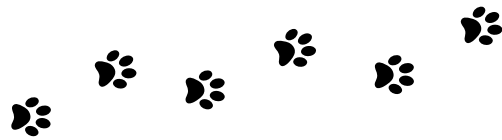

Newsletter



April 2026



YOUR COMMITTEE

Office Bearers

President	Rhonda Cheesman	0408 388 066
Vice President	Brian Arter	9874 1432
Secretary	Liz Bruhn	0410 258 944
Treasurer	Sokhun Lim	

General Committee

Anne Smith, Andrea Sciberras, Dodo Kelly, Debra Conway, Rebecca Carlin, Tamara Taylor

Instructors

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

Email	esodcmitcham@gmail.com
Website	www.esodc.org.au
Facebook	<u>Eastern Suburbs Obedience Dog Club</u>

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. If directed by ESODC, you agree that your dog must wear a yellow bandana/coat and/or soft muzzle while training and participating in club activities.

President's Report

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter. Haven't the past few weeks been a whirlwind with our March Taster/Fun Day, Easter, daylight savings and now the school holidays. Oh, and the cooler weather seems here to stay, and really is much nicer for exercising and training our dogs. A very special welcome to all our new members too. I do trust you will find your training time here at the club both rewarding and practical. Please feel free to drop by the clubrooms if there are any questions you have regarding your training, our instructors, our club, or perhaps a random dog question we might help you with. We'll even offer you a cuppa while we chat.

Off field, we have been busy buying some new equipment items which you will see popping up for use around the trial rings, in the social class, and in random class activities. It's all new and bright, you won't miss any of it. You may have also noticed on the social pages (Facebook and Instagram) of the trial success that some club members have been achieving. It takes huge effort, amazing dedication and a serious commitment of our spare time to our individual sports to achieve the success we have been recently rewarded with. Well done everyone involved, you have a few pages of success stories to browse through this newsletter. Of course the wins are often balanced with our fair share of off days, lack lustre days, windy days, full moon days, or any other excuse day where we turn up to trial but our dog kind-of doesn't.



You will notice those days too! Even some Sundays are better days than others.... We hear you, we understand you, completely! Never give up though, and never give in to the easy option of hitting the snooze button. Persistence is the key for success! And, we're here to help you achieve it too.

Thank you everyone for your support and commitment to your training. It is truly lovely seeing you in classes scattered across the field every Sunday with your dogs and the huge variety of coloured mats. I love watching you all, keep up the great work.

Remember, everyone helping out at the club is a volunteer – a smile of appreciation goes a long way.....! A thank you – even further.....!

Happy training everyone,
Rhonda Cheesman



Welcome to our New Members

Handler	Dog	Breed
Carol	Axl	Tenterfield Terrier
Kerrilee, David & Kelsey	Jessie	Kelpie x Border Collie
Jo & John	Bowie	Whippet
Kristjan	Wolfgang	GWP
Kerry	Stella	Cavoodle
Merrill	Daisy	Cavoodle
Meredith & Beatrix	Montgomery	Golden Retriever
Natasha	Douglas	Jack Russell Terrier
Lola	Charlie	Jack Russell
Kaine	Zeus	German Shepherd
Gabby, Praveen & Jamisen	Prince Fiyero	English Staffy cross
Nerida, Noriyuki & Charlotte	Name to be decided	Kelpie
Darren	Rosie	Golden Irish
Jacqui	Priestly	Stevie Mango
Louise	Moby	Border Collie
Louise	Maggie	Spoodle/Cavoodle
Carolyn	Penny	Jack Russell Terrier
Lily	Wallace	English Bulldog
Tayla	Zarli	Mini Groodle
Isabella	George	Groodle

Name Badge

Remember to wear your name badge in class.

- ensures you are covered by our insurance.
- ensures only members are on the grounds/in class.
- helps us remember & use your names.

** Forgot yours? See us in the clubroom or your instructor for a temporary card.*



Chief Instructors Report

We have been having a fabulous start to the year with amazing classes on the grounds and successes in the competition arenas. Make sure to check out the Trial Round Up section and congratulate all our ESODC competitors.

One of the best tools we have in our dog training toolkit is Marking and Rewarding.

Marking and rewarding

To “mark and reward” is a simple and powerful technique we use in positive reinforcement training to clearly communicate to our dog when they have done something right.

Marking means giving your dog an immediate signal the exact moment they perform the desired behaviour. This “marker” tells the dog: “Yes – that right there is what I wanted”.

The most effective marker is a short consistent sound like a clicker or a word such as “yes!”. Timing is crucial – the marker must happen at the precise moment the correct behaviour occurs, not a second later.

Rewarding comes after the marker. This is when you give your dog something they value, such as a treat, toy, praise or play. The reward reinforces the behaviour, making it more likely your dog will repeat it in the future. It is vital the reward comes after the marker – not before and not at the same time.

Think of the marker as a promise: it tells your dog a reward is coming. Even if you take a second or two to deliver the reward (treat, toy, etc), the marker bridges that gap and locks in the exact behaviour you are rewarding.



For example, if you are teaching your dog to sit, the moment their bottom touches the ground, you mark (“yes!” or click), then immediately give a treat. Over time, our dog learns that sitting leads to good things and will start offering the behaviour more reliably.

This method works because it is clear and consistent from the dog’s perspective. Without a marker, dogs can get confused about which action earned the reward – especially if they move between behaviours quickly.

Mark = tell your dog the exact right moment
Reward = reinforce the behaviour to it happens again

When used together with consistency, this communication and positive reinforcement technique can dramatically speed up learning and make training more enjoyable for both you and your dog.

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

Tamara Taylor, Chief Instructor

Trial Round up

Collie Club Trial - Saturday 20 December 2025

Monica & Mogh 96 points Rally Masters



Wonthaggi Ag Show - Saturday 10 January 2026

Debra & Cody 3rd place Flyball

Frankston ODC Flyball Trial - Saturday 25 January 2026

Debra, Murray & Cody 5 points Flyball Title

Debra, Murray & Cody 20 points Flyball Excellent Title



Geelong Obedience Dog Club - Saturday 7 March 2026

Tamara & Harvey 97 points Rally Excellent Title



Southern Obedience Dog Club - Saturday 7 March 2026

Rhonda & Meka Pass SW Novice Exterior Title

Rarer Gundog Spaniel Club Scent Work Trial - Friday 13 March 2026

Rhonda & Meka Pass (8th of 8) SW Novice Exterior 3rd place

Geelong Obedience Dog Club - Sunday 8 March 2026

Cassie & Nugget 86 points Rally Advanced



Trial Round up

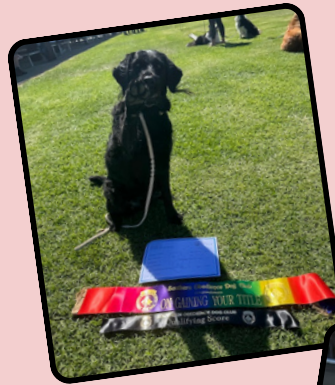
Southern Obedience Dog Club - Saturday 14 March 2026

Morning Trial

Kysha & Ivy 89 points Rally Novice
Monica & Oska 84 points Rally Excellent
3rd place
Tamara & Harvey 88 points Rally Master
Sophie & Hildie 92 points CCD

Afternoon Trial

Kysha & Ivy 90 points Rally Novice Title
Katie & Bonnie 88 points Rally Advanced
Monica & Oska 96 points Rally Excellent
Title
Rhonda & Meka withdrew Rally Master
Sophie & Hildie 93 points CCD Title
Monica & Oska 96 points Rally Excellent
Title & 3rd place



Berwick Obedience Dog Club Scent Work Trial - Saturday 4 April 2026

Rhonda and Meka Pass SW Advanced
Containers
Rhonda and Meka Pass SW Advanced
Vehicles

OTEC Easter Trial - Saturday 4 April 2026

Susan & Paris 86 points CCD Title



Dog Sport Taster Day

On Sunday 8 March we hosted our first Dog Sport Taster Day, and what a fabulous morning it was!

We began the morning with an enthusiastic demonstration by the **Eastside Flyers Flyball team**. The dogs, in teams of two (while normal competition teams have four dogs) showed us just how fast they can run and their incredible passion for flyball. Bronwyn from Eastside Flyer explained a little about the sport to ESODC members and how to get started training a dog in flyball. Step one is work out which way your dog prefers to turn. Just as humans tend to be left- or right-handed, dogs also have a turning preference. With more information and expert guidance from the Eastside Flyers team, everyone had the opportunity to try getting their dogs to turn on the base plate and go over jumps.

We finished this session with another short demonstration by the passionate Eastside Flyers. We sincerely thank all the team members for taking time out of their weekend to share the wonderful sport of Flyball with us.



The second half of the morning introduced a very different-paced dog sport: Rally. Rally is often described as a combination of Agility and Obedience. We enjoyed two demonstrations – Rhonda and Meka completed a Rally Novice course while Tamara commentated explaining the teamwork between handler and dog. Following this, Tamara and Harvey completed a Rally Excellent course, with Rhonda providing commentary. ESODC members were then able to try several Rally stations themselves. The development of teamwork between handlers and their dogs was easy to see, even after a few short attempts. By the end of the morning the dogs were visibly tired from both the physical and mental stimulation. The members – and a few hopeful pups – also enjoyed a sausage from the BBQ. Our first Dog Sport Taster day was a brilliant success. We look forward to bringing you demonstrations of two different dog sports at our next Taster day on Sunday 7 June. Hope you can join us!

Tamara Taylor



Check out our short video

[ESODC Taster Day video](#)

Meet the Committee - Rebecca and Daisy

Hello! I'm Rebecca, the club's new Member Coordinator. Daisy is my five-year-old Labrador who keeps life joyful and full of cuddles.

What Brought You to the Club, and How Long Have You Been With Us?

I first discovered ESODC when Daisy was almost three. At the time, I was struggling to find training support that truly fit our needs. We joined the club in October 2023 and started right from the beginning in Foundation. Daisy was more than two years older than most of her classmates, so I knew we had some catching up to do. We did our homework daily, and treated our training sessions as non-negotiable – we held them as important as a doctor's appointment. Before long, I started to notice real progress—Daisy was more engaged than ever, and her happiness during our training sessions quickly became the highlight of my day.

We've progressed through Intermediate, Advanced, Social, and have recently begun Rally training.

What Do You Love About Being Part of the Club?

The community is what makes this place special. The warmth, generosity, and willingness to share knowledge. The thoughtful feedback. The encouragement. The instructors who give their time and expertise so freely.

It's a supportive environment where both handlers and dogs are set up to succeed.



If You Could Give Your Beginning-Training Self One Piece of Advice...

Progress isn't linear. Some days will feel like breakthroughs, and others will feel like setbacks. Your dog is doing their best, and so are you – be patient with both of you as you learn together. And when you feel stuck, take a moment to look back at where you started. It's one of the most motivating things you can do.

Anything Else You'd Like to Share?

A heartfelt thank you to everyone at the club for creating such a warm and supportive community. I've truly felt encouraged at every step of my journey, even now as we embark on our Rally journey!



ESODC Instructor Training course



Take your passion for dogs to the next level with our comprehensive Instructor Training Course - designed to build your confidence, deepen your understanding and prepare you to teach others within our club.

Course Features:

- 3-month program
- In-depth theory and practical sessions
- Understand dog behaviour and psychology
- Master the foundations of effective dog training
- Learn how to teach any skill with clarity and confidence
- Plus 8 week supervised student-teacher practicum

Benefits:

- Make a positive impact by giving back to our ESODC community
- Strengthen the bond and communication with your dog
- Gain valuable skills in canine communication

This course offers you the tools, support and experience you need to strengthen your training skills, deepen your connection with dogs and share this with other members of our club.



Theory and practical 17 May - 9 Aug

Practicum 16 Aug - 27 Sept



11:15am - 12pm *(after regular classes)*



ESODC Clubroom and oval

REGISTER



BlackHawk
Every ingredient matters



Mix up puppy meal times

Discover the benefits of feeding wet and dry puppy food with Black Hawk

-  Variety of tastes and textures
-  Gut health support
-  Helps with hydration

Ideal 85g pouch size for Small breed puppies

Ideal 135g pouch size for Medium to large breed puppies



Etiquette for dogs wearing yellow



Dogs wearing yellow bandanas, leads or coats **need extra space.**

Remember to:

- Give the dog space
- Ask the owner before approaching
- Follow the owner's instructions

Yellow does not mean "bad dog". It means they may be nervous, anxious, protective or need space to feel safe.

Respecting dogs wearing yellow supports positive training outcomes for everyone.



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



PETS OF THE HOMELESS
Keeping best friends together

DONATION DRIVE

We are currently accepting :

- Flea + Worming treatments (Dog + Cat)
- Wet Food for Dogs + Cats (Unopened)
- Dry food for Dogs + Cats (Unopened)
- Dog + Cat Treats (Unopened)
- Dog + Cat Toys
- Doggy Poop Bags + Puppy Training Pads
- Pet Accessories (Bowls, Jackets etc)

We can accept second hand pet accessories, as long as they are washed and clean, and in a condition that you would be happy to receive yourself. All food donations must be in sealed, unopened packaging.

Your donations will provide support for the beloved animal companions of people experiencing hardship and homelessness. To find out more, visit petsofthehomeless.org.au

Thank you so much for your support!