And dogs can be quick, sometimes they sneak through a doorway without you noticing, so keep

doorway without you noticing, so keep your movements in and out of doors quick, don't leave them wide open. Plus keeping doors closed quickly helps keep the heat outside and the cool air in.

A simple reminder to visitors, even a note on the door, can help keep your pup secure during this busy holiday season.

#4 – Fireworks

Christmas Eve and New Years Eve celebrations will likely have fireworks and while we love them, sometimes our dogs do not. So be prepared:

- Keep dogs inside
- Make sure they are well exercised (a tired pup is less likely to freak out)
- Stay home with them, or if no one will be at home consider leaving them with a friend who will be home.
- Remember, fireworks are not a big deal. If you are chilled about it this will help your dog to be chilled about it. If you make it a big deal and coddle your dog that's going to make their anxiety worse. Instead, re-direct them to play, do some obedience training, reward them every time they look at you calmly.
- Train them to be ok with sudden loud noises (sound training, needs to be trained in the weeks/months leading up to the event)
- Make sure they have a safe space, a crate, a comfy dog bed, etc in the interior of you home that may muffle the outside sounds. Also you can have the tv or music on to distract from the outside noise.

Safety for your dog over the Christmas and New Year season (cont)



And if really concerned about your dog getting out and you are home with lots of people, keep your dog on a lead with you. That way you know exactly where they are – at the other end of the lead that’s in your hand (or tied around your waist).

#5 – Food

Please be careful with food around your dogs at Christmas. Ask your visitors and family to not feed you dog – actually, I like this rule every day of the year. If my dog is going to get a treat or food it comes from me and he needs to do something to earn it, no freebies. Tough I know!

But in truth, it’s really important at Christmas because then you know exactly what your dog consumes and you’re not scratching your head to work out why they have an upset stomach, or are vomiting, or worse.

There’s plenty of information out there on what not to feed your dog, but here are the main ones for Christmas:

- chocolate
- fruitcake, Christmas pudding, mince pies, anything with grapes/sultanas/ dried fruit
- cooked bones
- ham
- stuffing
- gravy (usually has onion and a bunch of other not great stuff for your dog)
- onions, leeks, garlic
- lollies or desserts, especially desserts made with Xylitol (artificial sweetener)
- Alcohol
- Fruit stones, e.g. cherries, apricots

Remembering to follow these tips will ensure you have a safe and happy pup over the Christmas and New Year season.

Tamara Taylor



BM Animals is committed to providing you and your dog with high quality food and treats for optimum health and vitality. Locally sourced, chemical and preservative free, salt and sugar free, high quality food for your furry family member.

Products available:

- Raw meats
- Raw meaty bones (assorted cow, duck, emu, chicken, kangaroo, turkey, veal)
- Ready made meals (raw and cooked options)
- Treats and chews
- Supplements and more

Have a dog with a sensitive tummy or health issues? Chat with John or Maree and they will happily share their knowledge to help you and your dog.

Show your ESODC badge or this flyer to receive 10% off your purchase.

BM Animals
ph: 0488 144 675

1 McLellan Street, Bayswater
w: www.bmanimalscompletenutrition.net