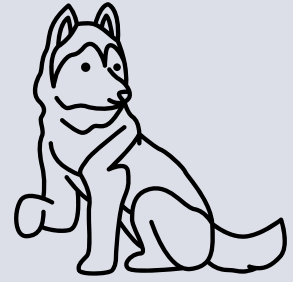


Training News and Tips



G'Day all at ESODC,

Happy to report that we have now completed a full session of both Intermediate and Advanced elements of our new training program and 2 full sessions of the Foundation class.

It is very rewarding to all our instructors and volunteers to see the progress of our members through the levels due to your continuing efforts, in all weathers, building your relationship with your dogs and demonstrating the learnings from the exercises taught in classes.

But for those who haven't progressed as well as you may have possibly hoped, don't despair... We are not looking for you to race through the levels, nor are we looking for perfection.

We are looking for the connection you have with your dogs, and also that you understand and appreciate the reasons behind the exercises we teach, as "stepping stones" towards a greater goal.

If you have any doubt as to why we teach any of the exercises, please speak up in your class, your instructor will be happy to clarify why we are teaching it, and if you fully appreciate the "why" we are doing it, we know you will make greater efforts to actually do it...

I was recently asked outside of a class about why the need to get our dogs to "put their front paws on an elevated platform" (Intermediate and Advanced classes) as they felt it was "a pointless exercise". I explained that the exercise was to help our dogs develop "rear end awareness", a very important factor the further you progress through the levels. Of course, there are many ways to teach your dogs rear end awareness, but the use of an elevated platform is one that gets your dog there relatively quickly, and it can be a great game for you and your dog when taught in a fun way, which is why we use this method at ESODC.

I am happy to announce that I will be starting a "New Instructor Program" for those who may be interested in becoming an Instructor at ESODC. All current instructors took part in this last year.

We are a Community Club and all Instructors, Assistants, Volunteers give their time and expertise freely, as we want to positively impact responsible dog ownership in the community, to help dogs and owners live their best lives in harmony together, and if you have higher aspirations of competing with your dogs, we can help with that too.

Training News and Tips (cont)

I already have a couple of members who have come forward to put their names down for the instructors course, which we are very grateful for, but in order to continue to deliver quality training, and to develop what we offer into the future, we need more volunteers to step forward and join our team.

The Instructor course is comprehensive and covers classroom work, theory and practical elements, and on-field work, developing your skills in order to become a competent and confident Instructor for ESODC.

Any interested members please contact me at martin_esodc@outlook.com
In the meantime, enjoy your training and remember, have fun with your dogs...

Martin Rowledge
Chief Instructor ESODC



CLUB DATES FOR 2024

October 6th	Obedience Trial - no training
December	Fun Day to be confirmed
December	Last day of training to be confirmed

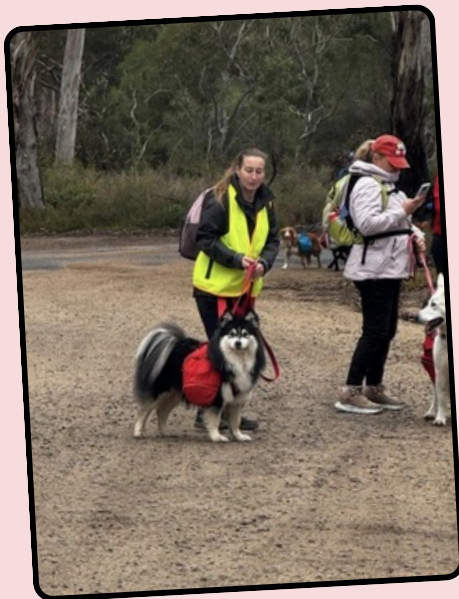
Trial Round up

Weve had some real achievements over the last two months! Congratulations to every one of you



Thanks to Handler Alan Tee, Dodo's Golden Retriever Danny passed his Test 8 tracking at the Bendigo Dog Obedience Club on 15th June. This gives Danny his Tracking Champion Title! Well done to all of you.

Danny & Alan were successful in gaining Test 4 in Track & Search Trials at KCC Park on the 6th July. Well done team!



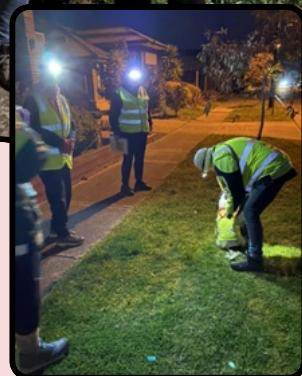
Congratulations to Melissa Murdock and Bandit. on the last weekend in June they trialed in the Malamute Club of Vic backpacking event in the You Yangs to complete their WNPD title. To gain this title they had competed in 4 separate hikes, each 16km and with Bandit carrying 15% of his body weight in a special pack on his back. Massive effort, well done team Melissa and Bandit.

Congratulations to team Briar Sutherland and Alaskan Malamute Havoc. Havoc successfully completed his fourth backpacking event with the Alaskan Malamute Club of Victoria on the last weekend of June , and has now gained his Working Pack Dog title. Brilliant effort Briar and Havoc! The You Yangs were the place to be...!



Congratulations to our club's newest champion... a Track & Search Grand Champion to be exact. Team Meka and Rhonda Cheesman successfully passed their T&S Test 10 on 7th July at the Tracking Club of Victoria T&S trial. Covering a track length of 1200m of suburban concrete footpaths, including a 200m section where the tracklayer travelled inside a vehicle, Meka sniffed her way to the finish where she found the tracklayer conveniently waiting with her rewards treat. A brilliant result and a wonderful completion for five years of dedicated training!

(Note: It's actually pitch black, and we're taking photos underneath a bright street light...!)



Huge congratulations to team Karen and Pippa for a fabulously successful weekend at the Geelong Obedience Dog Club Rally Trials. With a great score of 86, they earned their first pass in Rally Advanced on Saturday 6/7, and a second pass with a score of 84 on Sunday 7/7. Well done Karen and Pippa, we are so very proud of you!

Wonderful achievement by Dodo Kelly and Heidi gaining 2nd Place at Novice Retrieving trials on Saturday 6/7/24 in Meningie SA.



Please remember to let us know if you get a pass or a place when you trial so we can all celebrate you and your dog's success.

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

Ring Training

I expect you have all noticed the two rope rings on the lefthand side of our training ground and may have wondered what they are for. These are our training rings for trials, one is for Obedience and the other for Rally. Once you have got to Advanced training you might decide you would like to have a go at training your dog for competition and this is your starting point. Of course there is nothing to stop you going to have a look at any time to see what happens in the rings, just make sure your dog is on a lead and that you keep away from the dogs tied in the cones (no one likes to be bounced on when you can't get away!) You could see some really amazing dog obedience going on, or, to be honest, a disaster, but that's how you learn.

Our rings are supervised by our lovely Vice President, Brian, and amazing Alan (a very experienced dog handler), Rhonda (our current President) will also be found over there between 10 and 11 to help training Rally. Anyone hanging around there will be happy to explain what is going on in either ring or to point you to someone who can.

Brian, Rhonda and Alan will also be happy to give you a little one on one advice or training if there is something you would like help with, whatever level you are at.

It is worthwhile to take a look as it will give you a feel for where you could potentially take training your dog, and it's nice to see where all that practice you are doing with your dog can take you. Its also nice to know that even the best dogs have bad days! If you have a dog that loves training it's certainly something to think about, and even if you never compete there's nothing stopping you from giving a go. As someone who has two quite old dogs who still whine with excitement all the way to training on a Sunday, I can tell you I still see them learning and improving, and they still love doing it.

At around 10.00 and again at 11.00 this is also the area where you can practice "stays". These are stays for obedience, the shortest is 1 minute in the sit and 2 in drop. From there it goes up and a number of our members are able to disappear from sight and the dogs will stay put. Stays are open to anyone whose dog is ready for it, check with your instructor if you are not sure and you are interested. You will certainly need to be in the advanced classes though.

Liz Bruhn



Training Titbits

I do not spend a lot of money on commercial treats, especially the goods prepared for dogs when I don't know the ingredients or the preparation. I rarely use freeze-dried liver. It has a great smell but can be so hard (and sharp) the dog (especially puppies) have to hold it in the mouth for some time, so it is soft enough to swallow. Smaller, moist and tasty morsels are best.

Titbits should be small enough so the dog smells, tastes, swallows whilst continuing to work.

I have everything prepared, cut up small and frozen in snack zip bags, to be defrosted and used fresh as I need them. Not small enough for the dog, but a comfortable size to hold in my hand, and if necessary, I break up into smaller bite size pieces as required.

Teaching a new exercise? Tempt with something new, or a higher value food of something the dog really loves. Charcoal chicken (dark meat off the bone) can be a huge favourite. Keep at least two different treats in your treat pouch – if one doesn't work, or the dog is tired of it, perhaps the other treat will.

Use something unique for special occasions eg I use chicken nuggets only for Tracking and Track & Search. My dogs know the importance of that reward for them for finding the 'lost' person.

Some great choices for Sunday's at training

LIVER BREAD [the recipe is in April newsletter]

PRIME 100 [Chicken and Veg is popular] [Megapet is cheaper than supermarket]

CHICKEN & HAM ROLL [human fridge section in supermarket]

DELI MEATS [buy a chunk and cut to smaller dice as required]

MEAT BALLS for DOGS [bag in pet fridge section -dehydrate the lot in Air Fryer]

CHEESE cut into small chunks

CHICKEN FILLET steamed and cut into smaller chunks

CABANOSSI/KABANA Very mild flavours please.

LEFT OVERS from the evening roast (always non spicy)

SAUSAGES, and even the leftover oven fry chips,

If you are really stuck with nothing interesting, try (remember in small quantities): dried cat food, plain human biscuit or cracker, apple, pear or banana slices (no cores), carrots, Nutrigrain, dried toast crusts w/ honey or Vegemite.

Dodo Kelly

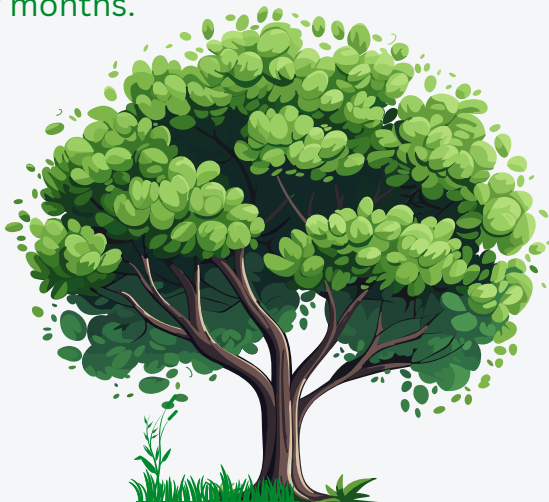


Please note that these training treats are suggestions, make sure you are not feeding your dog something you know will disagree with them.

Heatherdale Creek Parklands Working Bees

Heatherdale Creek Parklands in Mitcham is one of the most popular parks in Whitehorse, particularly as much of it is an “off-leash” area and frequented by dog walkers every day. Many others also enjoy meandering through the park and along Heatherdale Creek, all the way to Heatherdale Reserve with bushland areas throughout the 25 hectares of parkland, appreciated by so many from near and far.

The Park Committee is a very proactive group of passionate members who care for the park by having regular working bees to weed, plant and spread mulch. We also have a significant number of local residents who come along to help at these working bees as the photo above shows. 24 volunteers came along on Saturday 8 June 2024 to help plant 300 indigenous plants along the Cochrane Street perimeter. The area had been planted previously but there was plenty of space for more. What a fantastic team and the plants were in the ground in no time! And we have many more plants to be planted in the next few months.



Over the years the Committee Members, along with local volunteers, have enhanced many areas around the parklands from Simpson Park to Heatherdale Reserve. Several thousand plants have been planted over the years.

All the plants are purchased from Bungalook Indigenous Nursery in South Blackburn which is open to the public on a couple of days during the week. The whole park is certainly worth a visit to see what has been achieved by both the Committee and local residents over the years. Do come along and enjoy a walk in the Park and the many birds inhabiting the area. And perhaps you might be interested in lending a hand at our next Working Bee.

Check out our Facebook site for details on: <https://www.facebook.com/heatherdalecreekpac>

Valerie Turnbull (Secretary)
Heatherdale Creek Parklands Advisory Committee

Reprinted on behalf of the Heatherdale Creek Parklands Advisory Committee