



Newsletter Highlights

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HDC NOTICE AND AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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DONT FORGET !

Remember!
No classes
Monday April 1st
and Tuesday 16 &
23 April

Election of NSW Conformation Judges for the HDC Championship Shows being held in 2026 (26th September AM & PM and 27th September AM, 2026), will take place at the General Meeting held on 8th May 2024.

Nominations of Judges for consideration must be received by 1st May 2024. Nominations need to be emailed to infohillsdogclub@gmail.com

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

G'day from the HDC Committee



Firstly, thanks to all HDC 2023 Members who have renewed their membership for 2024, glad to see those familiar faces back on the field - and that your training has continued! And welcome to all new Club members, it's a wonderful journey you have started with your dogs.

April will be a busy short month with the AGM and Scentwork trial, and then Easter and School holidays closing some classes - if your Tuesday class is closed due to School Holidays, you are very welcome to come along Monday nights.

The Howler welcomes contributions from members, especially stories about you and your dog. This month, Instructor Michelle has shared her journey with Darcy and how patience and persistence have been rewarded. If you would like to contribute to the Howler, please send your 'tail' and photos to hillshowler@gmail.com.

The Committee would like to thank Narelle Brown (PI) for her work on the Howler over the past four months, we have really appreciated the time and effort she has put into this role.

Till next month, keep training and playing!

Email: Infohillsdogclub@gmail.com

Post: The Secretary Hills Dog Club, P O Box 392, Round Corner 2158

Editor: hillshowler@gmail.com

Get the Howler via email?
Use the QR code to sign up - It's FREE!

IMPORTANT DATES April to June 2024

03/04/2024	Annual General Meeting
10/04/2024	General Meeting
27/04/2024	Scentwork Trial Novice and Advanced
08/05/2024	General Meeting
11/05/2024	Obedience and Rally Trial
01/06/2024	Scent Work Trial Excellent and Masters Only
12/06/2024	General Meeting

We train we're fine come rain or shine

FOR NOTICE OF CLASS CANCELLATIONS

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Go to: www.hillsdogclub.com OR Facebook www.facebook.com/hillsdogclub

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Scentwork Trial Information

Contributor: Carole Hately



Piper doing advanced exteriors at Western Sydney Scentwork Club.

Hills Dog Club will be holding a Novice and Advanced Scentwork trial on 27 April. It will be held on the grounds. Entries open on 27 March on OZ entries. Our judges will be Peta Clarke, Natasha Neppel, Tracie Donnelly and Sofia Roytblat. We will be covering all 4 elements – Containers, Vehicles, Interior and Exterior.

If you are interested in finding out more about Scentwork I am more than happy to encourage you to volunteer to do some stewarding. This will only take a few hours of your time and its such a great way to get involved in the sport of Scentwork.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not a spectator sport at these levels, if you are keen to watch, our June trial will allow spectators for SOME elements and these will be at Excellent and Masters Levels.

I am also looking for 5 vehicles to be used at the trial, so if your willing to volunteer your vehicle for the dogs to search please contact me. 0407279057.

Scentwork is a great sport for people to get involved with, any dog can do it and its great for older dogs and reactive dogs as it is a single dog sport. Also great for those of us who are not so mobile.



Obedience/Rally Trial Information

Contributor: Judy McCartney

VOLUNTEER STEWARDS NEEDED FOR TRIALS

On Saturday, 11 May 2024, HDC will be holding two trials – an Obedience Trial in the morning and a Rally Trial in the afternoon. If you have ever thought about trialling, or even are just curious about it, then this a great introduction to the sport, a fun morning and/or afternoon, and a big help to your Club.

Competition Obedience has five levels, Community Companion Dog – CCD, Companion Dog – CD, Companion Dog Excellent – CDX, Utility Dog – UD and Utility Dog Excellent – UDX.

Obedience Trial rules can be found via this link [Rules for the Conduct of Obedience Trials](#).

At HDC, we teach the foundation skills necessary to progress through the classes.

To make the trials run smoothly we need Stewards for each ring.

In Obedience, there is an Assembly Steward who has a running list and makes sure competitors are ready and waiting. The Ring Steward leads them to the start peg in the ring and introduces them to the Judge. The third steward helps out in the ring and writes up the score board outside the ring so competitors can see how they are going. So, the stewards generally are kept busy, and it is a lot of fun watching how the competitors go and what their dogs get up to. We generally have a friendly and relaxed atmosphere with a lot of chatter, the competitors are usually very supportive of each other and there are many cheers and claps as they gain longed-for passes and celebrate their accomplishments.

The top two classes UD and UDX will be stewarded by experienced people but the easier first three classes can be a mix of newbies and old hand stewards.

Competition Rally is a lot less formal and has four levels, Rally Novice – RN, Advanced – RA, Excellent – RE and Masters – RM. The rules can be found via this link [Rules for the Conduct of Rally Trials](#).



Judy and Griff

While you cannot speak to your dog in Obedience, you can in Rally - encouraging him with praise or when he gets distracted (or lazy), although you must know where you are going and what the next sign directs you to do.

Novice Rally is nearly all covered by obedience training and is on lead. The higher levels are all off-lead and have exercises which require extra training.

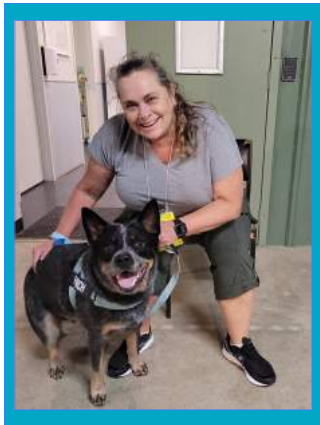
Each of the four rings needs an experienced timekeeper/scribe and an assembly steward.

I love stewarding and thoroughly recommend it as a pleasant outing so if you think you could spare the time please let Bob Watters know and we would be glad to see you on the day. Plus, you get a great lunch in the clubhouse.

Promotions

Beginners to Graduate

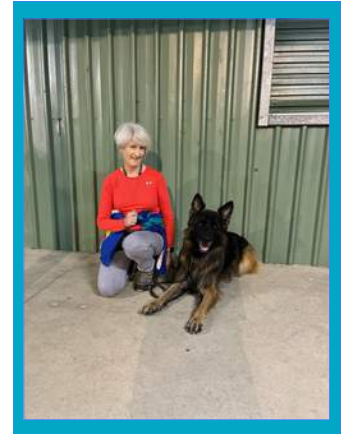
Evelyn with Echo (No Photo)



Melinda and Finch
(Blue Cattle)



Sirong and Fancy
(German Shepherd)



Carolyn and Saxa
(German Shepherd)

Graduate to Intermediate



Gemma and Thor
(Havanese)



Andrew and Kimmie
(Kelpie)



Kitty and Jazz
(German Shepherd)

Patience and Persistence Pays Off

Contributor: Michelle Raymond



Grafton Scent Trial

Do you think twice about making the effort to bring your reactive dog to training? Are you worn out dodging people and dogs on the grounds by the time class begins? Are you concerned what others think when you're battling to remain composed with your stressed dog? Please know you're not alone. I, for one, have definitely been there!

Darcy, my eight-week bundle of black curls, attended 6 weeks of puppy pre-school at my local vet. I exposed him to as many sights, sounds and experiences as possible during that crucial socialisation phase, but at 14 weeks he decided he'd voice his opinion about any dog he saw, no matter their size. His breed's guarding and alerting instincts kicked in with a bang and the challenges started.

To my dismay, the barking continued despite my efforts to divert, distract and redirect his attention away from approaching dogs. His threshold, the point where he couldn't handle triggers without a negative reaction, didn't allow me to have relaxed walks with Darcy as I was always on the lookout to keep him at his safe distance from other dogs.

Our puppy pre-school instructor recommended Hills Dog Club for continued training. Despite my trepidation and potential embarrassment about Darcy's vocal reactions, we set off for Hills with his charming and confident personality in tow. No matter how hard I tried, each week upon our arrival, my fear became a reality with his reactivity to other dogs. I used to struggle to reach the ground fees table, let alone line up and make it to class without a scene. It would have been easy to give up, but I knew how important it was to keep persisting.

Instructors reminded me that holding Darcy's attention, keeping him engaged and building a strong relationship depended on me learning to be his calm and consistent leader. Darcy was a quick learner, and achieving progress with classes wasn't too difficult, but handling a pup with attitude was stressful. I was also reminded that dogs are very sensitive to our emotions and that my adverse reactions would instantly affect him. When I persisted with training, started to work harder at developing that strong connection, and tried not to react to any outbursts, an amazing change happened. Darcy started to switch to 'training mode', settle, focus on me as his guide and we'd start to make it to the end of class without a peep coming from him. It was a surprising transformation.

We passed our K9 Companion Award and eventually worked our way through all class levels where those wonderful skills have now become his default, resulting in a pretty well-behaved companion. I thought it impossible for Darcy to work in close proximity to other dogs, 'Stay' while other handlers walked around him or perform a recall in between stationary rows of dogs, but he can! We've even become competitors, venturing into a few dog sports, where being surrounded by other competitors and dogs at a trial doesn't faze him. He instantly assesses he's in a safe environment and becomes totally focused on the task.

I encourage anyone who is having difficulties with their puppy or dog, to keep persisting and be your dog's advocate. If you have doubts or feel as though you're not getting anywhere, no matter what triggers your dog's reactions, keep calm, stay positive, consistently work on building that relationship and ask an instructor for help if needed. Over time, skills eventually become automatic, your bond with your dog deepens and you will become the focus of your dog's attention as their trusted leader.

Left to Right: Scentwork Advanced, K9 and Hills Graduate, the Rally Novice Title Trials



Ground Rules

1. **Vaccinations:** As a condition of membership, all dogs are required to be properly vaccinated according to current veterinary guidelines.
2. **Dog Behaviour:** Members are responsible at all times for the behaviour of their dog/s whilst present on the training grounds or representing the club.
3. **Appropriate Equipment:** 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. **No Ill-treatment:** 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:** Bitches in season and/or dog/s which are unwell or have an infectious condition are not permitted on the obedience training grounds.
7. **Clean up after Dogs:** Members are to pick up after their dog/s and help keep the grounds clean and tidy.
7. **Sensible Footwear/Clothing:** Adequate sensible dress with appropriate footwear (no thongs, scuffs on bare feet) is required to be worn by handlers during training.
8. **Supervision Required:** 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. **Muzzles:** 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. **Club Equipment Use:** Members who use Club equipment must ensure it is returned to the storeroom and stored correctly after classes are conducted.

11. **Child/Junior Handlers:** Children are welcome to attend classes provided they are supervised by an adult/parent/ guardian at all times.

12. **Child Members:** Child members (aged 7 to 11 are to be accompanied by an adult/parent/guardian in classes). Junior members (aged 12 to 15 under adult/parent/guardian supervision on grounds) are welcome to train provided they have sufficient control of their dog during classes. This will be at the discretion of the class/chief instructor.

FOR NOTICE OF CLASS CANCELLATIONS

In the event of extreme weather conditions (heat or rain) HDC Website and Facebook pages will be updated if classes are closed. Go to: www.hillsdogclub.com OR Facebook www.facebook.com/hillsdogclub

Monday class closure will be posted at **4pm Monday.**

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HDC Committee Members 2022/2023

President
 Vice President
 Vice President
 Secretary
 Assistant Secretary
 Treasurer
 Assistant Treasurer
 Chief Instructor
 Trial Secretary
 Show Secretary
 Public Officer
 Publicity Officer
 Education Officer
 Equipment Officer
 Registrar

Carole Hately
 Bob Watters
 Anne Small
 Jane Lamont
 Belvane Parsons
 Lynne Sheather
 Janet Power
 Lea-Ann Laughton
 Judy McCartney
 Janet Power
 Lynne Sheather
 Natalie Conway
 Genevieve Young
 Bob Watters
 Jane Lamont

Committee Members

Karen Richardson
 Carolyn Jensen
 Michelle Raymond
 Kathy Zaia
 Kathy Cocks
 Peter Guenther

Trophy Stewards

Trial:
 Show:
 Club:
 Patrons:

Jessica Leckie
 Janice Lyons
 Carole Hately
 Mayor, Dr Peter
 Gangemi
 Mrs Luci Ellem
 Ms Peta Clarke

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



Hills Dog Club Inc. Training Times

Monday at 6.45pm

Puppies (first night) under 20 weeks - allow time to register!

Monday at 7pm

Puppies 2 (from 12 to 20 weeks), Beginners 1 to 8, Graduate & Intermediate classes.

Monday at 8pm

Advanced class.

Tuesday at 10:30 am

All Classes.

NOTE: Classes are not held on Public Holidays. Tuesday classes are not held in School Holidays
 Equipment for Sale at the Club House



Email:
Website:
Members FB:
In Person:

Infohillsdogclub@gmail.com
<https://www.hillsdogclub.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/162308877129471>
 Speak with one of the Committee Member's at the clubhouse

Hills Dog Club Inc Annual General Meeting Notice



Agenda

Annual General Meeting (AGM) And Trophy Presentation of The Hills Dog Club

3rd April 2024, 7.30pm,
Large Meeting Room, Clubhouse, Castle Hill Showgrounds

1. Open Meeting
2. Attendance & Apologies
3. Confirmation and acceptance of the Minutes of 2023 Hills Dog Club Inc AGM
4. President Report
5. Treasurer Report; including receipt and adoption of the balance sheets and accounts of the club for the previous year
6. Secretary Report
7. Chief Instructor Report
8. Any other business; received by the club in writing at least 7 days prior
9. Appointment of Auditor
10. Election of Returning Officer
11. Election of two Scrutineers
12. Declaration of all positions vacant; Scrutineer to take the chair and carry out the election of the next year's committee
13. Meeting Close

Please note the following from the Hills Dog Club Inc Constitution:

40. The Office Bearers and the Members of the Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and shall take office at the General Meeting held in the month following the Annual General Meeting. The Office Bearers will hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

41. All nominations of Members proposed as Office Bearers or as Members of the Committee may be received in writing and/or nominated from the floor at the Annual General Meeting [11.15]

42. If there be more than the required number of Members nominated for the election to any office, an election by ballot shall take place, but if there be only the required number, the Chairman shall declare those nominated to be duly elected.

Following the Annual General Meeting the
presentation of Awards will be held.



Hills Dog Club Inc General Meeting Notice



Notice is given of Hills Dog Club Inc General Meeting

Wednesday 10th April 2024

Where: Large Meeting Room, Clubhouse, 7:30pm

All Club members are welcome to attend.

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

General Business

August RSPCA cupcake day

Upcoming Trials

A copy of the ratified Minutes (of all meetings) are available to all members on request at the Office on training days

HDC Grounds Map

AROUND THE GROUNDS

by Tony Vink

It's a new year and we have a whole new cohort of handlers and dogs starting dog training with Hills Dog Club. For new members it can be a little confusing and disorienting to find their way around the grounds.

Here is a simple map to point out the different landmarks.

The office, where all members report before class, is centrally located. All new new members will report there. The table in front of the store room is where we pay our weekly \$5.00 ground fees.

Finally, note where to find the plastic bags for number twos you dog does on the field. You are expected to clean up when this happens :)

We hope you enjoy your classes with HDC and dont get lost.

Key

- Buildings - Under Cover
- 1 Pre-class assembling points
- Wheel Chair Access ramp
- Water tap
- Wheelie bins
- ♻️ Waste and Recyclables Poo Bags