
Newsletter



December 2025



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.

Committee and rule updates

Following on this years AGM and on the final committee meeting of the year there are a few changes to our front information page. Tamara has stepped down as Treasurer and will be replaced by Sokhun Lim, she plans to continue as our Chief Instructor though and will be aided by our other new Committee member Bec Carlin, who will be co-ordinating all our classes and Instructors in the new year.

We would like to thank Tamara for all the work she has put in as Treasurer over the last two years.

There is also a change to club rule 10 which will now read: 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.

Start up next year - Sunday 1st Feb

Look out for an email in the week or so before our start up letting you know which class you will be in. We are looking forwards to seeing you all in 2026.



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.

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|--|--------------------|
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| • Ready made meals (raw and cooked options) | • 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



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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!

President's Report



A sincere thank you to all my committee this year, we have achieved a great deal as a team, and I could not have completed any of it without your support. What another year of change it has been, both for the club, and each of us as individuals... The following list covers just a few of this year's highlights.

- Constantly reviewing our training material, we are currently trialling a new Intermediate practical class. This class focuses on the exercises that members learnt in class, but aren't yet competent in performing. We also added ring craft training, and Rally sign classes too.
- We expanded our group of instructors, adding 5 more graduates.
- We ran our Open Obedience and Rally Trial in October with 113 DV competitors. 9 competitors being our own members, many entering a trial for their very first time. Cudos to you all.
- 12 club members now trial their own dogs successfully across 11 different sporting disciplines, (with interest building in a further three).
- Amazingly we only battled truly wet weather on two occasions this year, with decent weather holding for most Sunday morning's training.
- We were again successful in receiving a WCC grant. This year, \$1000 to (partially) fund new on-field training equipment/posts/mini agility. We need to create space in the storage room first, so watch for some new purchases on field for the commencement of 2026.
- We maintain 5 trained first aiders on the field every week, with our defib securely stored in the clubrooms, (hopefully never to be needed).
- We've added a cap and vest to our club uniform, with our instructors proudly in uniform on-field every Sunday.
- We've created an amazing brochure outlining our club activities, and have since reprinted it due to demand. Brochures have been distributed to the WCC, and all our local pet stores/vets/grooming salons .
- We've utilised social media to communicate more frequently to our members, adding Instagram to our existing Facebook account.
- We have also streamlined our member joining process to include an online application form, collecting clearer data for ongoing (better) club communications.
- 6 issues of our Newsletter have been created and delivered via email, website and Facebook to all members.
- We participated in WCC Spring Fest, putting on an amazing display of obedience, rally, and a variety of tricks. And, handed out quite a few of our new brochures.



President's Report, cont.



- We continue to provide wonderful weekly instruction for our members, and in turn they are doing amazing, growing their own dog handling skills. It is a joy to watch the improvements over “just a few weeks” in the capabilities of both the handlers and their dogs.

So much change, and so much more to come. So, what are we still working towards?

- Priority for 2026 will be our new, smart-phone capable website, with a nice to have members only section where our governance documents can be accessed, and where our training material (both our class content, and trainee instructor's course material) can be viewed, and reviewed.
- A closer relationship with WCC, particularly Animal Management.
- And, more Family Fun Days, where we blend the obedience training with even more fun.....

I especially love that we are still considered a small Community based Dog Club, and yet achieve the results that we do. We are friendly, supportive and always ready to help with advice or attention whenever we can. We are tiny in comparison to our bigger neighbouring clubs, but achieve great training results for our members.

I am proud of my committee and eternally grateful to their commitment to our club, and to me personally. We have all worked hard and consistently throughout the year, and being a 100% volunteer workforce, we are all driven to make this the best experience for ourselves, and our members. Thank you to each and every one who helps and contributes. Thanks especially to our ground crew for setting up everything we need, every single Sunday morning. Thanks to all our instructors, both official and unofficial for your help, advice and support towards all our members. You truly don't know the value of what you consistently offer, but I do...Thank you.

Last, but not least, thank you for the opportunity to lead this great club into yet another year of fun, training adventures and all things dog !

Rhonda Cheesman
President



Welcome to our New Members

October

Owner	Dog	Breed
Jane and Stephen	Daisy	<u>Cavoodle</u>
Paul	Toto	<u>Cavoodle</u>
Bridget and Kristine	Honey	Mixed breed - Bull arab cross
Debbie	Dusty	<u>Cavoodle</u>
Melanie and Jake	Zeus	Douge de Bordeaux x <u>Boerboel</u>
Pascale and Matthew	Freya	Belgian Malinois
Silvi	Okane	Shiba Inu
Dawn and Jake	Holly	Flat coated retriever

November

Owner	Dog	Breed
Fiona and Lachlan	Bella	Labrador/Kelpie
Ashok and Ashutosh	Bella	Golden Retriever
Charlotte and Peter	Roy	<u>Cavoodle</u>
Dale and Janelle	Fergus	Golden Retriever
Louise and Luis	<u>Ausled</u> Sirius 'Spark' NT	Swedish <u>Vallhund</u>
Sophie and Alistair	Wilbur Webster	Golden Retriever
Jesikah	Pepper	English Staffordshire terrier

Chief Instructors Report

2025 has been a wonderful and high achieving year on the grounds at ESODC.

Firstly, our Sundays have been buzzing with energy, with an average of 66 members on the grounds and taking part in one or two of the eight classes on offer. Over the course of the year, we successfully delivered classes in Foundation, Intermediate, Advanced, Social, Practice class, Rally and Obedience, ensuring there was something to support every stage of our members' training journeys.

A wonderful highlight was running another successful Instructors Training Course in the second half of the year. We are thrilled to welcome three bright, up and coming instructors who have shown tremendous passion and promise. Our trainees from last year have also continued to flourish, demonstrating increased confidence, capability and leadership on the field. It has been truly rewarding to support their development and to watch their positive influence ripple through our membership.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering dedication of our Instructors (and committee). Their hard work – week in, week out – ensures we can continue offering high-quality, meaningful training experiences to our community. I would like to extend my deepest thanks to every member of the instructing team and committee for their commitment, enthusiasm and resilience throughout the year.



This year we also proudly re-established our Demonstration Team, who completed their first public demo at the Whitehorse City Council's SpringFest in October. For many of us, it was a new and exciting experience, and the team represented ESODC beautifully. We received an abundance of positive feedback from attendees and organisers alike, which was a wonderful affirmation of the team's hard work and spirit.

Overall, 2025 has been a year of growth, collaboration, and community connection. I look forward to building on these achievements in the year ahead and continuing to foster a supportive and dynamic environment for all our members.



Christmas Fun Day

What a year we have had and what a gorgeous day to finish up on. Not too hot and not too cold! There was a really lovely atmosphere on the grounds too with so many people joining in and having fun with both the activities available and the competitions. And, of course, the sausage sizzle, thank you Roger and Andrea. The raffle at the end thanks to Dodo's efforts and the kind donations to our club was also a highlight.

While on the subject of donations I must thank everyone who brought food and other goods for our Pets of the Homeless appeal, you people are just amazing. We will be continuing the appeal through next year as well.

Also, thank you to the people who stayed for our AGM. We also celebrated our members who gained titles this year and our two new Life Members, Rhonda and Roger Cheesman.

Enjoy the pictures!

Liz Bruhn (Editor)





Life Memberships



Congratulations to Rhonda and Roger Cheesman for becoming Life Members at the AGM this year. It takes a lot to become a Life Member of ESODC, at least 10 years membership and contribution beyond that on committee or in some other important role. Both Rhonda and Roger are essential members of our club.

Rhonda has been on the committee for many years and is our current president and an Instructor of long standing. She has been a driving force in the development of our club over the past few years and puts in many hours on grant applications and policy development.

Roger comes along almost every week and quietly makes things happen. He and his team of miracle workers set up the grounds each week, pack up at the end. He organises getting the grounds set up for special events such as our trial. Most importantly though he is probably the person you are most likely to speak to if there is something you need to know. He points people in the right direction, explains what's going on and is a first point of contact on the field. We thank them both for their contribution to our club and congratulate them on their well deserved Life Memberships.

Titles gained by our Members this Year

Susan Poyner

Paris

Rally Novice title



Monica Niewalda

Oska RA

Rally Advanced title

Neut. Ch. Raaybeam

Capt Jaytee Kirk RA

Rally Excellent title



Tamara Taylor

Harveybear CCD RA

Rally Novice title

Rally Advanced title



Dodo Kelly

Winterset Heidi of

Cairnlea CD NRA

Companion Dog

Excellent title



Our Social Class turned 1!

November 3rd was the 1st birthday of our Social Training Class. To celebrate everyone had a fun challenge! Carry a large soft toy in one hand and a squeaker in the other then negotiate an obstacle course including weaving cones, jumps, perches, turns and a mat.

After all that effort the dogs got a biscuit treat each and the hardworking trainers got a Kitkat.

Thank you Dodo, for running this fun class.



Trial Round up

German Shorthaired Pointer Club - Saturday 15 November 2025

Dodo & Heidi **1st place** Retrieving Novice



Southern Obedience Dog Club - Saturday 15 November 2025

Morning trial

Katie & Bonnie	89 points	Rally Novice	
Debra & Cody	84 points	Rally Novice	
Molly & Willow	77 points	Rally Novice	
Tamara & Harvey	96 points	Rally Excellent	1st place

Afternoon trial

Katie & Bonnie	92 points	Rally Novice	Title
Molly & Willow	87 points	Rally Novice	
Debra & Cody	80 points	Rally Novice	Title
Katie & Betty	80 points	Rally Novice	
Tamara & Harvey	95 points	Rally Excellent	3rd place



Golden Retriever Club - Sunday 16 November 2025

Dodo & Heidi **2nd place** Open RATG



Trial Round up (cont)

Knox Obedience Dog Club - Saturday 22 November 2025

Sue & Paris	90 points	CCD	2nd place
Kysha & Ivy	87 points	Rally Novice	
Melissa & Bandit	84 points	Rally Novice	
Cicilia & Carlos	79 points	Rally Novice	
Tamara & Harvey	99 points	Rally Excellent	1st place



Croydon & District Obedience Dog Club - Sunday 23 November 2025

Sue & Paris	95	CCD
Melissa & Bandit		Rally Novice
Katie & Betty	82	Rally Novice
Sue & Paris	89	Rally Advanced



OTEC / FOO - Tuesday 2 December 2025

Tamara & Harvey	93	Rally Excellent	1st place
Monica & Oska	92	Rally Excellent	2nd place
Karen & Pippa	96	Rally Advanced	1st place & Title
Molly & Willow	83	Rally Novice	3rd place & Title

