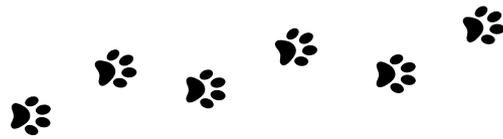


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# Newsletter



February 2024

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# YOUR 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, Briar Sutherland, Andrea Sciberras, Dodo Kelly, Martin Rowledge

Email [esodcmitcham@gmail.com](mailto:esodcmitcham@gmail.com)

Website [www.esodc.org.au](http://www.esodc.org.au)

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. All dogs should be kept on leash at all times, except when given permission to work off lead in class.
2. Handlers wishing to leave their dogs tied up on the Club grounds should only do so if their dogs are safe with people especially around children. No dog may be tied up where it can reach another dog.
3. Dogs must be fully immunised before coming to classes. This should be renewed annually.
4. A dog suffering from any illness or skin problems should not be brought to classes until a Vet has pronounced the condition not contagious.
5. Handlers must remove their dog excreta from the training area.
6. Physical punishment of dogs is not permitted in training classes.
7. Instructors have authority over their classes and may ask a member to take their dog out of class if it is disruptive.
8. Instructors are not permitted to handle and train a member's dog in class.
9. While at the grounds before and after classes please control your dogs.
10. If Committee consider a dog to be aggressive then that dog must wear a muzzle while at the training ground.
11. Dogs in season should not come down to training for four weeks. However, this does not mean you should stop the training of your dog

# President's Report

Hello Members,

Welcome to 2024. This is my very first report, and as President I welcome you ALL to what is shaping up to be a very exciting year of evolution for our dog club. A very warm welcome to all our new members and I trust you will enjoy the year ahead. Our Sunday classes and a handful of Family Fun Days throughout the year are all designed to keep you learning, and engaging with your dog. We will offer you exciting training techniques and fun games/challenges, your job is to attend regularly, and commit to a daily practice routine.

I'd like you to 'Meet Our Committee':

## **Our Office Bearers**

**President** - At our AGM last December, I was elected President. I am a Dogs Victoria certified Instructor, I train and compete in Obedience, Rally, Tracking and Track & Search with my black and white Cocker Spaniel 'Meka'. I have been with ESODC since 2015. Meka (nearly 9yo) is my first sporting trained dog.

**Vice President** - Brian Arter, (our President for the past 24 years), is now Vice President. Brian continues to support our wonderful club with a variety of jobs, but at 91yo, hopefully now at a more relaxed pace. Brian has been Instructing, as well as



trailing in Obedience, Tracking, Track & Search, and Retrieving/RATG for over four decades. Brian (and Flick, his black Labrador) will continue Instructing every Sunday, although both have now retired from trialling.

**Secretary** - Liz Bruhn is our Secretary (3 years now). Most of you will recognise Liz as an Instructor. She has two little Foxy types, 'Piper and Willow', one of which will always be around her in class. Liz is a qualified Primary Teacher and has been a member of ESODC for well over 10 years.

**Treasurer** - Welcoming our new Treasurer - Tamara Taylor. New to the Treasurer role, but not new to the committee. Tamara is also an Instructor; and trials in Obedience and Rally with her Spoodle 'Harvey'. Tamara is a qualified Primary Teacher, but her more recent skillset in the financial account keeping world was a factor for Andrea Sciberras to hand over the Treasury role she has so proudly managed for decades. Our club finances stay in good/safe hands, and I look forward to watching our online presence evolve under Tamara's guidance.

**General Committee** - Andrea Sciberras is still very active on committee, but her days of Secretary, Treasurer, Obedience/Rally Trial Secretary, Tracking Trial Secretary, Chief, Cook and Bottle-washer have now passed, with all these positions being taken up by others within the club.

Andrea Sciberras, together with Anne Smith, Briar Sutherland, Dodo Kelly, and Martin Rowledge, complete the 5 general committee positions. All of them Instructors, and all of them have trialed their own dogs in Obedience (plus a few other sports too) and as my report is already way too long, all of them will be covered in more detail in next month's newsletter. I *must* add however, Martin Rowledge has accepted the role of Chief Instructor and amongst his many duties, will be contributing an update piece in our Newsletters. Congratulations Martin on your appointment.

I am incredibly happy to have such a supportive committee, and inspired to see what changes unfold during the year. I'm loving that Brian and Andrea are both still actively involved in the club too, albeit now at a gentler pace, and hope they are around for many years to come, watching over the club they were guardians of for so long.

I wish to also publicly thank all our Club Members who regularly pitch in and help setting up/packing away the club equipment too. Your help is invaluable and very much appreciated by all of us. Our club is 100% completely coordinated and run by volunteers. The prosperity of the club relies on many hands all helping out. Our Committee is filled with amazing and generous people, and if you too would like to offer your time, or can assist with any specialised skills, please reach out, we'd love to hear from you.

Thank you for trusting ESODC and we look forward to a long and successful training adventure together.

Happy training,  
*Rhonda Cheesman*



## CLUB DATES FOR 2024

February 4th	Training Starts
March 24th	Fun Day
March 31st	Easter - no training
October 6th	Obedience Trial - no training
December	Fun Day to be confirmed
December	Last day of training to be confirmed

[For Updates To This Calendar Please Consult Your Newsletters](#)

## Christmas Family Fun Day



We had perfect weather for our Christmas fun day - not too hot and not raining! As usual there were plenty of people ready to have a go, including those with beginner dogs which is so lovely to see. It was also lovely to see the support and encouragement that you all gave your dogs as they attempted to do things they were not very familiar with, were a bit suspicious of, or had never done before. We had the usual mini agility, "walking" races, fastest eater, Simon says and the best dressed Christmas dog and owner. Also on the side this year we had Dodo kindly giving many of you a feel for having your dog in a ring and a Rally course set up for all to try out.



What can I say! We had so many competitors and so much fun. The Christmas dress up was the hardest yet to choose a winner on, and I was wondering if we would ever get some of you out on Simon says. It never ceases to amaze me how fast a dog can gobble down a plate of small kibble or how fast our members can "walk" with their dogs. I'm pretty sure most of you would not have passed the Olympic walking rules but it's fun watching you all try!

We must also thank your intrepid sausage chefs, Roger and Andrea, for running the sausage sizzle and Rhonda for shopping around for prizes and the essential sausages and bread.

Our next fun day will be just before Easter and we will be having egg and spoon races with canine help, should be hilarious.

# Thank you Brian and Andrea

As you may have noticed if you have been with the club for a while we have a new President and Treasurer. Brian has been president of the club for many years. Andrea has been Treasurer for just as long and was also the Secretary and trial secretary up until a couple of years ago. They have both kept the club running for a very long time, ESODC would not exist if it wasn't for the efforts of these two wonderful people. The committee had the opportunity to thank them for all their efforts over the holidays but that doesn't mean they have gone for good! Brian remains on committee as Vice President, supplying his wealth of knowledge of the club and its history to us. He continues as an instructor as well as being available for support and advice each week. Andrea is still on the committee and is here most weeks helping join new members and greet everyone!

Both Brian and Andrea have owned and trialed with their dogs for many years. Brian's black Labrador, Flick, can still be found somewhere near him and is beautifully Obedience trained. Brian has won many obedience awards with his Labradors over the years. Andrea still has two Spaniels, Rohan and Lochie. Over the years Andrea had gained trophies in Obedience, Tracking and even Dancing with Dogs!

On behalf of all our members I would like to thank both of them for all they have put into the club keeping it running through thick and thin. Personally Andrea was my first link when I rang up in a panic after my new little rescue dog, Piper launched himself out of our front door and across a busy street! She calmed me down, gave me some useful instant advice to stop it happening again and told me how to join the club. I'm still here (and so is Piper, he still shows the beginner dogs how it's done, or not done!) I hope that into the future the club can be as much support to you as it was to me when I really needed it.

Thank you so much Brian and Andrea, we hope that you can now relax a little and enjoy the club you ran for so long.

*Liz and the ESODC committee*



# Life Membership



Life memberships are awarded to members of the club who have been with the club for at least 10 years and have also served the club in a voluntary capacity on the committee or as an Instructor.

At the end of 2023 Liz Bruhn was given life membership. She has been on the committee for some years and the Secretary for the last two years, she is also an instructor with the club usually with the Pink (beginner) group ably assisted by her Jack Russell, Piper.

# Training News and Tips

G'Day all, and welcome back to classes. I hope you feel energised by your time away and are looking forward to getting back into your training and building a special relationship with your dog.

This is my first contribution to our newsletter as ESODC Chief Instructor, a position that was created at our last committee meeting. I am both honoured and humbled to take on this role and look forward to working with our committee, the volunteer instructing team, and you our members to deliver a high standard of training for you all and the wider community.

I have asked Dodo Kelly and Tamara Taylor be part of a small team to review our current class structure to see if we are meeting the needs of our members. I would love to hear from our membership, so please take this chance to communicate with me on your thoughts around:

What works for you in the classes you attend?

What doesn't work for you?



What, if anything, you would like to see delivered at our club that we don't currently offer?

This is your opportunity to affect real change in our club to ensure we are around for many more years to come, so please send through your comments and/or questions to my email

[martinjohn.rowledge@gmail.com](mailto:martinjohn.rowledge@gmail.com)

I look forward to receiving your feedback.

I will be giving updates on this review, and any subsequent changes from it, as well as training tips via the subsequent newsletters, so stay tuned.

In the meantime, enjoy your training and have fun with your dogs...

*Martin Rowledge*

ESODC Chief Instructor



## Vaccinations

Don't forget to have your dog vaccinated when the time comes around, to safe guard your dog while out and about, it is one of the requirements of the dog school so as soon as you have re-vaccinated your dog please show the vaccination card to your instructor.

## To All Dog Owners

Please don't forget to carry a bag to pick up the poo when walking your dog. This is required by law. You are responsible for what your dog leaves behind and fines can be hefty if you are caught not cleaning up the mess



**Never give up training your dog, you can do it.**



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 ESDC badge or this flyer to receive 10% off your purchase.**

BM Animals  
ph: 0488 144 675

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