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# Newsletter



October 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 (Chief Instructor)

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. 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 where it can reach another dog.
3. Dogs must be fully immunised before coming to classes which needs to be renewed annually.
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 dog's 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 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



My how quickly time flies .... Welcome to our October 2024 Newsletter. A very warm welcome to all our new club members too. The courage it took for you to join during the winter months will now prove its worth as the weather warms a little more each Sunday. I do trust you are all still practicing daily, getting the most out of your Sunday classes, and appreciating what amazing teams you and your dogs have become.

As the weather warms up, please remember that we share our parks and wilderness tracks with snakes. Please keep your dogs on lead where possible and be alert to your dog encountering a snake on your walks. Please review the list of Local and Emergency Vets, and take note of one near you that carries anti-venom.

Before I switch hats and write about our recent trials, I'll remind all members that our last day for 2024 will be Sunday 1st December. We finish off the year with a Christmas themed Family Fun Day starting at 9am. There are fabulous prizes to be won, new activities to try, fun games to play, jelly beans to count, and a free sausage sizzle for everyone. Organise your fancy costumes now, with bonus points when you and your dog parade in matching Christmas attire. Our family fun day is an invitation for all your family, so drag them out of bed early and bring them along. Immediately following the fun day activities, (and starting ~11am) we hold our Annual General Meeting. I'd love to see more of our members taking interest this year. Further information about the AGM (and how to nominate for the committee if that interests you) will be emailed in the next few weeks. But, please do plan to stay for the meeting and offer your support. To pique your interest, it is at the AGM that we present all the trophies to our successful club members who have gained ANKC titles during the year. So be there to help celebrate their success too.

## **Obedience and Rally Trial wrap up**

Last weekend we held our annual Obedience and Rally trials. I was the Trial Secretary, and, for the third year in a row the weather (in particular 'the torrential rain') was my greatest stress factor! Thankfully, the rain stopped at 5:30 that morning and the grounds held together. The trials went ahead as planned and we adjusted the ring positions slightly to avoid the sheet of surface water.

Our day started on-site about 7:45, with an amazing team of helpers arriving around 8. On-field - pegging out the ropes, forming all nine rings, and then setting up all the required jumps, tables and equipment within each ring. Off-field we had an even bigger group of helpers - setting up everything needed in the clubrooms to feed the masses; including the bbq, the hot coffee cart; and setting out all the presentation tables with trophies/ribbons/raffle prizes. I am in awe of the generosity of our club members, most of whom stayed all day to help pack away as well. We all worked so hard to ensure 'whatever' was needed, was done! What a successful team we were. Small clubs like ours run trials for one main purpose; that is to engage with our own club members, and somehow entice/invite them into the joys of competitive trialling. I was so happy to see our very own club members Karen, Monica, Briar and Dodo competing (sadly enduring the difficult wet ground conditions). Hopefully by next year's trial we will have encouraged a few more of you to join us as competitors in the rings.

Special thank you to Brian for organising all the sashes/ribbons, and organising the grounds team of Roger, Matt, John, Murray (and Bernie), Will, Kevin, John and James for all the amazing ring set-up, gophering on the day and staying around for the pack-up. For my off-field set up team; huge thanks to Tamara, Barbara, Rachel, Miranda, Debra (and Andrea), Briar, Liz, Anne, Andrea, Susan, Rebecca, Louise, Dodo and Martin. Everyone worked tirelessly, but joyfully. You all made it so much fun, and you represented our club in the best ways (from check-in to presentations). I am so very proud of you, and of what we achieved. The work throughout the day always comes in waves, and I do hope you all found time to wander around and watch some of the exhibitors and their dogs in the rings. Special thanks to Tamara (doesn't seem enough) for coordinating all day, the morning set-up, the food presentation and servery, the clean-up, the finances, everyone coming and going in the clubrooms...

# President's Report (cont)

Tamara helped me with all the food shopping, all the food prep, and still found time to whip up the best looking Victoria Sponge I've seen for years... Murray and Debra, thank you for managing everything about the bbq. Nothing beats the smell of a bbq sausage drifting across the field when you're hungry. At midday, your jobs were probably the most important of them all! I know Rebecca and James pitched in at the bbq as well, thank you, and I heard that Barbara was waiting in the wings for a gig too. Thank you Dodo for everything about the raffles, from collecting the weekly donations to boxing it all up into the beautiful presentation packs that we saw, to supervising the draws. And, if that wasn't enough; picking up all the prize gift boxes from our sponsor BM Animals (I hear it took two car loads to deliver everything Sunday morning). Special mention to all our generous club members who donated amazing raffle things in the weeks leading up. Thanks to Briar for being our amazing gatekeeper yet again. And last but not least, thank you to Liz, Martin, Will, Cicilia and Elaine for stewarding in the rings. With a thank you list this long, I truly apologise for whoever I've missed. Please know that your help is appreciated, and truly valued. Now that I've packed away all the trial boxes, I can focus on being President again.....

So, I've been asked .... Why do we break up the first weekend in December? Because the Sunday 8th December is the Dogs Victoria Big Day Out held at the State Dog Centre at Skye. This is a huge day with presentations of many dog sports, stalls selling all dog equipment/ foods/ treats/ Christmas goodies, and exhibit displays for most of the dog breeds. Dogs on lead are welcomed, feel free to attend if you want to, and smile when you bump into one or two of our committee as you do. Remember, we resume back on Sunday February 2nd, 2025

Thank you everyone for your support and commitment to training. It is lovely seeing you all in class, joining our obedience and rally rings, or scattered across the field every Sunday. I love watching you all, keep up the great work.

Happy training,  
Rhonda Cheesman



## Welcome to our New Members

### August new members

Handler	Dog	Breed
Kee	Hero	Keeshond
Karryn	Grace	Cavoodle
Shelley & Chris	Dusty	Border Collie
Michael & Shelley	Bobby	Cavoodle
Michelle	Biscuit	Cavoodle

### September new members

Handler	Dog	Breed
Doris	Frankie	Labradoodle
Himanshu	Zinzi	Labrador
Shannon & Ben	Tank & Maddie	Staffy & Staffy X
Alan	Rye	Keeshond
Hyeily	Storm	Cavalier
Karen	Sasha	Labrador
Alex & Anna	Frankie	Cavoodle

# ESODC Obedience Trial

After two days with heavy rain (getting on for 30mm!) the day of the trial smiled on us, well mostly at least. The ground stood up to the rain and with some skilled positioning of the rings we were set to go. With so many of our wonderful club members to help us set up take care of things like the BBQ, the raffle and just plain running around and keeping everything going it all ran very smoothly.

I think it's called trialling for a reason! I'm sure you've all had that day in class when your dog looks up at you and says "Sit? What's that? Never heard that word before!" Well it happens in the trial too, except this time you've paid to go into a ring with a judge watching your dog looking like they have no clue! I think all you can do is laugh it off. That said, we had quite a few members in the ring and plenty of success as well. Congratulations to all of you who put their training on the line and had a go and special congratulations to those who succeeded in getting passes and even places in their ring.

Just some comment to give you a flavour:

"We passed, score was over half way so we did it!"

"He saw the swallows flying around, we didn't finish, glad I had the lead on!"

"I don't care we didn't qualify, she walked backwards! She never does that, that's a win!"

Its so amazing to watch dogs at every level competing and to see what we can aim for, I am in awe of the people who put in the time and energy to get the passes (and fails) that lead to a title.

There is one person who tends to get missed in the thank yous and that is our Trial Secretary, Rhonda. Making the trial happen is a gargantuan effort. Apart from the obvious organisation of people to set up, ensuring all the food, cutlery etc is there, she has been working on this for months. There are Judges and Stewards to book in, dealing with the paperwork with Dogs Vic and the booking website to be set up. There were prizes to be organised with our wonderful sponsor, BM animals, and to be collected. The entries all go through her to the program, which has to be put together and checked along with the addition of maps and instructions for the day. Finally, she ensures the whole day runs smoothly and has the worry of "Do we cancel?" if the grounds haven't dried out enough. She does an amazing job as Trial Secretary, and I for one would like to thank her for all her efforts.

Rhonda has asked me to acknowledge Tamara for the kitchen organisation and lunch prep, also Brian for organising the sashes and ribbons.

**Liz Bruhn (Secretary - but not for trials!)**

Driest spot on the oval, and a good view too!



# ESODC Trial Round up

Congratulations to all the club members who competed in our trial this year:

**Dodo and Heidi**

**Briar and Havoc**

**Karen and Pippa**

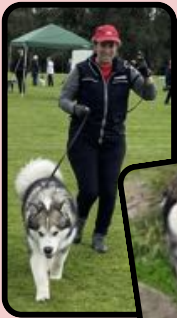
**Monica with Oska and Mogh**

Special congratulations to those of you who got passes and places

**Dodo and Heidi**, first open pass, 3rd in ring and highest scoring club member

**Briar and Havoc** pass at CCD

**Monica and Oska** pass and first place in Rally novice



## And in other action...



Our wonderful catering staff, (and a cake thief!)



Sorting the pass cards



The ground crew

And the action on the ground



## Other Trials Round up

*Please note that if you would like to receive a club trophy at the end of the year and have gained a title you will need to fill in the Trophy form and submit it to the Secretary.*

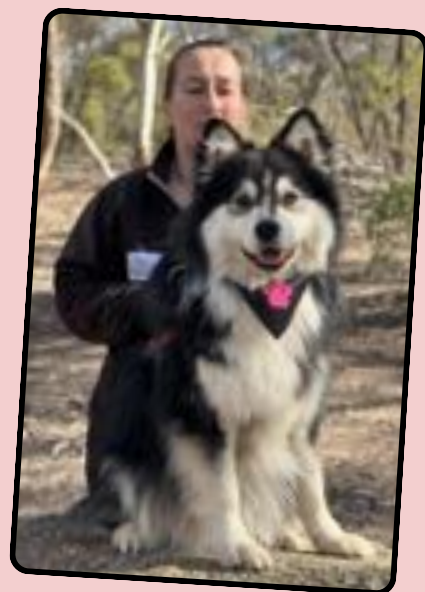
Alan Tee and Danny passed Track and Search test 5 at Morwell on 1/9/24. So blustery it was surprising there was even scent to follow! Well done team



Congratulations to Briar and Kaylee on passing your Endurance test title on 7/9/24 at the Alaskan Malamute Club Trail in Keysborough.

Its hard to get the points up with mixed teams in sledding but Briar and her team did score an encouragement award, here they are whizzing along with the sled

Melissa and Bandit attended the Alaskan Malamute of Victoria Backpacking trial on 18/8/24 and gained their working Pack Dog title. To do this Bandit completed 4 16km hiked carrying 30% of his body weight. Well done to both of you.



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.**

# Training News and Tips



G'Day all at ESODC,  
It was very gratifying to see so many of our members turn up on the Sunday of our trial to help out on the day. Feedback from participants has been very positive, with a very good turnout despite the poor weather leading up to the trial. And congratulations to all competitors from all clubs, but especially those from ESODC. I know how much effort goes into trialling at all levels, so well done all.

I would like to add my personal thanks to all those who helped out, on the day, in the preparation of the food, raffle, ground setup, competitor prizes and ribbons, and organisation of the trial itself.

Our club President, Rhonda Cheesman is also our Trial Secretary. Both roles take up an enormous amount of time and effort, so I would like to give a special word of thanks for the many hours she puts into our club, ensuring all goes well on the day, and throughout the year. So, on behalf of our club members Rhonda, thank you.

The new Instructor Training course has commenced with 5 keen participants, so thanks for their interest in helping to support their club in this manner. It is only through our volunteers that we can offer the training we do.

You may notice our Instructors with new polo shirts in our club colours. This is to enable members to easier distinguish Instructors out on the field, and to create a "team mentality" within the Instructing group.

On another note, the President, Vice-President and myself recently met to review several incident reports raised by various club members.

One of the most common occurring issues was that of loose or uncontrolled dogs on the field, either member dogs, or general public dogs using the oval during club times, when it is reserved exclusively for our members.

Our review came up with the following corrective actions which I would like to communicate to you now:

- All Instructors to be issued with and to carry a slip-lead to assist them in gaining control of loose dogs.
- All Instructors to be issued with a whistle to attract the attention of other Instructors / volunteers to warn them and their classes that a dog is loose, or assistance is needed for other reasons (such as a medical emergency).
- Members are to look after the welfare and maintain control of their own dogs whilst the Instructors manage any loose dog situation.
- Mobile signs to be positioned in prominent positions around the oval informing general public that the oval is not to be used for off-lead activity whilst club is using it.

We take all incident reports seriously, so if you have anything you may have observed reviewed, the Incident Report paperwork can be accessed in our clubroom.

That's it from me, so until next time, enjoy your training and remember, have fun with your dogs...

Martin Rowledge  
Chief Instructor ESODC





# ESODC Family Fun Day

Sunday 01/12/24 at 9am

Bring your dogs and all your family for lots of fun activities, prizes and a BBQ to finish off our busy year!

Competitions will include:  
Walking races (men, women, children)  
Fastest eater  
Simon Says  
Mini Agility  
Best Christmas dressed dog and owner  
Jelly bean guess

Come along, join in the fun and stay for the AGM at the end (after the prizes – definitely stay for them!)

The Committee are looking forwards to seeing everyone there for a great end of year celebration



# What is R.A.T.G. ?

RATG is the Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs, and has been around under several different names for years. But, for the first time under the 2011 ANKC rules a dog can now gain a title;

- NRA (Novice Retrieving Ability) and
- ORA (Open Retrieving Ability).

The exercises are straight forward and set to allow a gundog to display, in an enthusiastic and enjoyable way, what it was bred for.

Basic heeling and recall exercises are done without lead or any type of collar on the dog, to show the judge the dog is under control before proceeding to the retrieving test.

Judging begins on all exercises as soon as the lead is removed from the dog.

For the Novice test there will be 50 metre retrieve, followed by a further 70 metre retrieve. When dog & handler eventually progress to the Open level there are a few extra retrieving tests to overcome.

All competing dogs are placed in 'the hide'. This is an out of sight area designated by the judge. Not only is it unfair for dogs running later in the day to see the dummies repeatedly land, but it is detrimental to these dogs to see the runs from an incorrect angle. The handlers may join 'the gallery' until it is time to return to the hide and prepare their dog for their run. The gallery is an observation area for all spectators.

To set up for the retrieve, the handler will have the dog beside him, between the pegs, facing the area where the dummy or bird (game) will land. When the game leaves 'the thrower' the dog is required to 'mark' where it landed. The thrower is a manned mechanism to project the game simulating flying. The dogs need to be taught to watch straight ahead and mark the spot after the game lands - like they were taking a photo.

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thrower is a manned mechanism to project the game simulating flying. The dogs need to be taught to watch straight ahead and mark the spot after the game lands - like they were taking a photo.

The dog must remain beside the handler until there is a command to fetch. The judge is looking for the dog to run directly to the game, pick it up gently and return it directly to the handler. This is referred to as 'the hand over'. Walking away from the pegs after a successful run, is very satisfying for the dog and handler.

RATG trials do not require the huge paddocks necessary for Retrieving trials, it is necessary to have adequate space for two retrieves that are not over the same ground, and the grass should not be cut less than 100mm.

RATG trials have been held at KCC Park, Gippsland, Melton, Mt Duneed, Retrieving Trials, Obedience clubs & areas around the State.

All Registered Gundog breeds and Associate Registered Gundogs are eligible to enter RATG competitions.

Associate Gundogs are recognized as pure breed gundogs that are either desexed or without papers. They are required to apply to the RAFT committee for the issue of an approval certificate to compete.

If Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs is of any interest to you, please contact any RAFT committee member listed in the Dogs Vic magazine. RATG rules are on the ANKC website <http://www.ankc.org.au> Further information can be found on Facebook: Retrieving Australia or RAFT (Vic only)

Or, by calling **Dodo Kelly mobile: 0409 028 200, or email: [dodok9@fastmail.com.au](mailto:dodok9@fastmail.com.au)**

## Do you own a GUNDOG?

Are you interested in training your gundog to develop his natural ability – RETRIEVING?

\*Start with RATG – Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs.

\*In the future - Retrieving trials.

Dodo Kelly runs regular sessions training Beginners and helping advanced handlers – free of charge. If you are interested email: dodok9@fastmail.com.au or phone: 0409 028 200 for further details. Everyone welcome.

[Gundog Group 3 is made up of 33 separate breeds but the more common breed families we see today are Labradors, Retrievers, Weimaraners, Spaniels, Brittanys, Vizslas, and Lagottos.]



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](http://www.bmanimalscompletenutrition.net)

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the EASTERN SUBURBS OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC will be held at Venue: Simpson Park Mitcham

On SUNDAY DECEMBER 1st 2024 Time 11.00

Clause 27 (1) of the Club's Constitution

Every member who was a financial member of the club for not less than three months of the financial year preceding the Annual General Meeting and is currently a financial member shall be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible to nominated as an office bearer or member of committee.

THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE POSITIONS WILL BE DECLARED VACANT.

PRESIDENT  
VICE PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER

&

SIX COMMITTEE POSITIONS

The nomination for the above positions close 17th November 2024  
Please forward nomination form, duly signed etc. To the secretary, Mrs Liz Bruhn on or before November 17th 2024

Items to be included in the Agenda of the General Meeting must be received by the secretary, on or before November 17th 2024

NOMINATIONS CLOSE NOVEMBER 17th 2024  
AGENDA ITEMS CLOSE NOVEMBER 17th 2024

EASTERN SUBURBS OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

NOMINATION FORM

We wish to nominate.....for the position of.....

Nominated by .....Dated.....

Seconded by.....Dated .....

Nominee.....Dated.....

NOTE: All three persons involved must be financial members of ESODC and the person nominating for the President, Secretary, Treasurer must be a financial member of the Dogs Victoria.

Please forward complete form to the secretary Liz Bruhn. 18 Deep Creek Road 3132. On or before November 17th 2024