
Newsletter



October 2025



YOUR COMMITTEE

Office Bearers

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

General Committee

Anne Smith, Andrea Sciberras, Dodo Kelly, Debra Conway

Instructors

Tamara Taylor, Martin Rowledge, Rhonda Cheesman, Liz Bruhn, Brian Arter, Dodo Kelly, Susan Poyner, Debra Conway, Miranda Watkins, Matt Elder

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Facebook [Eastern Suburbs Obedience Dog Club](#)

INTRODUCTION

Our Club was founded in 1969 to cater for those owners of purebred dogs who were interested in training their dogs to Obedience Trial standard. The club was so successful in this regard that it was granted

affiliation with KCC (Kennel Control Council). In 1979 Victorian Canine Association (now Dogs Victoria) accepted all dogs into Obedience trials and the club was then also opened to all dogs.

CLUB RULES

1. Your dog is to be kept on leash at all times. The only exception is when given explicit instruction to work off lead in class.
2. Handlers wishing to leave their dogs tethered on Club grounds should only do so if their dogs are safe with people, especially around children. No dog may be tethered when it can reach another dog.
3. Dogs must be fully immunised before coming to classes which needs to be kept up-to-date.
4. Any sick dog, or one suffering from a communicative illness, are not to come to classes until Vet cleared.
5. Handlers are responsible for removal of their dogs' excreta from the training area.
6. We teach rewards-based training. Physical and excessive verbal abuse of dogs is not allowed. Any observed behaviour of this type will lead to expulsion from the club.
7. Instructors have authority over their classes and may ask a member to take their dog out of class if it is overly disruptive.
8. While at the grounds, before and after classes, please remain in control of your dogs, and respect the space of other dogs and handlers.
9. Dogs in season should not attend training for four weeks. However, this does not mean you should stop attending classes nor cease the training of your dog.
10. If an Instructor considers your dog to be aggressive, the Chief Instructor will evaluate your dog as to its suitability to be trained at ESODC. If required, the dog may be asked to wear a muzzle while at training or private professional instruction / organisations may be recommended. Remember, we are a Community Dog Club, we do not offer specialised behavioural modification training.

President's Report

Welcome, and haven't the past few weeks been a whirlwind? I wear two hats writing this report... My President's hat, briefly; and my Trial Secretary's hat, mostly. So, a warm spring welcome to our October 2025 Newsletter. And, a very special welcome to all our recently joined new members. I do trust you will find your training time here at the club both rewarding and practical.

On Sunday 5th October we held our annual Obedience and Rally trials. A Dogs Victoria sanctioned competition where dogs of all breeds and their owners from across the state, enter in the hopes of gaining another pass towards their Obedience (or Rally) titles. This year we hosted another amazingly successful event, with 113 dogs entering. Even the weather played nicely with dry days leading up to the weekend, and stayed comfortably cloudy on the day. It is a massive undertaking for any club, let alone a small community club such as ours. Hats off to our amazing members who generously offered their time on the day to help set up all the rope rings, add in all the equipment, set up ringside tables, chairs, rubbish bins, and the cabana on field. The field looked amazing and was ready well in time for the judges to waltz in and set up their specific requirements. Off the field, I've never seen such a dedicated team of hardworking women get so much done in such a short time.

Huge thank you to Tamara, the clubrooms were emptied, the stacked tables and chairs all unpacked, tables were set up and scattered everywhere they were needed, tablecloths added and within a blink the clubrooms were converted to a Trial Secretary's office, a dining room, a meal prep kitchen, and a refreshment station. There were tables outside overflowing with the raffle prizes, and another table stacked with our trophies, prizes and sashes. The check-in table was locked and loaded. The barbecue was stocked, and cooking, and everyone hovered waiting for the next jobs, when there were none..... Everything was done! My heart is so full of gratitude for everyone who pitched in to help. From gatekeepers to photographers, raffle ticket sellers, ring stewards to bbqers, salad preppers to tea ladies Your generosity was overwhelming, so kind and so truly appreciated.



I know a few of you came, helped and needed to rush off to other family (or work) commitments, and I also know that quite a few of you hung around for the whole day, helping out wherever you could. I could not / we could not stage such an event without all your help and work on the day, THANK YOU.

Of course, there is one reason why any club hosts such a competition.... It is to provide a venue, (a safe home-based venue) for our own club members who are ready to compete, to enter. This we did courageously well. Eight of our own ESODC club members were entered in either obedience, or rally, or like Monica and Susan – both obedience AND rally. All were successful (I say you gain a pass, or you learn a lesson, - we never fail). The highlight was Dodo Kelly and Heidi taking top honours with Highest Obedience Score in Trial with 188 points. Dodo along the way gained her pass in Open, the 188 score gained her 1st Place in Open, a beautiful trophy, sash and gift of products from BM Animals. The 188 score also awarded them the ESODC Club Member Highest Score in Trial. Dodo also won the competitors door prize but asked to redraw so that someone else could have a turn winning..... funny that! CongratulatoNs Dodo, when you're hot, you're hot!

In the Rally Novice ring, we had Katie Beylin and Bonnie (in their first ever rally trial) awarded 1st place with a score of 97points. Susan Poyner and Paris awarded 2nd place with a score of 95points, and Debra Conway and Cody awarded 3rd place with a score of 94points. Cicilia Perera and Carlos passed with 81points, and Liam Murdock and Bandit with a pass and 75points in their first rally trial too. (Melissa is ESODC Life Member) travelling down from their home in the Wangaratta area to compete in our home trial. Monica Niewalda and Oska picked up a beautiful pass with 91points in Rally Excellent, also earning them a 3rd place.

President's Report

I wish to mention our club stewards for the day, many thanks Roger Cheesman, Martin Rowledge, Elaine Hamilton and Molly Kitson. I do hope you had a wonderful time stewarding, we certainly appreciated your help. Special mention to our grounds keepers, Brian, Roger, Matt, Murray and your crew of merry helpers, the grounds looked amazing, all thanks to you guys. And, what a bonus having Bolin and Matt as our Photographers wandering around snapping amazing pics of our club members and dogs. Eventually we will get more of the photos onto Facebook, in the meantime there are a few to highlight the day's memories. Thank you Bolin and Matt.

We were blessed with generous sponsors, BM Animals, Mega Pet Warehouse, PawsNClaws, Doggy Delights, Black Dog Wear and a generous and amazingly delicious last minute massive delivery of pizzas for all the club helpers from Mr and Mrs Pizza. Please jump on to Facebook and grab the details of our sponsors, then support them by buying their products next time you need to. In today's big corporate(greedy) world, it is truly a great feeling to help our local small businesses thrive. The generosity of our sponsors, our club members with raffle prize donations, the help on the day, the help along the way.... You are all amazing, and yet again, I thank you.... And nope, I'm not going to try to list everyone, for fear of missing one or two very important names.... I do hope I have personally thanked you already, and from everyone in the club, thank you.



So, where to from here.....? We are in the final seven weeks of club/training for 2025. Our Christmas Breakup 'Family Fun Day' is Sunday 7th December. This is a training day that is packaged like a whole lot of fun. Bring the family down, there's a free sausage sizzle (and veggie patties), there are 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes for all the games, and a 'Christmas themed' fancy dress competition. I encourage you to start shopping around now for your bestest costumes because both YOU and YOUR DOG need to be dressed up in order to scoop the prizes..... Try to match or merge your cozzies for your best chance.

Following the Family Fun Day is our AGM. If you can plan to stay for the AGM we would love to see you. The AGM won't be a long meeting, but does highlight all our greatest achievements throughout the year, elects a new committee for the year ahead, and finishes off with presentations of club trophies to all our trialing members who have gained titles throughout the year. This is something we are very proud of, and truly worth rewarding and celebrating with our members.

To wrap up this very long winded message, thank you everyone for your support and commitment to your training. It is lovely seeing you all in class, scattered across the field every Sunday with your dogs and the wide variety of coloured mats. I love watching you all, keep up the great work.

Happy training,
Rhonda Cheesman

CLUB DATES FOR 2025

Date	Event
8/3 (Labour day Weekend)	No classes
20/4 (Easter Weekend)	No classes
8/9 (Kings Birthday Weekend)	Fun Day (to be confirmed)
5/10	Club Obedience Trial, no classes
30/11	Last formal class of the year
7/12	Fun Day and AGM

Welcome to our New Members August

Handler	Dog	Breed
Nya, Nova, Michael	Gus	Maltese x shih tzu
Jennifer	Gus	Miniature Poodle
Jack & Kara	Obi	American Bully
Warren & Annie	Teddy & Maisy	Labrador
Jane, Cameron, Megan	Rufus	Stumpy tail cattle dog / bull Arab
Kath	Seamus	Cavoodle
Paige	Merlin	Toy Poodle
Prue	Mac	Corgi

September

Handler	Dog	Breed
Yufei & Bolin	Piper	Bernese Mountain dog
Louise & Heath	Coby	Jack Russell
Carolyn	Luna	Labradoodle/Beagle
Charlotte	Suki	Border Collie (pure bred)
Paige & Chris	Leia	Basenji
Rodney & Barbara	Ruby	Bearded Collie
Eleanor & Simone	Arlo	Toy poodle cross Maltese
Ombeline & Jerel	Judo	White Swiss Shepherd
Susan	Rosie	Labrador x

Training News and Tips

It has been a busy time with lots happening in and around the club. Our trial was a great success, our newly formed demonstration team did their first demo at the Whitehorse City Council's SpringFest and our trainee instructors have commenced in the next stage of their training.

You will likely see or have in your classes one of our newest Instructor trainees. They will be taking part of classes as they continue to build their skills and experience. If you have any dog training questions, please don't hesitate to ask any of our instructors – trainee or seasoned.

Training tip – The Power of Consistency

One of the most effective yet often forgotten tools in dog training is consistency. Whether you're teaching your dog to sit, stay, or walk nicely on lead, being consistent with your cues, rewards, and expectations is the key to long-term success.

Dogs thrive on routine and clear communication. For example, if you use the word "down" to mean both "lie down" and "get off the couch," your dog may get confused. Pick one word per behaviour and stick to it AND make sure everyone in your house uses the same cue words and enforces the same rules.



Consistency also applies to rewards. If you reward your dog for sitting politely one day but ignore the same behaviour the next, your dog won't know what's expected. Reinforce good behaviour every time, especially in the early stages of training, we can fade the reward later.

Remember: dogs don't misbehave out of spite—they just follow what they've learned from you. Be consistent, patient, clear, and focus on the desired behaviours, and your dog will be much more likely to learn the behaviours you want.

If you have any questions, please let us know. You can reach out to anyone wearing an ESODC t-shirt, cap or vest, drop us an email or send us a message on Facebook.

Tamara Taylor Chief Instructor



Meet the Instructors - Miranda Watkins

Can you introduce yourself and your dog to us?

Hi I'm Miranda! I'm in year 10 (I know, a lot of people assume I'm older than I actually am). My pup's name is Clancy (Or his full name is Clancy Bravestar RekeReke Watkins). Clancy is an 18 month old rescue pup from the Northern Territory who came to us through an organisation by the name of 'Camp Dogs' and before living with us he'd never been in a home without any other dogs. Since we got him he's come a long way, but you'll still see him with a 'Nervous' bandana because he's still a little skittish. Clancy loves jumping, pedestal work, shaking hands with people and playing tug. He's a smart pup, he learns a lot and puts most of it to evil rather than good, for example, learning what gets everyone's attention so that we come and play with him.



Clancy came into our home March 10th 2024, with a whole lot of chaos and a lot more trauma than my parents expected. We took him to his first lesson about two weeks later and since then it's become the highlight of his week. (How do I know that you ask? He tries to herd us all up and out to get to dog training on Sunday mornings)

What brought you to the club and how long have you been with us?

I've been here for about two years now, and I'm so glad to be here :)

I came to the club after a long trip away with my family, where we came back and my grandmother had adopted a dog, who you may see occasionally, a Cavalier King Charles known as Ruffles (Or Ruffy for short) who is an ex-breeding dog with a whole lot of trauma and a love for food. After training Ruffles for about six months, my parents decided to look into adopting a dog of our own (rescue of course).

What do you love about being an Instructor and part of the club?

I love the community and knowledge of all the people in the club, getting tips and tricks from people who have more experience than me. I know that I can ask anyone if I need help with anything or any questions. I also love how welcoming everyone is, and how people adapt to each dog's needs no matter what. Being an instructor is so rewarding, I get to share what I know, what I've learned, and get to keep learning as well. Of course I have to mention meeting all the puppies, that's the best part, obviously. And their owners...

Meet the Instructors - Miranda Watkins (cont)

If you could give your beginning training self one bit of advice what would it be?

Keep going, keep practicing and doing as much as you can, it pays off. I know Clancy seems like a handful right now but he's so good, he really just wants to please you and work. It's okay to be tired, even the small things you do counts. You're all doing your best, and that's all we can ask, just keep coming back to the club, keep doing things with your dogs, even when it seems hard,

know that we've all been there, I'm sure some of you have seen me running laps of the oval to get Clancy back when he runs away from me with his favourite toy, it gets better, it just takes time.

Whatever way your dog learns best is fine, if they don't like treats that's fine, come up and talk to one of the instructors, we'll be happy to help talk you through training with a toy or something else that your dog wants to use.



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

What is it Like to Join a Club and Feel Welcome

A couple of years ago, I was at my lowest point with my dog. After being mistreated in a kennel and picking up bad habits at a dog park, he lunged at another dog, trying to nip its tail. He is large and extremely fast, and I was terrified that one more mistake might mean he would be taken from me. In tears, I stumbled across the ESODC website and rang Liz (club secretary at the time). From that very first call, I was met with patience, calm reassurance, and genuine support.

Today, my dog and I are in the Advanced class, and I am even training to become an Instructor myself. I could not be happier with the decision I made that day—and I only wish I had found ESODC sooner.

What I have learned here at ESODC goes beyond training my dog. I have learned to train myself—understanding how my own behaviour shapes his, for better or worse. ESODC has shown me that training is not just about commands, but about building a partnership.

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, ESODC has been the community I have leaned on to raise my dog. The instructors did not stop at teaching the basics—they encouraged me to stretch further than I thought possible, guiding me into Rally and Obedience trials. Senior members, including those with master-level certificates, generously shared their knowledge and experiences with similar dog breeds, helping me understand my dog in ways I never expected.



At many clubs, newcomers might struggle to be noticed, but at ESODC it is different. Experienced members are mentoring me through my first trials, while even committee members always take the time to chat, share training tips, or laugh with me over silly dog videos. These casual check-ins gave me the encouragement to keep going when I faced hurdles (or doggy incidents). Looking back, what began as a desperate phone call has grown into one of the most rewarding parts of my life. At ESODC, I found guidance, confidence, and a true sense of belonging—for both me and my dog.

Cicilia Perera

Since writing this lovely article for us Cicilia and Carlos have gained their first pass in Rally Novice at our recent trial and you will see her about the place as she shadows our instructors on the way to becoming one herself.

- Liz Bruhn

ESODC Trial 2025

Trial day is always special, but I think in the time I have been at the Club this one has been the best. Why? From the start, we had so many members turn up to help set up and staying to watch the action as well as more members coming to see what it was all about too. The icing on the cake for me though, was being able to watch so many members competing. Not just our regular experienced competitors but first timers as well. To some extent the whole point of the trial is to encourage new competitors to have a go and to inspire others to try next time, I think we smashed that goal. There's a special page with all the club passes on it so you can see how our members did. This only happens because of the work and support of our instructing team, not just the formal ones but the members who already trial and share their skills and experience with our newer members. It also requires the courage of our new members and I take my hat off to every one of you because I've never been brave enough to put my two through the ring.

Apart from that special joy the weather was dry and (mostly) not too windy, our Judges were amazing and a great deal of fun was had by all. There were the usual successes and failures you would expect, I love how philosophical the dog training community is about things going wrong. I know Susan will not mind me sharing how she went with Paris, who stopped for a wee part way through what was looking like a good heeling pattern in CCD Obedience completely scuppering that trial, but then did brilliantly to get her third pass and title in Rally Novice. A perfect picture of trialling your dog if ever there was one.

I need to recognise the effort that Rhonda put into organising the Trial, being Trial Secretary is a huge task and a lot of pressure. She was ably backed by Brian, Andrea and Tamara putting it all together. Dodo came up trumps with a great raffle again. Thank you to all the club members who donated something, came and helped on the day, or just turned up to share the day with us. Without you the day wouldn't run nearly so smoothly.

Liz (Editor)



ESODC Trial 2025, Members Round up

Well done everyone from the club who put their dog into the trial, whether they got a pass or not. Here is a round up of our competitors and how they went.

Dodo and Heidi achieved first place and a pass in Open Obedience (CDX) along with the highest scoring ESODC member in the trial and highest Obedience score in the trial overall with 188 points. What an amazing job both of you!



Katie and Bonnie came first in Rally Novice with 97 points.



Susan and Paris came second in Rally Novice with 95 points giving her her third pass and title.



Debra and Cody came third in Rally Novice with 94 points.



Liam and Bandit gained their pass in Rally Novice with 75 points.



Cicilia and Carlos gained their first pass in Rally Novice with 81 points.

ESODC Trial 2025, Members Round up

Monika and Oska came third in Rally Excellent with 91 points.



Honorable mention to our other participants, **Monika and Mogh** and **Karen and Pippa** who were pipped to the post .

A promotional coupon for Black Dog wear. The text reads: "Black dog wear 10% DISCOUNT". Below this is the website "www.blackdog.net.au" and a black box with the code "CODE: ESODC10". At the bottom, it says "*T&C's - create account. Expires 30/12/2025. min spend \$15". There is a logo of a black dog's head on the right side.

Black dog wear **10% DISCOUNT**

www.blackdog.net.au

CODE: ESODC10

*T&C's - create account. Expires 30/12/2025. min spend \$15

Black Dog wear are based in Lilydale. They have kindly offered the club a discount on their products. They sell leads, harnesses and a variety of other items and will help fit them to your dog. Order online or in person and mention our club, and the code **ESODC10**
<https://www.blackdog.net.au/>

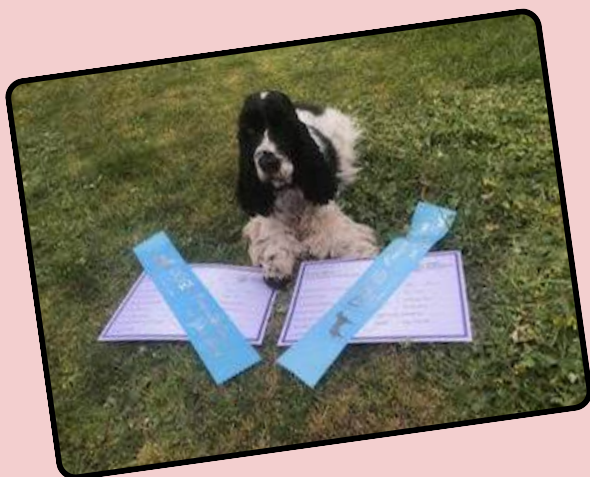
Trial Round up

*We've had some real achievements over the last two months!
Congratulations to every one of you*



Congratulations to Team Heidi and Dodo Kelly. Heidi and Dodo attended the Breton RATG (Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs) on Saturday 23/8/25 at KCC Park, achieving a beautiful pass in the Open class, and scored third place to top off a gorgeous day in the sun.

Huge congratulations to team Aoife and Matt Elder for an amazing day out on Sunday (7/9/25) at the Dancing with Dogs Club Tricks Trial at KCC Park. Aoife needed just one more pass for her Trick Dogs Novice title, and she gained outstanding pass scores for ALL THREE entries in the triple trial. Some struggle to get the required three passes, they gained five. Amazing effort!



Congratulations to Meka and Rhonda Cheesman for a wonderful effort gaining passes in both Novice Interiors and Novice Containers at the DV Scent Work State Trial at Yarra Glen Racecourse (12/10/25). A huge trial with over 300 dogs entered and judged over 3 days. Well done for your great results today.



ESODC Family Fun Day

Sunday 7 December

9am

Bring the whole family and join us for a morning of fun activities, games and prizes.

Plus enjoy the BBQ and free raffle.



We invite you stay for our AGM to celebrate the achievements of our members and learn more about our club.



ESODC Summer Info

Sunday 30 November

Last day of formal classes

Sunday 7 December

Family Fun Day 9am

Bring the whole family and join us for a morning of fun activities, games and prizes.

Sunday 1 February 2026

Classes resume



Keep an eye out for emails and our FB page for valuable info over the summer holidays.

