

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

Dear members,

After the General Meeting on the 13th of August, the Committee has taken some important decisions for members to take note of.
As follows:



- 1. Sadly no general meetings until training resumes.
- 2. The good news: no renewal fees for existing members for 2021 but membership forms will need to be filled out as usual. *
- 3. Hills Dog Club will return when the Committee feels it is safe with a COVID-19 safety plan implemented.
- * forms to be filled from Dec 2020

Hills Dog Club Inc.





We are always looking for new helping hands at Hills Dog Club. Our large

organisation has served the Hills community for over 40 years and have helped thousands of people to train their dogs. The work we do is not only a lot of fun - I mean, where do you get to see puppies and

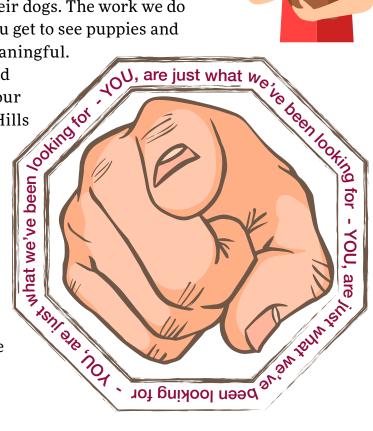
dogs up close every week - but also very meaningful. Seeing handlers and dogs finally understand

each other is one of the great rewards that our volunteers relish. It's all about helping the Hills

Community and making it safer for people and dogs alike.

Areas for volunteering are quite varied, we have instructors, office staff, helpers and a committee who under normal circumstances meet monthly. (Yeah, Covid has been a challenge - right? (a)

As you can see on our current Committee list, we are in need of someone to take the role of President. So, I'll leave that there with you to think about.



Important Dates. General meetings: 2020: No meetings for the time being. Future meeting dates to be announced when committee deems it possible. Interclub (Ob) - TBA Sept. Double Championship Shows - TBA Oct. Suzanne Clothier talk. - TBA Evening Trial - TBA

Contents
Have you considered volunteering yet? 2
Important info
Editor's note
Locked down but not knocked down 4
Place training
Movers & shakers
Schnauzer lovers: a tight-knit community 12
Trail of love
Now here's a treat
Tv review
Training times
Club meetings
Correspondence and newsletter 16
Ground rules
Hills dog club inc - 2020/21 committee 17

EDITOR'S NOTE.

Dear members,

Gosh. I don't know if we've ever had to press 'paws' (pause) on training for this long before - we sure miss seeing you all! But we at Hills are trying to do our part by keeping everyone safe until we can resume.

While some people and pooches have felt the strain of missing weekly obedience class, member Sue Turner has taken this opportunity to broaden the scope of training she's doing with her young schnauzer, Tig. She's introduced him to nosework, retrieving and tricks... check out her report on page 4.

Instructor Michelle has also kept busy... organising a knitathon for schnauzer rescue! What a great idea to keep warm with both wool and community spirit. Go to Page 12 for all the warm and fuzzies.

I've kept busy too... with dog shows. No, not the conformation kind - the TV kind! Lockdown at home means time to catch up on all TV I've missed, and that includes dog shows of course! To prove I took it seriously, turn to page 15 for my review of The Dog House.

Happy reading, training and TV-watching! Ellen

Editor

Ellen Mok, Tony Vink Graphic Designer Tony Vink

LOCKED DOWN BUT NOT KNOCKED DOWN

By: Sue Turner

People have commented about the lack of dog training opportunities during the last few months due to the closure of Clubs and lack of opportunities, but let me tell you - I'm exhausted after the wide variety of training that my dogs and I have done over the last 6 months!

Yes, my young dog has gaps in the skills I would normally have taught him by now: he finds people and strange dogs overwhelming and this is the main area I will need to focus on when things return to near normal, but his training opportunities have exploded in many different directions!

TRACKING

This is a sport where a person walks out on a predetermined route dropping articles such as socks along the way, and the dog in a harness and on a long lead comes along with their handler to find their route and the food reward at the end. While 2 people were allowed to congregate at appropriate distances, I introduced my Miniature Schnauzer puppy Tig and another Southern Highlands member - Chester - to this sport. They both loved it! While Chester is currently taking a break from this sport, Tig has moved to further heights. We can always train for this sport as long as we are allowed to go for a walk, so I have continued training throughout the pandemic, taking one dog for a walk around East Bowral, dropping articles along the way, going home to get

the other dog and asking it to work out where we went. Chester and Sally also helped me to produce 'an introduction to tracking training' video for Hills Dog Club.

Tig is now able to carry out searches of 500m, along paths where other people and dogs have also walked, indicating articles to me and finding his reward at the end.

Enya, my Vizsla, has carried out training tracks over 3 hours old, following a track along paths and roads, the longest being 2 km!

Because tracking is a sport where there is no contact between people, or between people and dogs, this is one sport where DogsNSW has permitted even during shut down of all other competition and we recently held a competition in East Bowral. No qualifications were gained, but it was pretty close, everyone has fun and learned a great deal.

NOSE WORK

While no formal classes were being held in this sport I took up opportunities to expand both my understanding of the sport and my dogs' skills in working through distractions. Here the dog is asked to find tiny containers that hold certain essential oil-infused cotton tips that they have been taught to indicate.

A couple of us made use of empty car parks around the Southern Highlands. They are great places with varied surfaces and smell distractions where we arranged to meet up, hide containers and ask our dogs to find them. Once again, it is a sport where there is no physical contact between people, dogs or equipment and we were able to social distance throughout our training.

I also took to carrying a couple of little containers in a sealed pouch while I was out walking with my dogs. When I found an interesting spot I would tie up my dogs, hide my containers, then take my dogs off for a walk. We would return in an hour or so, and my dogs delighted in taking turns to find them.

Around the world other nosework competitors were starving for competition and a couple of experienced judges and trainers in the USA opened up an online competition in nosework. In this, they set up 5 different challenges over a week and competitors had 3 days to set up a situation that demonstrated meeting that challenge, video themselves and upload the video to the correct folder on a Facebook site. The challenges were broad enough that even housebound competitors could design searches to meet them, but often they were very difficult to do well - such as showing independence, demonstrating confidence etc. They called it an Olympic Scentathalon and over 250 people from around the world entered it!

Setting up the situations was a great way to explore your dog's abilities and boundaries. I learned to push those boundaries while not over facing my dogs. I made friends around the world - people in the UK, Poland, USA, Canada, Hungary and in other states in Australia. We

shared a love of our dogs, an interest in this sport and the desire to learn. Watching over 500 videos of other dogs working in situations I often would never have thought about was a mind blowing experience!

I went on to do a one month course with one of the judges in the USA, online, also a great experience that I would never have had the time for without the pandemic.

RETRIEVING

Kirsty Blair, an RATG judge, set up a virtual Retrieving competition. Every 2 weeks a retrieving judge would describe a situation for a retrieve. It was up to the competitors to set up a retrieve that met the requirements, video our dog's first attempt at the retrieve and upload our entry.

In the first competition, Enya received an award for the best "That did not go as expected" for the creative canine - she raced out towards the dummy, ran past to go hunting rabbits, chased them along the fence out of sight, then returned to where she knew the dummy was located and brought it back to me.

The first competition was simply for ribbons, but competitors got so involved in the sport and valued it so highly that prize donations were soon coming thick and fast!

Competitors were challenged to somehow meet the requirements for the retrieve while getting a video! Phones were attached to posts, fishing lines, dog's collars etc in the attempt to get the best video. I think this competition led to an upturn in the market for 'go pros'. By the conclusion of the event there had been over 270 entries in 16 competitions at a range of levels. Competitors and judges from around Australia who would normally never meet had the joy of seeing each other's dogs run and to make positive comments.

Tig will now do a 50m retrieve of Enya's dummy and retrieves much better than Enya if water is involved, but unfortunately, as the competition is restricted to gundogs he will never be able to enter one. competition. I have to admit it that I've really enjoyed working with my dogs and the opportunities that the last 6 months have presented to us. It has given me a positive activity to engage in to distract me from the horrible events that have been happening around us.

TRICKS

In Tricks competition, once again there is no contact between people or other people's dogs so some of us trained in pairs maintaining social distancing. A competitor has to provide their own equipment so there was no contact there either. Initially we just trained to develop our training skills but then an ACT club offered a virtual competition! We suddenly had a goal to work towards and our intensity went up a level. We started videoing each other and studying our videos at home to see where we could improve. Southern Highlands' instructor Natasha Neppl went on to upload her video in the competition and received a virtual pass! What an achievement!

Throughout all this, I also worked on getting Tig to walk properly on a lead, improve his heeling and worked on his stays. The lack of face to face competitions and shows gave me the opportunity to really develop my puppy's groundwork skills without pushing him too quickly into



PLACE TRAINING

By: Pat Robards

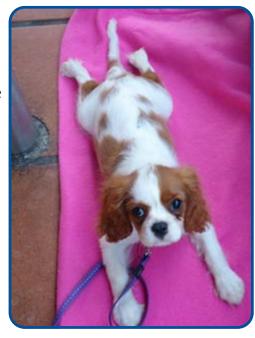
Teaching your dog to go to a designated spot, like a bed or a mat and staying there can prove useful in a variety of situations—like when you're eating dinner, watching TV, greeting guests at the front door or visiting friends and family. Once your dog has mastered this skill, you can use it almost anywhere, whenever you need them to settle down for a while. When working in new strange locations it seems a win-win situation, recently we flew to Brisbane so I put Cindy on her mat on the floor of the cabin and she slept during takeoff and landing both ways, pretty good for her first flight. I am sure something she was familiar with made all the difference, her trusty mat (smile).



Guide Dogs York & Johnnie pup place

Another advantage of "go to your mat" is that it has a clear distinction, a visible and tactile target as compared to a formal obedience down/stay. I feel that mat training helped my stays as Cindy became used to my coming and going.

The time spent on it was variable including the distractions. It seems to be a LOT easier for some dogs to begin out of sight stays from a mat than it is to work them just on the ground in new locations, then switch back to the ground



Ava: never too young to learn place.

when they are comfortable with you wandering away. I used one often with my Jack Russell when we were filming TV ads in different locations, I don't know why dogs are more secure with something to mark the spot, but there it is.

The prerequisites for the trick this month are a release cue, a stand, a down or a sit. Don't leave the mat out if you aren't working on the behaviour and not around to supervise.



Gabriele's Lucy's place

TARGETING A MAT: the easy way using a Target Stick. (Ed: To teach your dog to follow a target, check

out: Making and using a Traget Stick by Karen Richardson on our YouTube!)

This one is the easiest way to teach. The dog will follow the target stick to another target such as a mat. The dog will now consider its mat to be a target. Adding the cue, "settle," when the dog lies down will soon have the dog lying on its mat when cued. Later



Belvane's Charli place

on your dog will automatically settle on the mat when it sees it.

LOUNGE CHAIR TRAINING:

- 1. Sit down and put your mat on the floor close to you where you think your dog will naturally be when she realizes you have food probably right in front of you!
- 2. When your dog comes over, stands on the mat, cue "yes" and toss the treat on the mat *five times* in *succession*. That's right, five treats given one after the other conditioning that the target is a GREAT place to be! **Rewarding for Position**.
- 3. Now..... Toss the next treat OFF the mat. Your dogs will most likely return to the mat so cue "yes" and toss the next five treats on the mat, then another one OFF the mat.
- 4. Say "yes" when your dog returns to the mat and drop the next five

treats on the mat. Then toss one OFF the mat.

- 5. Repeat this until your dog is familiar and is able to go to the mat reliably five times in succession.
- 6. Move the mat A FEW INCHES away from you.
- 7. When you finally get the mat far enough away from you that she's not going to hit it naturally, your dog might go looking for it.
- 8. This is when you may need to **SWITCH to SHAPING.**

SHAPING A DOG TO TARGET A MAT FROM A DISTANCE:

- 1. Look at the mat yourself, if your dog gives so much as a glance towards the target cue "yes" **AND TOSS A TREAT ON THE MAT**.
- 2. Gradually ask for more until your dog is standing on the mat each time, how to do this is once she's eager to head for the mat, you can start shaping the number of paws on it. This may happen in the one training session depending on your dog, or it may take several. There is no rush when cementing it in.



Useful for cafe dogs!

3. If your dog is consistently putting two paws onto the mat, start with this as your base behaviour. Click two paws on the target five times in succession.

- 4. Once your dog is consistent with two paws on the mat looking expectantly for a treat... don't give your 'yes' word so she most likely will move further on to the mat offering three paws.
- 5. Three paws are your base mean now so don't reward anything less.
- 6. Once your dog is consistent with three paws on the mat five times in succession and looking expectantly for a treat don't give your 'yes' word so she most likely will move further on to the mat offering four paws.
- 7. Four paws are your base mean now so don't reward anything less.
- 8. It's not going to take long for your



Noeline's Scarlet

dog to realise all the treats come from here so starts to join into the game. This is excellent work and imagine what else you can teach once this is mastered!

- 9. Once your dog is finding the mat every time after you have treated five times on the mat - and one time tossed OFF - in different directions.
- 10. Start to move the target further away from you.

- Remember, when you make ONE thing about behaviour more difficult, you need to make everything else easier. EVERY TIME you move the mat, go back to SHAPING step 3 for a quick refresher, it's not going to take long but it sure sets our dogs up so they are successful!
- 11. Once your dog is running to the target put the behaviour on cue if that's what you wish. I don't use a cue as the sight of the mat is the cue itself to go there and to stay on it. Begin to give your cue as your dog is on the target then bring it back in time until the dog can run to the mat when asked. Cues act like green lights. They tell the dog which behaviour will earn her reinforcement at this particular moment. When behaviour is fully on cue, you are saying to your dog that you want the behaviour when you ask for it - and ONLY when you ask for it.
- 12. To incorporate this into obedience exercises teach Pointing to a Target step 2. And start to cut the size of the target down if you need to.

POINTING TO A TARGET and staying on it: (A sit, down or stand on the mat - the choice is yours when you introduce it). Myself I do later on as I like sessions to go bang bang bang but there again it depends entirely on your dog.

STEP ONE: First you'll need to teach your dog that her mat or bed is a great place to be. Cut some treats into bite-sized pieces before you begin training. Use something really exciting, like soft dog treats, chicken or cheese. The more your dog loves the training treats, the harder she'll work to earn them.

a.Pop the mat down beside your chair.

b. Show your dog the food lure and put it on the dog's mat or toss it, as soon as the dog reaches its mat give your marker word and let it eat the reward.

c.When your dog has eaten the reward, clap your hands and walk a few steps away to encourage him to move off the mat or give a 'release cue'.

d. Repeat this sequence, tossing the treat to guide your dog onto the mat from various angles and then clap your hands or give a 'release cue' to get your dog off the mat.

e.Eventually, your dog will start to seem reluctant to move away from her mat. (Why would she want to



Finn the Fauve demonstrates

be anywhere else? That's where she gets delicious treats!) At this point, when your dog starts to "stick" to the mat, you can move on to Step Two.

Some dogs will need several training sessions to get to this point; others will be ready after only 15 to 20 repetitions.

STEP TWO: Follow the Hand but instead of tossing a treat to guide your dog onto the mat; you'll introduce a hand signal. Practice Step One a few times to warm up. Then follow these steps:

a. Put a treat in one hand and hide it behind your back.

b. Standing a couple of feet away from the mat, give your cue.

c. Using your empty hand, point to the mat. Your movement should look a lot like the one you made in Step One when tossing a treat.

d. In response to your pretend toss, your dog should turn her head toward the mat. When she does quickly take the hidden treat from behind your back and toss it onto the mat. (This will convince your dog that she'll still get a treat when she goes to the mat, even if she doesn't see you toss it when you gave your hand signal.)

e. Encourage your dog to move off the mat OR give a release so you can start over again. Repeat the sequence above 5 to 10 times.

f. Eventually, your dog will go all the way to her mat when you give the hand signal. As soon as all four paws are on the mat, say "Yes!"

g. Then, instead of tossing the treat, walk over to the mat and feed your dog the treat from your hand. See my article "Where Do We Give the Reward?" from July(2020, pg 10). I don't want the dog running to me for a reward so I am careful where I treat. I will go up to them and reward, or I

will release from a distance tossing a treat or a toy.

h. When your dog is voluntarily running to the mat, begin to extend the time for staying there.

i. As you increase the time, randomly throw in some easy short repetitions.



Penny Mead's dogs on place.

Start with 10 seconds, and then increase to 15. Try bouncing around at 20 seconds, and then go back to 10. Increase to 25 seconds, then 30, then 40, and then an easy 10 again.

j. While your dog's staying on her mat, reward her randomly. At first, be generous and reward every 10 seconds on average. Once she's getting the hang of it, you can gradually reduce the number of treats you give while your dog stays.

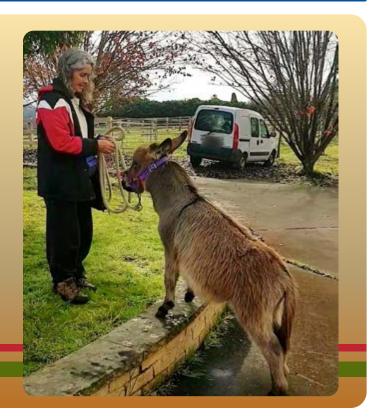
When you make **ONE** thing about behaviour more difficult, you need to make everything else easier so **decrease** time when you **increase** distance, and vice versa: It makes no difference whether you increase distance first, or time. The choice is yours. Best results (or most visible results) will probably be gained by alternating. If she's getting up a lot, you're progressing too quickly. Your dog needs some shorter, easier repetitions for a while to really understand what you want her to do.

Have Fun!

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MOVERS & SHAKERS

Hills member Noeline Cassettari and miniature donkey Cindy have attained a Novice Trick Title from Do More With Your Dog! - or in this case, donkey! Noeline is no stranger to trick training in different animals and has attained various Trick titles with miniature horses, a fox and a sheep!



SCHNAUZER LOVERS: A TIGHT-KNIT COMMUNITY

by Michelle Raymond.

Schnauzer Rescue is run by a few dedicated people who are passionate about saving and rehoming Schnauzers from unfortunate

situations. As you'd imagine, transport, veterinary care, medication, etc incur expensive costs.

Every
year, the
Schnauzer
Club of
NSW holds a
Schnauzer
Big Day Out
May to help

in May to help raise funds for Schnauzer Rescue's ongoing work. Hundreds of people and their bearded four legged friends arrive from all over NSW for agility and obedience demonstrations, fun competitions, stalls, grooming tips, catch ups with friends and the inevitable Aussie BBQ.

When Covid-19 put an end to any hope of this year's Big Day Out happening, and after assisting with a rescue earlier this year, I felt driven to do something. With two wonderful friends on board, and through two Schnauzer Facebook groups, I started taking orders for

knitted dog jumpers

with 100% of donations going straight to Schnauzer Rescue.





We had generous offers from six extra volunteer

knitters from all over NSW, including June Johansson from HDC.

Owners embraced the idea and were very keen to support the 'knitathon'. Orders flooded in, and with Messenger and Dropbox keeping knitters and orders organised, during seven busy weeks, we produced seventy-five jumpers and raised \$2700.



As coordinator, I had the privilege of dealing with all the owners and knitters. Their support, passion and generosity was overwhelming, and their love for their dogs was especially apparent during a year where our dogs' companionship and

faithfulness have proven to be absolutely crucial. How different would 2020 be without the unconditional devotion of our four-legged companions,

no matter their breed, background, colour or size?

As for my own two bearded friends, they've spent many, many hours snuggled up beside me supervising every single stitch as I've frantically knitted my way through winter for this wonderful cause.



TRAIL OF LOVE

by Taryn Gibbons



NOW HERE'S A TREAT.

Searching through the old Howlers, you come across just the right article or info needed in your particular case. Instructor Michelle Raymond dusted off her old Howlers the other day in search of homemade dog treat recipes. It sounds like this one was a hit!

"Thank you to the person who owns this 'Fruit and Vegetable Strips' (doggy treat) recipe I saved from a Howler a few years ago. They're easy to make, healthy, low fat and my dogs love them!" - Michelle



Recipe of the Month

Fruit and Vegetable Strips

These strips work as a cheaper alternative to the organic chewy treats sold in pet stores. They also break apart easily, so you can serve smaller pieces as training rewards. Fruits and vegetables are rich in vitamin C, which can help boost your dog's immune system.

Ingredients

- 1 small sweet potato
- 1 medium banana
- 1 cup carrots, grated
- 1/2 cup unsweetened organic applesauce
- 2 cups of whole wheat flour (white if your dog has allergies)
- 1 cup of rolled oats
- 1/3 cup of water

- 1. Cook the sweet potato in the microwave for 8 to 10 minutes, or until the insides are soft. Set aside and Directions
 - allow to cool.
- 3. Mash the banana and sweet potato in a large mixing bowl with a hand masher until smooth. Add in the 2. Pre-heat the oven to 180 Degrees Celsius.
- carrots, flour, and oats. Slowly add in the applesauce and water while mixing.
- 4. The ingredients will form a soft dough. Roll the dough on to a lightly floured surface until the dough is
 - 1/8 inch thick.
- Cut the dough into strips.
- Cook on a baking sheet for 25 minutes.
- Store leftover strips in the fridge for up to two weeks.



The Dog House is a UK documentary series set in Wood Green, a pet shelter in Godmanchester. Each episode introduces a few dogs in the shelter, and a few families who arrive hoping to adopt a dog. Finding a 'forever home' is a little more complex than just putting two and two together, of course, and this show is a wonderful insight into the matching process. The shelter staff interview the prospective families, then bring forward a few potential dogs to meet. We are shown the introductions and while not every introduction results in a new home, it's interesting and charming the

whole way through.

The Dog House truly warms the heart because every person or family who comes to the shelter has a story as much as each dog, and this show, through its relaxed interviews and footage, reminds us of this. It's not a ham-fisted lesson, but a gentle and sincere story. It's a delightful watch and a great conversation starter for those families looking to adopt a dog, too.

NO TUESDAY CLASSES HELD IN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Hills Dog Club Inc. TRAINING TIMES

Mon. 7pm -> Puppies*, Beginners, Graduate & Advanced 8pm -> Competitive Trialling dogs class

*Puppy classes are for dogs 12-20 weeks.

Tue. 10:30am -> All Classes

CLUB MEETINGS

NO CLASSES HELD ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

NOTE: NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!

Forgotten to bring treats to training?

Lamb Treats are on sale at the office for \$5 a packet

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 AND NEWSLETTER

All Club correspondence or enquiries should be addressed in writing to The Secretary, PO BOX 392
Round Corner NSW 2158 or infohillsdogclub@gmail.com
Hills Howler is available at the clubhouse on training days/ nights and online. All members are encouraged to contribute.For admin purposes, please keep us informed of change of email address.

NOTICE:

Election Obedience- and Rally Judges will take place at the general meeting every November

Election of **Conformation Judges** for the year **2022**(April & 2 September shows)
to be announced.



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.

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

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

HILLS DOG CLUB INC - 2020/21 COMMITTEE

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Deirdre O'Brien
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TROPHY STEWARDS:
TRIAL: Kerry Richards
SHOW: Janice Lyons
CLUB: Genevieve Young
AUDITOR: Mr T. Newton PATRONS: The Hon. Ray Williams, MP Dr Michelle Byrne, Mayor, The Hills Shire Council Mrs Luci Ellem

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

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ages also contain web links.

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