

Howler



www.hillsdogclub.com

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September 2023



**Dog Ears - What did you say?
ABCs of dog training
Aussie dogs face genetic cuts
Monthly promotions**

Tuesday Morning Advanced Class working on a 'Stand Stay' - photo by Michelle Raymond

The mission of Hills Dog Club Inc. is to enhance the human-dog relationship through training, education and the promotion of good breeding practices within our community.

IMPORTANT DATES.

General meetings 2023:

13 Sept 11 Oct
8 Nov 13 Dec

Watch this space for future event dates.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello everyone,

Hope you are well and warm. Hang in there, spring surely is around the corner, even if it doesn't feel like it right now.

This month Narelle did a great article on Dog ear health and care. Well researched and valuable to all of us. Read it on page 4.

In a bid to address the health woes faced by pugs and similar breeds, the Netherlands is considering a ban on their ownership. While pugs are adored for their charming flat faces and wrinkled features, veterinarians warn of severe health problems such as respiratory difficulties, skin ailments, and joint issues. Veterinary expert Bart Van Goethem underscores that these conditions often lead to hefty medical bills for pet owners. The proposed ban seeks to discourage breeding for aesthetics and protect the well-being of these animals. In addition to banning breeding, the Dutch government is also looking to restrict the visibility of such pets in advertisements and on social media to curb their ownership.

The above paragraph was as introduction to our Scoop article, related to the same issue but in NSW, which may be humorous in tone but contains some serious truths, and a link to the original article. Page 9.

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There is also an article about the 4 quadrants of operant conditioning and how they apply to us all, humans, canines and any other living organism. Page 5.

We've added the tips and tricks for everyone who would like to contribute to the Howler. P. 7

Happy training everyone.

*Editor, Graphic Designer
Tony Vink*

2024 HDC Trail Judges

Members are invited to submit nominations for 2024 HDC Trial Judge selection list.

Please email nominations to Trial Secretary Judy McCartney Judy10mcc@gmail.com by 12 September 2023.

2024 Judges selection list will be available at the September 2023 General Meeting.

PROMOTIONS - AUGUST 2023

Beginners 8 to Graduate

- Karin with Oscar the Cavoodle
- Sarah with Teddy the Groodle
- Inge with Boots the Kelpie

Intermediate to Advanced

- Melissa with Rocky the Labrador
- Tamica and Alex with Rogue the GSD



Karin and Oscar



Inge and Boots



Sarah and Teddy



DOG EARS - WHAT DID YOU SAY?

At the club we promote daily dog checks including eyes, mouth and also checking the ears.

All dogs can experience ear infections, from a mite, foreign body, bacteria, excessive moisture from bathing or swimming, from allergies to hypothyroidism, autoimmune diseases, cancers and also result from a trauma to the ear. It can be something simple or quite extreme so a veterinarian's opinion should always be sought.

Dogs with floppy or hairy ears can be more susceptible due to the lack of air circulating around the ear canal.

Aim to check regularly - while they are on your lap or make it a special exercise.

It is easy to check - what colour are the ears? - white, pink are healthy but an inflamed ear can be rosy pink to red and a discharge may indicate a further investigation is needed. Smell your dog's ears - they should not smell bad. Also check both ears!

Your dog may be telling you there is a problem by; head shaking or scratching at the ears of they may cry or yelp when you touch the ears, or avoid your hand if coming near their ears.

Frequent scratching of the ear can cause an aural hematoma, in which blood vessels in the ear flap break, causing a painful swelling that requires surgical treatment.

Deep ear infections can damage or rupture the eardrum, causing an internal ear infection and even permanent hearing loss.

Ear infections in dogs can be extremely painful, so do not delay seeking veterinary treatment if you suspect a problem.

How to Clean

1. Organise equipment -
 - cotton balls or gauze to dry ears
 - a vet-approved ear cleaner
 - towel or small cloths, clip to secure towel around dog,
 - collar /lead to tie in position
2. Squeeze a little vet approved liquid cleanser to the ear as directed.
3. Close the earflap and massage the base of the ears.the liquid will help break up the wax and dirt.
4. Gently wipe clean with a cloth or cotton balls. (Do not use cotton buds)

If your dog has an ear infection and needs medication, apply it after the ears are clean and wiped out. However if the cleaning causes irritation - wait a day.

Hairy Ears

To assist in keeping ears in good health - hairy ears can be plucked - a veterinarian or groomer may do this for you. Does it hurt - some dogs may complain - but my dog loves it and gives me his ear for more. I started fiddling with the hair in his ears as a puppy so he got use to it and then would occasionally just pull a few hairs out and it didn't seem to bother him. It was matter of fact and there were always treats involved.

Bibliography

- VCA Hospital - <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/ear-infections-in-dogs-otitis-externa#:~:text=Ear infections are painful.,or yellowish discharge commonly occurs.>
- [PetMD.com](https://www.petmd.com)
- [Petcircle.com.](https://www.petcircle.com)

*Prepared by Narelle Brown Puppy
1 Instructor*

Members in the club are introduced to the concept of operant conditioning as the basis of training their dogs. In fact all training is pretty much based on this in scientific as well as informal training... Or getting to know stuff.

Here is a relatively straightforward explanation on how it works as a reminder to dog trainers and instructors of any activity really. Tony

OPERANT CONDITIONING AND THE ABCs OF (DOG) TRAINING.

Dog training is an art, and at its core lies the science of operant conditioning. This method relies on the concept of behaviour being shaped by consequences, and understanding the ABCs - **Antecedent, Behaviour, and Consequence** - is crucial. Within this framework, there are four distinct quadrants, each representing a different combination of positive and negative reinforcement and punishment.

1. Positive Reinforcement - Adding Pleasure:

Positive reinforcement is all about adding something pleasant or rewarding when your dog exhibits the desired behaviour. Imagine you're teaching your pup to sit on command. When your dog sits (the behaviour), you immediately* reward them with a tasty treat (the consequence). The treat serves as a positive reinforcement, strengthening the likelihood that your dog will sit on command in the future.

2. Negative Reinforcement - Removing Discomfort:

Negative reinforcement may sound confusing, but it's about removing something unpleasant or aversive when your dog performs the desired behaviour. Consider leash training: when your dog stops pulling (the behaviour), you release the tension on the leash (the aversive stimulus is removed). In this case, negative reinforcement encourages your dog to walk calmly on a leash.

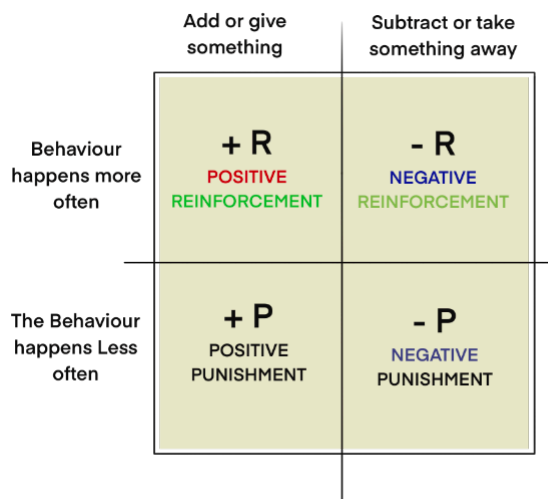
***Immediately** - this point alone is worth a full lesson or article to explain.

3. Positive Punishment - Adding Discomfort:

Positive punishment involves adding something aversive when your dog misbehaves. If your dog jumps on guests (the behaviour), saying "no" firmly or using a sharp sound (the added aversive element) can act as positive punishment. The aim here is not to harm or frighten your dog but to communicate that jumping is an undesirable behaviour.

4. Negative Punishment - Removing Pleasure:

Negative punishment means removing something pleasant or desired when your dog behaves poorly. Picture your dog playing too roughly during a game of fetch. If you stop the game (the pleasant activity is removed), this serves as negative punishment. It's a way to signal that gentle play is encouraged.



These principles aren't limited to our canine companions; they can also be applied to human behaviour. Consider how humans respond to similar conditioning:

1. Positive Reinforcement in Human behaviour:

Think about workplace productivity. When employees meet their targets (desired behaviour), they might receive bonuses or praise (positive reinforcement). This encourages them to maintain high levels of performance.

2. Negative Reinforcement in Human behaviour:

Consider learning to drive. When a driver puts on their seatbelt (desired behaviour), the annoying sound of a seatbelt reminder stops (an aversive stimulus is removed), reinforcing safe driving habits.

3. Positive Punishment in Human behaviour:

In educational settings, if a student disrupts the class (undesirable behaviour), the teacher might give a detention (adding an aversive element) to discourage future disruptions.

4. Negative Punishment in Human behaviour:

In traffic law, any violations (undesirable behaviour), may be met with the removal of your 12 points on your licence. (removing something), hopefully encouraging better behaviour on the roads.

While operant conditioning and these quadrants provide a valuable framework for understanding and influencing behaviour, it's important to note that not all learning follows these patterns. Dogs, like humans, can also learn through classical conditioning, social learning, and habituation, among other processes. These forms of learning may not neatly fit into the ABCs and quadrants but are equally important in understanding our furry companions.

In this article, we've explored the ABCs and quadrants of dog training, emphasising their significance. However, it's essential to remember that learning is multifaceted, and a holistic approach to training takes into account various learning processes that contribute to a well-rounded, well-behaved dog.

At Hills Dog Club, we are mainly concerned and actively use positive reinforcement as our main tool in our bag of tricks and so having a little extra knowledge and insight may help you in your training.





TIPS FOR AUTHORS OF ARTICLES FOR THE HOWLER.

Hey there, club members and dog enthusiasts! At Howler HQ, we're always eager to hear from you and receive your fantastic contributions for our monthly newsletter. While we cherish our core team of dedicated writers who are passionate about all things dogs, training, and breeding, we also welcome the occasional authors among us. Whether you have a burning topic to discuss, a memorable experience to share, or an "A-ha!" moment on your journey with your furry friends, we want to hear from you. Every single contributor is invaluable to us, and we deeply appreciate your contributions.

As the editor and layout designer behind over 50 editions of Howler, we've gained a wealth of knowledge on producing a newsletter and making things run smoothly. Sure, we've had our fair share of hiccups along the way, but that's all part of the journey.

Tips of the trade:

Because articles are laid out in the Howler to conform to a pre-planned look and feel, and articles are individually placed and the accompanying images added according to available space, it is

useful to supply the components of an article separately. A Text Document and Images.

Document Formatting:

- Use as little (fancy) formatting as possible. Stick to normal text, using only bold, italics and underline to emphasise different parts of your work if necessary.
- Use basic paragraphs. Bullet points and/or number points are very effective too, but keep it simple for clarity.

Content:

- It's your own. We think that's pretty clear. However, sometimes we have published articles with express permission from authors who did not send in their work personally.
- Appropriate and of interest to the Howler's intended audience. Again, this sounds straightforward... anything dogs right? Well, yes and no. There are a myriad of topics which are totally fair game. Training techniques, used on other animals/people. Safety tips, Health, Grooming, Play, Animal Psychology. More than this, we really love stories about personal experiences you have had with your dog or pets.
- Include a title (be creative!)
- Your contribution can be a photo with caption only... You know what they say: A picture is worth a thousand words.



Images accompanying articles:

- Send photos you own or have taken yourself and which you give us the right to use with your article. And on that topic:

- a. Copyrights: Don't send or use images from the internet unless you can supply the original web link with proof that it falls in the Creative Commons free to use licence. Using images from the internet may land us in trouble.

- b. Labelling Images. If possible, the names of persons and dogs (animals) that appear in the image should be used as the file name: for example: Ellen and Ava in the park.jpg

- c. More is better: If you have three or four different images to accompany your article, send them all. We might use them all or just a few or one.

- We may source our images from paid stock image sites (photos, illustrations, graphs etc.). If you have a certain look in mind, you can write a note at the bottom of your article to give us an idea of what to look for. Eg: [to editors: a photo of a dog in a baby stroller would look great with this article]

- Most important request. Do not embed images in documents. There are multiple reasons: Firstly it makes placing the article in a layout problematic for our Layout artist. Secondly, some software programs tend to reduce the quality of the images when we try to extricate them from the document which then leaves us with a poor photo to use in the article.

- Image types. Most image file types are acceptable, jpg, png, tiff, eps, (pdf and gif too : just be aware that pdf's are like documents with jpegs embedded and they get reduced in quality according to the compression settings used when the pdf was saved... sorry its technical. - and gifs are mostly moving image or very low (bad) quality)

- Image size. If your image is below 100Kb, it will be too low in resolution, it may be a copy of a copy of a copy... Try to get the original image file. They tend to be from 800Kb to over 3 Mb.

- We use the following order of Preference for image use in the Howler:

- a. First images with People and Dogs (up to 3)

- b. Then photos of Dogs or People only (whatever is appropriate)

- c. Then group Photos (Over 3 people)

- d. Then Stuff.

- e. Then Landscapes... which hardly ever get used, we are not National Geographic.

So that's why sometimes more is better.

There you have it, we're here to make the process as smooth as possible for you. To help us showcase your articles in the best light, we've put together some handy guidelines. But remember, these aren't hard and fast rules – they're simply tips to make both your and our lives easier. If you're ever in doubt about anything, don't hesitate to shoot us an email to clarify. Or, better yet, after all is said and done, just send us what you have!

We can't wait to see your articles grace the pages of The Howler. Your unique perspective, experiences, and insights are what make our community thrive. Together, let's continue to celebrate our beloved dogs and all the amazing things that come with them. Get those creative juices flowing and start crafting your next contribution today!





leave poor pet owners drowning in vet bills faster than you can say "she'll be right."

Rosemary Elliott, the top dog at Sentient, reckons these breeds are susceptible to costly surgeries and that dreaded euthanasia option. Not a jolly good show, I say!

But here's the kicker: Dr. Elliott isn't suggesting we ban these breeds outright. Nah, she's got a different plan. She wants to tweak the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act to make it trickier for certain breeds to have puppies.

You see, puppy farmers are all about the most popular breeds - like pugs and English Bulldogs - because they're cuter

drift. That way, they won't be passing on their questionable genetics to the next generation.

But hang on, there's a twist in this tail! Dr. Elliott reckons we might end up with just a handful of these dogs left, and they'd be getting busy with some crossbreeding action. If it's bulldogs, well, they could be on the brink of extinction.

According to Dr. Elliott, letting these high-risk crossbreeds carry on breeding is downright cruel. I mean, it's heartbreaking when a pup can't catch their breath, and even if their owner can cough up the cash for surgery, it doesn't always do the trick. Tough luck, mate!

"Snip, Snip, Hooroo! Aussie Dogs Face Genetic Cuts and Canine Capers!"

G'day, mates! You won't believe the latest hullabaloo down under in New South Wales! It seems like the good folks at Sentient, the Veterinary Institute of Animal Ethics, have their knickers in a twist over



some of our favourite flat-faced dog breeds. Crikey!

They're barking mad and want strict rules to put the kibosh on breeding English and French Bulldogs, pugs, and cavalier King Charles spaniels. Why? Well, these breeds apparently come with a side of respiratory issues and skin troubles, which can

than a kangaroo in a tuxedo. And education, well, it ain't doing diddly-squat to curb the demand for these pups.

So, what's Dr. Elliott proposing? She wants a vet's blessing to breed these dogs with dodgy genes. The ones that don't make the cut would need a little snip-snip action, if you catch my

This whole drama took center stage at an upper house inquiry in NSW, where other animal experts and vets chimed in. They talked about the stress and burnout they're facing, but let's not get too heavy, shall we?

The bottom line? Our furry friends might be facing some new rules in the land down under. So, while we wait for this doggone dilemma to play out, give your pooch an extra pat on the back. And remember, folks, a good sense of humour can make any ruff situation a bit more bearable!

Interpretation by ChatGPT. Original article:

<https://www.news.com.au/technology/science/animals/animal-ethics-groups-calls-for-breeding-ban-on-some-english-bulldogs-pugs-in-nsw/news-story/7437abf0de591b02a0120c02580e7182>

NOTICE IS GIVEN OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF HILLS DOG CLUB INC.

When:..... Wednesday **13 September 2023** - 7:30pm

Where: Meeting Rooms at Castle Hill Showground.

Who: All club members are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

1. Open Meeting
2. Attendance and Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes.
4. Business arising from the Minutes.
5. Correspondence
6. Treasurer Report
7. New Members
8. Chief Instructors Report
9. Education Officer Report
10. Show Secretary Report
11. Trial Secretary Report
12. Publicity Officer report
13. Club Trophy Secretary Report

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Approval of Judges for 2024 HDC
- Trials (Obedience, Rally, Tricks)
- NSW Obedience State Titles 2023 - 2/10/23
- Club membership 2022



Hills Dog Club Inc.

TRAINING TIMES

Mon. 7pm -> Puppies*,
Beginners, Graduate &
Intermediate classes

8pm -> Advanced class

*Puppy classes are for dogs
12-20 weeks.

Tue. 10:30am -> All Classes

IMPORTANT:

No classes held on
public holidays

No Tuesday classes
held in
school holidays

Forgotten to bring treats
to training? **Lamb Treats**
are on sale at the office for
\$6 a packet.

CLUB MEETINGS

The club meets monthly on the 2nd
Wednesday of the month, except
January, in the clubhouse. Meetings
start at 7.30pm. All welcome! Tea
and coffee provided.

Club financial year is 1st January to
31st December.

CORRESPONDENCE

All Club correspondence or en-
quiries should be addressed in writ-
ing to The Secretary, POBOX392
Round Corner NSW 2158 or

**NOTE EMAIL ADDRESS for
all contacts at Hills Dog Club**

infohillsdogclub@gmail.com

Hills Howler is available at the club-
house on training days/nights and
online. All members are encouraged
to contribute. For admin purposes,
please keep us informed of change
of email address.

NEWSLETTER

Send all inquiries and contributions
to hillshowler@gmail.com

NOTICE:

2024 JUDGES SELECTION LIST
WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE
SEPTEMBER 2023 GENERAL
MEETING.

Visit our web page for more
information

www.hillsdogclub.com

Get digital Howler via email?
Use the QR code to sign up
It is FREE.



Ground Rules

1. As a condition of membership, all dogs are required to be properly vaccinated according to current veterinary guidelines.
2. Members are responsible at all times for the behaviour of their dog/s whilst present on the training grounds or representing the club.
3. All dogs must have properly fitted equipment and remain on lead at all times (unless instructed otherwise by a club instructor). No check/choker chains are to be used on any dogs in Puppy, Beginners or Graduate classes.
4. A member shall not ill-treat a dog at any time. Any such action may give rise to suspension or expulsion from the Club by resolution of the Committee.
5. Bitches in season and/or dog/s which are unwell or have an infectious condition are not permitted on the obedience training grounds.

6. Members are to pick up after their dog/s and help keep the grounds clean and tidy.
7. Adequate sensible dress with appropriate footwear (no thongs, scuffs or bare feet) is required to be worn by handler during training.
8. Dogs are not to be left unattended whilst on the training grounds unless crated or tethered in a safe area. Members are reminded not to approach dogs that are confined. All dogs are to be kept under control and supervised while at the counter or in the clubhouse.
9. The Club reserves the right to ask any member to muzzle or in extreme cases, remove their dog/s from the training grounds. If a muzzle is required this must remain in place whilst on the club grounds. This will be at the discretion of the Committee.
10. Members who use Club equipment must ensure it is returned to the storeroom and stored correctly after classes are

- conducted.
11. Children are welcome to attend classes provided they are supervised by an adult/parent/guardian at all times.
12. Child members (aged 7 to 11 are to be accompanied by an adult/parent/guardian in classes) and Junior members (aged 12 to 15 under adult/parent/guardian supervision on grounds) are welcome to train providing they have sufficient control of their dog during classes. This will be at the discretion of the class/chief instructor.
13. The Club is in operation if the dog building doors and roller shutter are open. ie: from 5:45 Mondays and from 10:00 am Tuesdays

Check us out on Facebook
'Like' our page to get Club updates

<https://www.facebook.com/hillsdogclub/>



HILLS DOG CLUB INC. - 2023/24 COMMITTEE

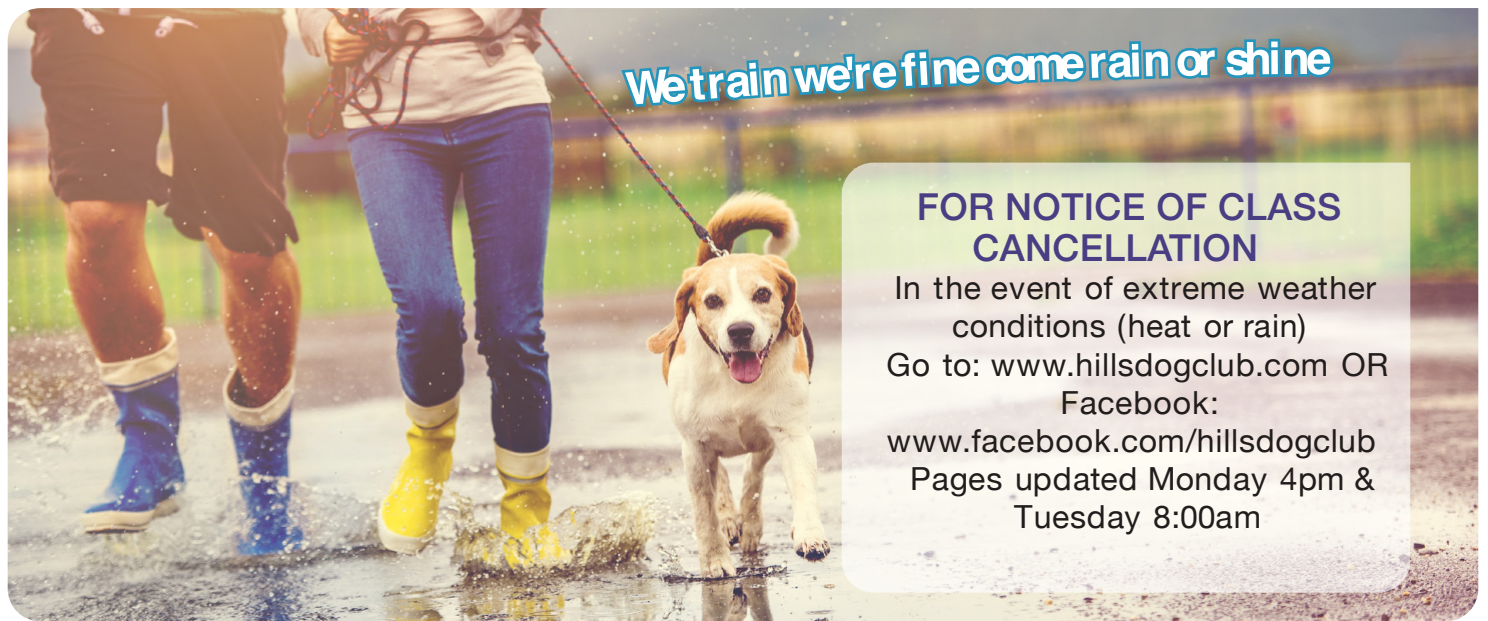
PRESIDENT: - - - - - Carole Hatley
 VICE PRESIDENT: - - - - - Anne Small
 VICE PRESIDENT: - - - - - Bob Watters
 SECRETARY: - - - - - Jane Lamont
 ASSISTANT SECRETARY: - - - - Belvane Parsons
 TREASURER: - - - - - Lynne Sheather
 ASSISTANT TREASURER: - - - - Janet Power
 CHIEF INSTRUCTOR: - - - - - Lea-Anne Laughton
 TRIAL SECRETARY: - - - - - Judy McCartney
 SHOW SECRETARY: - - - - - Janet Power
 PUBLIC OFFICER: - - - - - Lynne Sheather
 PUBLICITY OFFICER: - - - - - Natalie Conway
 EDUCATION OFFICER: - - - - - Genevieve Young
 EQUIPMENT OFFICER: - - - - - Bob Watters
 REGISTRAR: - - - - - Jane Lamont

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:
 - - - - - Peter Guenther
 - - - - - Michelle Raymond
 - - - - - Kathy Cocks
 - - - - - Karen Richardson
 - - - - - Carolyn Jensen
 - - - - - Kathy Zaia

TROPHY STEWARDS:
 TRIAL: - - - - - Jessica Leckie
 SHOW: - - - - - Janice Lyons
 CLUB: - - - - - Carole Hatley
 AUDITOR: - - - - - Mr T. Newton
 PATRONS : - - - - - Mrs Luci Ellem
 - - - - - Ms Peta Clarke
 - - - - - Dr Peter Gangemi, Lord Mayor,
 The Hills Shire Council

Contact club committee members: Infohillsdogclub@gmail.com

LIFE MEMBERS: **Peter Guenther, Hazel Baldwin (deceased), Dianne Atkins (deceased), Janet Power, Belvane Parsons, Anne Small, Betty Cansdale (deceased), Robyn Jones, Janice Lyons, Vicki Gresser, Lynne Sheather.**



FOR NOTICE OF CLASS CANCELLATION
 In the event of extreme weather conditions (heat or rain)
 Go to: www.hillsdogclub.com OR
 Facebook:
www.facebook.com/hillsdogclub
 Pages updated Monday 4pm & Tuesday 8:00am

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