

THE RECALL

Where obedience meets fun

NEWSLETTER • TERM 2 2025



Established 1963

From the Executive

Hello and welcome to all our members and instructors. We're all looking forward to a fantastic Term 2 with classes from Baby Puppy up to Grade 4/5 running throughout the term as well as a number of events to look forward to (see the Dates to Remember below). As you'll see in the Annual General Meeting article, there have been some changes to the Club committee. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of the out-going committee members and office bearers for their fabulous service and dedication to the Club while at the same time welcoming the in-coming members. I look forward to working with you.

We're hoping for a Term that runs smoothly now that we're moving out of the hot weather. For those new to the Club, please check the 'Ready for Class' reminders article later in the newsletter that outlines Club expectations. Even established members might like to refresh their knowledge of these principles just to be sure we're not letting anything slip.

I hope everyone comes to see and be proud of this club as a well-rounded group of people who are keen to learn about and develop strong relationships with dogs as pets and

companions that are social and well-mannered members of the community and perhaps to aim for testing their skills in the vast range of dog sports available these days.

Our positive, reward-based training systems have largely kept pace with modern science-based research of animal psychology and canine education. We aim to be as inclusive as possible for people and dogs and honest when we don't have the answers for individuals.

Our Facebook page and website will provide you with information about club events, training tips, special workshops and important dates.

Remember that our club rooms are dog friendly, and you are welcome to come in and have a 'cuppa'.

See you there.

Meredith Marshall

Obedience Class times

Baby puppy classes

Wednesday 9.15–9.45am

Older puppies from 4 months old & Beginners

Wednesday 6.00–6.30pm

Advanced Beginners

Wednesday 7.00–7.30pm

Classes 1, 2, 3

Sunday 8.30–9.00am Term 1
9.30–10.00am Terms 2, 3 & 4

Classes 4 & 5

Sunday 9.30–10.00am Term 1
10.30–11.00am Terms 2, 3 & 4

Term dates 2025

Term 1 Wednesday: Enrolment* 29 January, Training 5 February – 2 April
Sunday: 2 February – 30 March

Term 2 Wednesday: Enrolment* 23 April, Training 30 April – 2 July
Sunday: 27 April – 29 June

Term 3 Wednesday: Enrolment* 23 July, Training 30 July – 17 September
Sunday: 27 July – 14 September

Term 4 Wednesday: Enrolment* 8 October, Training 15 October – 3 December
Sunday: 12 October – 7 December

*New members

Club dates to remember

Sunday 8 June - King's Birthday weekend, no training

Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 June - BODC Tracking Trial

Sunday 15 June - Lake walk with Greg and Clive (instead of regular training)

Sunday 21 June - NADAC Agility Trial

Sunday 17 August - Obedience and Rally Trial

Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 November - Agility and Jumping Trial



Annual General Meeting

Wednesday the 19th of March saw us gather for our Club AGM where we welcomed in new executive members and committee. As the new president of the club, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank and welcome all our 2025 committee members and Instructors.

The committee is comprised of a nice mix of previous committee representatives and some new faces as well, which I think augers well for an energetic and balanced team representing all the members of the Bendigo Obedience Dog Club.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to our retiring President, Sandra, and Secretary, Heather, and the retiring committee members and Instructors who have seen this club through many, many years of positive change and development. I'm very glad to say these outgoing committee members will still be around to share their skills and knowledge.

It will be a steep learning curve for me to navigate this new role as President but with an experienced and enthusiastic team working alongside and a solid well-structured base to work from, the task will be less onerous than it might have been.

Our new executive team is made up of Alexandra Gartmann, who drew the short straw and took on Secretary which is the hardest role in any committee; Sarah Crocker has been our Treasurer for a while now and is keeping a close eye on the 'purse' to ensure we have a sound financial footing; and Denise Chrystal is the Vice President, who will no doubt, be a great resource and support in working with the State Body of Dogs Victoria with which our club is associated.

Our Facebook page and website are being updated by some of our new committee. Our memorial gardens are being regenerated by more members of our committee.

Thank you in advance to all the people who share my desire to build on the past and manage the many challenges that lay ahead for all volunteer-run organisations.

The Club's AGM is open for all Club members to attend and is held on the third Wednesday in March each year. Thank you again to the committee and executive committee members, both past and present.

Meredith Marshall

Have a question for Bendigo Obedience Dog Club?

Talk to one of our committee at training, or email
bendigoodcmembers@gmail.com

Meet your Committee

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| President | Meredith Marshall |
| Vice President | Denise Chrystal |
| Secretary | Alexandra Gartmann |
| Treasurer | Sarah Crocker |
| Committee members | |
| Jodie Bajada | Rob Hopman |
| Dale Cousins | Clive Hughes |
| Nicole Cramer | Sian James |
| Julie Fainges | Deb Wain |
| Merle Hopman | Bryn Wedgeford |

Committee Spotlight

Name: Alexandra Gartmann

Why I joined the committee: I

discovered BODC post COVID. I gained so much from the club so when I was asked about joining the committee, I didn't hesitate. I wanted to contribute something back to our volunteer-run club.

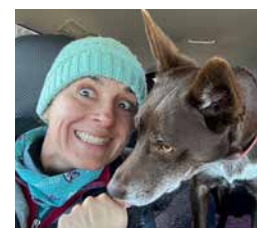
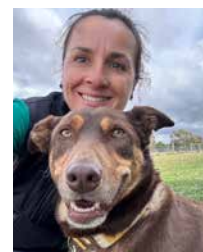
Dog's name/s: Ruby and Murray

Activities I do with my dog at the Club: Ruby has high drive,

laser focus and loves to please: successfully competing in agility, tracking, tricks, scent work, rally and yard dog trials. Unfortunately Ruby is currently rehabilitating after a fractured elbow, so will slow down in 2025.

Murray is all about having fun: tried agility, can do tricks if there's rewards, attempted obedience and rally – but is now thriving with scent work. We finally found his sport!

Fun fact: Ruby was born the day the Ruby Princess docked in Sydney and accelerated COVID spread, hence the name.



Name: Bryn Wedgeford

Why I joined the committee: I

wanted to get involved in the club and be helpful

Dog's name/s: Torben

Activities I do with my dog at the Club: Obedience, rally,

scent work, tricks, and hopefully tracking soon.

Fun fact: Torben is bilingual! His cues are German but he understands the English as well.





2025 Scent Work Novice Trial

The 2025 Novice Scent Work Trial garnered a massive 200 entries in four elements. This included the highest number of Club entries to date, eleven handlers and twelve dogs: Dale Cousins & Coco, Denise Chrystal & Timothy, Sian James & Maggie, Barbara Farwell & Bingo (scratched), Chris Jones & Hank, Jillian Collier & Issy, Bryn Wedgeford & Torben, Donna Blanks & Hugo, Julie Fainges & Zariah, Erica Schelfhorst & Pi, Alexandra Gartmann with Murray & Ruby. Congratulations to all members, many of whom were entered in their very first trial or scent trial. Overall participants achieved 103 qualifications and five Scent Work Novice titles. A great outcome and experience for all.

Many thanks to those helped with the loads to set-up on Saturday! Club members: Nicole Crameri, Jodie Bajada, Bryn Wedgeford, Sian James and Julie Fainges loaded and transported the equipment to the showgrounds. We checked and cleaned the testing sites, erected gazebos and tarps, and set up the admin. Thanks to Heather Turpie for the trailer loan.

On Sunday, more volunteers joined the judges and Dogs Victoria representative Lindy Gumpold. Many thanks to our judges: Simone Daley, Leonie Kelleher, Angela Hervey-Tennyson, and Sonja Needs who were ably assisted by



Hugo with his certificates and ribbons from the Novice Scent Trial.
Handler: Donna Blanks.

Key points:

- 23 March 2025
- Bendigo Showgrounds
- 200 entries
- 103 qualifications gained
- 5 Scent Work Novice titles

Are you interested in trying scent work? Talk to one of the committee members at training to find out more.

Meredith Marshall, Deb Wain, Colleen Mulquiny, Eileen Perry, Jan Moore, Lee-Ann McInnes, Sharon Donaldson, Julie Merrifull, Karyn McSweeney, Caro Anderson, Dale Cousins, Clive Hughes, Sandra & Brian Crowley, Sarah Crocker, Sarah Franks, and Nicole Cameri.

More volunteers assisted competitors to their search areas – especially important at a Novice trial where many competitors are trialling for the very first time. Thanks to Pam Childs, Janelle Convery, Rebecca Kearney and Annemaree Ryan.

Of course, the catering by Heather Turpie and Sandra Price with food donations from Janice Osborne was fabulous and a small way of thanking the judges and volunteers on the day. Other Club members assisted with the food: Erica Schelfhorst, Chris Jones, Sian James, Alexandra Gartmann and Julie Fainges.

Special thanks must go to thanks to Nicole Cameri for her help, advice, problem solving and work prior to and during the trial. And, along with Steve Kent, for organising search vehicles, and packing up on Sunday. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Nicole's business, Everything K9, was our generous sponsor with gifts for placings in all elements. Twelve happy exhibitors left the trial with lovely new training equipment.

Thank you to all – I hope I haven't missed anyone but if I have, many thanks to you as well!

Denise Chrystal
Scent Work Trial Secretary



OBEDIENCE TRAINING

Meet the instructors

| TERM 2 | |
|--|--|
| Wednesday Classes | |
| Baby puppies (9.15am) | Denise Chrystal |
| Older puppies (6pm) | Meredith Marshall, Alexandra Gartmann |
| Advanced Beginners (6pm) | Rob Hopman, Merle Hopman, Sian James |
| Beginners (7pm) | Meredith Marshall, Alexandra Gartmann, Sarah Crocker |
| Sunday Classes | |
| Class 1 (9.30am) | Greg Hicks |
| Class 2 (9.30am) | Sarah Crocker |
| Class 3 (9.30am) | Merle Hopman, Nicole Crameri |
| Class 4/5 (10.30am) | James Browne, Clive Hughes |
| Class 4/5 – ring craft (10.30am) | Merle Hopman |
| Special Disciplines | |
| Agility (Sunday morning*) | Meredith Marshall, Alexandra Gartmann, Sarah Crocker |
| Tricks (Tuesday night*) | Denise Chrystal, Nicole Crameri |
| Scent Work (Thursday night f/n*) | Heather Turpie, Sandra Price |
| Assistant Instructors | |
| Rob Hopman (Sundays), Clive Hughes (Wednesdays), Max Donovan, Sian James, Sarah Franks | |

* Check times with instructors.

What activities can I do with my dog at BODC?

Bendigo Obedience Dog Club supports members looking to do different activities with their dogs. The club regularly holds workshops in different disciplines and instructors offer help and training advice.

- Tracking
- Rally & Obedience
- Track and Search
- Agility
- Tricks
- Scent Work

Do any of these interest you? Further details of training that is available at Club can be found on our website. Scan the code to find out more, or email bendigoodcmembers@gmail.com



Instructor Spotlight



Name: Sarah Crocker
Why I became an instructor: I offered to fill in for an Instructor for a couple of months who had a broken foot. A dozen years later I'm still here! It's addictive and very rewarding.

Dog's names: Bolt (4yrs Border collie cross Staffy) and Jay (2yrs Murray River Retriever).

Activities I do with my dog at the Club: Bolt, Agility, rally and Obedience. Jay, just started training for tracking and aim to do Rally at our trial in Aug.

Fun fact: Maybe TMI, but Bolt does a little squeak of a fart when he gets off the bed in the morning!

Name: Merle Hopman
Why I became an instructor: I'm a former music teacher with Dept of Education. I have been associated with the club since 1990 and trained with my sheltie Jemma. I've always been willing to share what I've learnt over the years and enjoy seeing the progress of handlers and dogs.

Dog's names: Jesse, Sheltie, and Myfanwy, Sheltie.

Activities I do with my dog at the Club: Jesse and I are working on Rally Masters and Obedience Open. Myf is a learner but is a bright little girl eager to find fun in everything.





Congratulations Graduates – Term 1

Congratulations to handlers and their dogs on their graduation in Term 1.

With a heat affected Term 1 there are some members who couldn't attend sufficiently often for them to be assessed. These people stay in their class or may be assessed when back in Term 2 to see if they are capable of working at the next level. If you do not see your name in the Graduations list please check with your instructor.

Graduation information

- Handlers and dogs graduate at the end of term if they are ready.
- Graduation is judged on the overall progress made throughout the term and the handler's ability to utilise the training methods.
- There is no actual graduation test.
- Instructors will discuss graduating with handlers and dogs not ready to go into the next class level.
- Instructors welcome questions from handlers and will endeavour to assist where possible.

Scan the code to find out more



www.bendigoobedienceclub.com/general-training.asp

| Baby Puppies to Older Puppies | Older Puppies to Advanced Beginners |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bianca with Meeko | Bailey with Luna |
| Kathy with Sprocky | Chloe and Finn with Coco |
| Gracie with Pippa | Sasha with Willow |
| Vicki with Benji | Gabrielle with Tucker |
| Imogen with Bailey | Kahlia with Buck |
| Brooke with George | Older Puppies to Class 1 |
| Michelle with Darcy | Brooke with Daphne, Edmund |
| Rhonda with Bobby | James with Turbo |
| Beginners to Advanced Beginners | Advanced Beginner to Class 1 |
| Jenny with Teddy | Amy with Tess |
| Heather with Leela | Helen with Betty |
| Dan, Tess and Caitlin with Storm | Trish with Poppy |
| Charli with Loki | Janny with Betty |
| Grace with Echo | |
| Rhianna with Dre | |
| Bridget and Declan with Banjo | |
| Brooke with Frankie | |
| Class 1 to Class 2 | Class 2 to Class 3 |
| Sarah with Pippa | Liz with Abby |
| Merle with Myf | Chris with Jack |
| Gina and David with Lunna | Wendy with Lola |
| Tayleur with CeCe | Vivian with Sullivan |
| Emma with Freya | Sharnee with Chilli |
| Kahlia with Blinkey | Hayley with Beau |
| Maree with Louis | Kate with Myrtle |
| Jo and Warren with Gino | |
| Amanda with Frodo | |
| Class 3 to Class 4 | |
| Bryn with Torben | |
| Jeeves with Dixie | |
| Daniel with Milo | |
| Adele with Merlin | |
| Kate with Harper | |
| Tina and Kim with Gondo | |





OBEDIENCE TRAINING

Training Goals – Living in the Penthouse Suite

It is important to have training goals for you and your dog. What does the view from your Penthouse look like? Is it competing in dog sports, a dog that doesn't jump on your visitors, or something else entirely?

Everyone's perfect view is different, but how we get there is the same – we take the stairs. As much as we would all love to use the express lift to get straight there, we need to take the stairs step-by-step so our dogs learn and understand each stride along the way to build their knowledge. If we skip too many stairs, learning and understanding is lost.

Here's an example – a child learns $1+1=2$ but next time they sit down to do some maths, we ask them to do algebra. We've taken the express lift to the Maths Penthouse and the child is missing the necessary skills and understanding to complete the problem.

In training, we can ask our puppy to come from 1m away and we get success, but if the next time we call it from the far side of the oval, we've taken the express lift to the Penthouse again. The puppy doesn't have the understanding or skills needed to recall from such a distance.

So, instead, to build that understanding, we do lots of short recalls of 1–2m, then 2–3m, slowly building the distance and remembering that with increased distance comes added distractions that the dog needs to overcome. When we build skills incrementally, we're taking the stairs.

Sometimes we also have to go down a stair. Adding a distraction such as being out on the street is already a kind of step up, so we might need to take a step down and do lots of little, short recalls again.

Sometimes taking the stairs means that the steps forward in training are so small we don't even notice the progression. If you feel like you are "getting nowhere", stop and think



In training, we can ask our puppy to come from 1m away and we get success, but if the next time we call it from the far side of the oval, we've taken the express lift to the Penthouse again. The puppy doesn't have the understanding or skills needed to recall from such a distance.

about where you were with this particular exercise 1 week ago, 1 month ago, etc? Checking in like this shows us that: yes, we are progressing – rather than thinking only about the Penthouse and feeling like we are failing because we are not there yet.

Whatever your training goals and whatever the view from your Penthouse looks like, always remember to take the stairs!

Sarah
Instructor

Training Reminder – Heat Policy

If on a Tuesday, the Bureau of Meteorology's weather forecast for **Wednesday is for 35°C or over, practical training is cancelled**, no matter what happens on Wednesday.

Members are invited to come for a DVD or an information session – do not bring your dogs.





OBEDIENCE TRAINING



Training Reminder – Storms

There will be **a post on the club Facebook page by 2.00pm on Wednesday if training is to be cancelled** due to heavy rain, wind or storms.

As with the heat policy this will remain in place even if the storms pass closer to training time as it is too hard to let people know at the last minute.

Ready for class? Things to remember

We all look forward to our training days and we want everyone to get the most out of the sessions offered by BODC volunteer instructors. The following are a few things that will help ensure that everything runs smoothly and that disruptions are minimised. We only have a precious 30 minutes after all.

- **Footwear**

For safety reasons, please ensure you are wearing sturdy, closed in footwear at all times.

- **Parking**

Parking behind the clubhouse is restricted to committee members and instructors. Please keep roadways clear to ensure ease of access for all using the carpark. You will need to park on the road if the carpark is full.

- **Dogs are to be on lead at all times unless instructed to be off lead by an instructor**

Off lead play before or after class needs to occur on the tennis courts or in the puppy pens. While your dog may be okay, it may cause stress or over excitement for other dogs.

- **Signing in prior to class**

Please ensure you sign in prior to starting class each week. After your first session, you'll have a name badge. Please wear it to every session. Signing in and wearing your badge are insurance requirements.

- **Watch your dog please!**

Watch what your dog is doing before and after class and in between exercises. Eyeballing the dog next to them (causing the other dog to react) and marking on equipment must be avoided.

- **Arrive early**

If you are late the instructor can ask you to leave to keep class harmony and dogs settled.

- **Yellow vest – Give Me Space**

Give other members and their dogs who are wearing a yellow high-vis vest space before and after class as well as during training. Please show your respect and support for these handlers and their dogs by giving them ample space.

- **Mobile Phones**

Don't use your phone in class! If you are expecting an important call, please inform your instructor – remove yourself from the class prior to answering. Check with the instructor prior to re-joining the class.

Remember, to get the most out of your training, practise what you learn in class each week at home! 10 minutes every day makes a difference.





OBEDIENCE TRAINING

Volunteers make our Club tick

Bendigo Obedience Dog Club has been operating for 60 years and over that time many, many volunteers have contributed to supporting thousands of dogs and owners to have a more positive relationship.

From instructing to helping classes, to keeping grounds maintained and helping communicate opportunities and insights. There have also been many volunteers who have worked to help the Club operate efficiently, develop new training programs, and create facilities in which we can learn with our beloved canine companions.

From time to time you might hear about events or trials being hosted by our club. There are always plenty of opportunities to help out at these dynamic days. Coming to and volunteering at an event is also a great way to see what that aspect of dog training is about and maybe to find a new outlet for you and your dog to pursue with BODC.

We can't thank our volunteers enough for all the time - which when taken collectively is hundreds and thousands of hours over the history of the Club - they offer so that the Club can be a vibrant and active hub for Obedience and other dog training.



Are you interested in volunteering at BODC? Talk to a committee member or email bendigoodcmembers@gmail.com to find out more.

Club Sponsors

Bendigo Obedience Dog Club thanks our valued sponsors for their support.



We'd love to hear from you!

Do you have any feedback for our newsletter, or maybe you have your own training journey to share, please let us know. Email bendigoodcnews@gmail.com

The contents of this newsletter have been carefully compiled by volunteers and are believed to be correct at the time of publication. Neither the Executive nor the Committee of BODC will be held responsible for any errors or omissions relating to the contents of this newsletter regardless of cause.