

# THE RECALL

*Where obedience meets fun*

NEWSLETTER • TERM 3 2025



Established 1963

## From the Executive

### **Welcome to the Winter Term!**

Last week I competed at an event in Bendigo where the temperature didn't get over 6°C and there was thick fog well past midday. Anyone with sense would have been in by a nice fire or heater, however, dogs generally love working in the cooler conditions so there I was with many other enthusiasts from across the state having fun in various sports with our dogs.

In Term 2 Bendigo Obedience Dog Club hosted a range of events:

- Tricks Trial in May at the Finn Street ground.
- Tracking Trial in June on farmland at Woodstock on Loddon.

These were both very busy events and many of our club members successfully trialed at them.

Thank you to our great instructors who volunteer their time week after week each term and have done so for many years, in all sorts of weather to run classes.

Welcome to our new volunteer instructors and class helpers, your knowledge and enthusiasm to assist members and share your skills is greatly appreciated.

During Term 3 we lose some of our amazing, experienced instructors to annual holidays so this year we have made the

difficult decision to not run a Beginners class. The Beginners class is for dogs aged over 8 months and not previously trained at BODC. The club is proud to offer safe and effective training, and this is not possible with a shortage of experienced instructors and helpers. The Baby Puppy class at 9.15am on Wednesday mornings and the Older Puppy and the Advanced Beginners classes will run as normal at 6.00pm on Wednesday evenings.

On Sunday 17th August we have our Obedience and Rally Trial, helpers are always welcome and can make the day run smoothly for all concerned. Contact Sarah Crocker if you have even a few hours to spare. There are lots of different jobs and helping at a trial is a great way to learn whether you aim to compete or just improve your own skills.

Our old toilet block has now been removed and two Portaloos are in place temporarily near the grandstand, the accessible toilet near the carpark is available as well. The new toilet block will be installed at the carpark end of the ground with completion due in December.

*I endeavour to learn from my dogs, the people around me and the science-based studies that are building our understanding of canine behaviour. I hope you are learning from your dogs and the other members of the club and enjoying your classes. Having a cuppa and a chat after class is a great way to share experiences.*

Keep learning and stay warm.

**Meredith Marshall**

### Obedience Class times

#### **Baby puppy classes**

Wednesday 9.15–9.45am

#### **Older puppies from 4 months old & Advanced Beginners**

Wednesday 6.00–6.30pm

#### **Beginners**

No Beginners class in Term 3

#### **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 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 17 August** - Obedience and Rally Trial

**Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 November** - Agility and Jumping Trial

**Sunday 3 December** - Christmas training day



## Meet your Committee

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

## Committee Spotlight

**Name:** Deb Wain

### **Why I joined the committee:**

I found that training at the club was so welcoming and I wanted to do my bit to help out.

**Dog's name/s:** Pyxis trains at BODC but we also have Adi

**Activities I do with my dog at the Club:** Pyx and I training in Obedience and Rally-O as well as Agility.

**Fun fact:** I didn't know there was such a dog as a full black kelpie before I met Pyx. I also didn't know they're sometimes called a Barb.



**Name:** Jodie Bajada

### **Why I joined the committee:**

My experiences with the club have been positive, so I wanted to give back to the club.

**Dog's name/s:** Tazzie and Pepper

**Activities I do with my dog at the Club:** Tazzie is with me at club; we're doing obedience and tricks, with more to come!

**Fun fact:** I'm original with my names – Tazzie is from Tasmania, hence his name!



## No Obedience Training

**Sunday 17 August**

There is no Training on Sunday 17 August due to our Obedience and Rally Trial being held at Finn St. Come down and have a look on the day (no dogs).



## 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 they offer – which when taken collectively is hundreds and thousands of hours over the history of the Club – so that the Club can be a vibrant and active hub for Obedience and other dog training.

### Have a question for Bendigo Obedience Dog Club?

Talk to one of our committee at training, or email [bendigoodcmembers@gmail.com](mailto:bendigoodcmembers@gmail.com)

### Are you interested in volunteering at BODC?

Talk to a committee member or email [bendigoodcmembers@gmail.com](mailto:bendigoodcmembers@gmail.com) to find out more.



# NADAC Agility Trial

***On Saturday the 21st June 2025, BODC was delighted to host a NADAC Agility Trial run by Paws to Consider.***

It was a really cold day (and we mean cold – the coldest June day on record for Bendigo) and the fog refused to lift for the whole day but even that couldn't dampen our spirits! Three of us – Donna, Dale, and Deb – were pretty new to agility trialling and I think it's fair to say we were all a bit nervous but we were expertly guided and supported by the experienced trialers and our instructor Meredith.

The human-dog teams had the opportunity to run through Regular Agility, Jumpers, Grounders and Tunnellers runs. Each different ring set-up provided its own challenges and rewards. There were some surprises – apparently Pyx (Deb's black kelpie) really likes the Grounders despite Deb assuming she wouldn't find it very interesting, and as it turns out Donna's Hugo is "a sucker for the contacts [elements that require the dogs to walk/run over equipment such as an A-frame or dog-walk] as well as the tunnels".

The lovely thing about a NADAC trial is that all the humans competing have a job to do to help run the day and it makes you feel very involved. The mood is welcoming and everyone was so encouraging. Dale pointed out how great it is "hanging out with all of the Bendigo team" and what a "buzz it is to watch the dogs and handlers really nail an element".

We'd like to thank Shirlene from Paws to Consider for her ability to establish such a lovely tone and for all of the amazing work she does on the day, in the lead-up, and after events.

We think Donna sums it up best: "My toes felt frozen, my light grey trackies were filthy with mud after about an hour and Hugo was a soggy doggy most of the day... but it was a fabulous experience and we look forward to the next NADAC trial soon!"

### Deb – Agility participant







*Its a pawfectly fun place at our club!*



*Scent Work classes*



*Obedience Training*



*Tricks Classes*







## TAIL-WAGGING TRAINING TIME

### Meet the instructors

TERM 3	
Wednesday Classes	
Baby puppies (9.15am)	Nicole Crameri, Denise Chrystal
Older puppies (6pm)	Alexandra Gartmann, Sarah Franks
Advanced Beginners (6pm)	Rob Hopman, Merle Hopman, Sian James
Sunday Classes	
Class 1 (9.30am)	Greg Hicks, Clive James
Class 2 (9.30am)	Rob Hopman & Bryn Wedgeford
Class 3 (9.30am)	Merle Hopman, Nicole Crameri
Class 4/5 (10.30am)	James Browne
Class 4/5 – ring craft (10.30am)	Merle Hopman
Special Disciplines	
Agility (Sunday morning*)	Alexandra Gartmann, Sarah Crocker
Tricks (Tuesday night*)	Denise Chrystal, Nicole Crameri
Assistant Instructors	
Clive Hughes, Sian James, Max Donovan, Jodie Bajada	

\* 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 has training/workshops in different disciplines and instructors offer help and training advice.**

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

Do any of these interest you?

Further details will be available on our website soon. In the meantime, speak to one of our instructors or email [bendigoodcmembers@gmail.com](mailto:bendigoodcmembers@gmail.com)

### Instructor Spotlight

**Name:** Meredith

**Why I became an instructor:**

I joined the club as a pet dog owner just wanting to do the 'right thing for my new dog.' I experienced positive, helpful support from all of the instructors and in learning about training my dog I learned about making me a better communicator. Now I try to share that same experience with other new dog owners.

**Dog's name:** I currently have my second Murray River Retriever, Isabelle.

**Activities I do with my dog at the Club:** My favourite activity is Dog Agility, however, over the years we have competed in Tracking, Track and Search, Rally, Scent work and Tricks, but in the main just having a happy willing canine partner is my favourite thing.



**Name:** Clive

**Why I became an instructor:**

After taking Sasha through obedience classes I wanted to give back, so began with being a helper and then on to instructing – all with Sasha. This also led to us being involved with Delta Therapy Dogs at local hospitals.

**Dog's name:** Sasha

**Activities I do with my dog at the Club:** Over the years we've done Agility, Scent work and Obedience. Sasha comes along to classes, assisting as well with the instructing.

**Fun fact:** I got Sasha when I first retired and came along to the Club to do obedience classes with her. Of all the dogs we met when we first started, she's now the grand dame at 12 years old!





## Congratulations Graduates – Term 2

### ***Congratulations to handlers and their dogs on their graduation in Term 2.***

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/obedience-training.asp](http://www.bendigoobedienceclub.com/obedience-training.asp)

Baby Puppies to Older Puppies	Older Puppies to Advanced Beginners
Judy with Maisie	Bianca with Meeko
Kaitlin with Honey	Kathy with Sprocky
Helen with Rosie	Vicky with Bengi
Tarran with Stormie	Imogen with Bailey
Chantal with Shera & Mini	Tania with Louey
Terri with Saya	Chevelle with Skye
Jacqui with Pebbles	Millie with George
Courtney and Kane with Coal	Jessica with Alan
	Kerry with Zena
Beginners to Advanced Beginners	Beginners to Class 1
Codie with Koda	Tori with Sullivan
Nathan and Rebecca with Maverick	
Jobe with Banjo	Advanced Beginners to Class 1
Brooke with Lottie	Michelle with Sunni
Kalan with Toby	Jenny with Teddy
Dianne with Pippa	Heather with Leela
Barbara with Halo	Bridget and Dylan with Banjo
Steve and Colleen with Ren	Gabrielle with Tucker
Xavier with Bandit	Sarah with Jay
Julie with Gracie	
Class 1 to Class 2	Class 2 to Class 3
James with Turbo	Sarah with Pippa
Janny with Betty	Gina and David with Lunna
Tanya with Rocket	Taylor with CeCe
Simone with Lucy	Kahlia with Blinkey
Jodie with Tazzie	Maree with Louis
Olivia with Chili	Jo with Gino
Juliet with Molly	Amanda with Frodo
Class 3 to Class 4	
Max with Tosh	
Joanne with Burrito	
Cheryl with Missy	
Hayley with Beau	
Class 3 to Class 5	
Damien with Chook	
Francis with Bravo	





## TAIL-WAGGING TRAINING TIME

### Tricks Training Tips

**Teaching your dog tricks is another way or strengthening your relationship. Here are some tips to help you get started:**

Firstly, it's often the case that less is more.

Whenever training in tricks (or other obedience skills), whether it's something as simple as a down-stay or something a little harder like a sit pretty (where the dog sits up and begs like Mutley in our logo – did we just catch you looking at Mutley at the top of the page?) it's important that while building duration you don't just keep asking for more. Just because your dog know how to hold for 15, 30, or 60 seconds, it does not mean you should always ask for that. Sometimes you should just set it up and release, and other times ask for more than what's required for the task.

This will become even more important as you move your training to different locations. Often if we change equipment, location, noise levels, or add distractions like other dogs or people, we need to go back to basics, to how we trained the trick or movement in the first place. As your dog build confidence, this will change over time; their muscle memory develops and they become solid in their training. Just remember to have patience and that dogs learn differently to people.

The second tip would be to develop your trainer's voice. To do this you need to emphasise and lengthen your vowel sounds, sharpen your consonants, and don't over-talk – keep your commands short and clear.

It's important to remember that dogs don't really learn words at the start of training, its more sounds and the



pitch of your voice. By elongating and emphasising vowel sounds, you ensure your voice commands can be heard and acknowledged over background noise or other human voices.

It's important that you stay consistent in the words you use, keep them short, and do not use the dog's name before the cue. The only time to add the dog's name before cue is if they have lost focus on you. Our dogs only have one name, and we don't want to wear it out. And always remember that if your dog is not luring into a position consistently and confidently, then they are not ready to start putting words on the trick or behaviour. Don't add the command until the dog understands the position required of them and is solid doing so.

Most importantly, have fun. If you're enjoying it, this will enthuse your dog to work with you on this strange new game that you're teaching them.

**TrickStar Tuesday Instructors**

### Give me space

Our club has adopted the yellow **Give Me Space** policy. Handlers with dogs who need a bit more space to feel comfortable will wear a yellow hi-vis **Give Me Space** vest during class time. Vests are available from the club house for use each training session.

**How much space do they need?** We estimate that 4–5 metres is best. But watch the dog, their handler, and your dog and adjust accordingly.

Be aware of your dog's behaviour and of your surroundings whilst at training. Anyone who refuses to wear a yellow vest when asked to do so, will not be permitted to train.

For full information, visit our website or scan the QR code.





## TAIL-WAGGING TRAINING TIME

### The Hierarchy of Treats

**As instructors at the club, we often hear the frustration of beginner handlers.**

Statements such as, “He’s great at home...”, “She’s not interested in food...”, or “It’s only here or on walks or if there are other dogs around, he doesn’t listen. He’s so distracted.”

All true, of course, and normal. But why?

Well, to be fair, to our dogs we are boring. We repeat ourselves over and over: “sit, sit, sit, heel, heel, heel” all in a monotoned voice while moving at snail’s pace. We are not exciting or fun, so we aren’t engaging them very well in the beginning.

How are we to compete with all the smells on an oval, or all the joyful heightened dogs in class? We need to understand the hierarchy of treats and it will be different for every dog. Some dogs genuinely aren’t as motivated by food as others, and some don’t care about tug toys no matter how fancy they look.

There are many ways to train, but I don’t work for minimum wage so why should your dog? Often, in terms of food treats, the smellier the better. Using real meat, fish, kabana, cheese, or an SPD (single protein diet) type of roll that you just use for training, such as wild boar, turkey or salmon. So before deciding what to use, we need to find what the dog values most. Place out 3–5 choices of tiny bits of each food, at a distance from each other. What does your dog go to first? Let them eat it all, but note which choices they make.

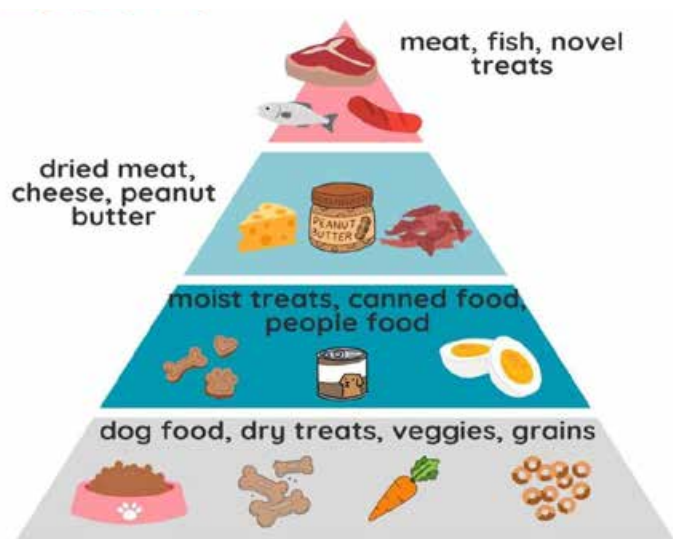
Toys are next, if you throw a ball, the dog is engaging with the ball, not you. You are a means to an end. If you are on the end of the toy playing with them, then that increases your value and the toy’s worth in terms of a training treat. If you ask for a sit then straight back to play, the reward comes very fast. Engaging in play before and after work elicits rapid behaviour change. You now have greater value. Try it for a week. Train every day for 3–5 minutes in the morning.

Bring a non-squeaky toy to club that only gets used before and after working. Try the tug toys or ropes to get you dog to focus before we do the boring stuff, and then go straight back into the game.

On club training days, don’t feeding your dog before class. If they get normally get breakfast, halve it, because a hungry dog is keen to work. All the treats used in training should be from the dog’s daily allocation of food, not extra to their requirements.

Finally, when you arrive at club, make them wait till they are calm before exiting the car. Check in and do a walk with varied pace; they need to spend time with you.

**Sian James**



### DOG TREAT HIERARCHY

Image courtesy @scallywagsdogtraining

*We need to understand the hierarchy of treats and it will be different for every dog. Some dogs genuinely aren’t as motivated by food as others, and some don’t care about tug toys no matter how fancy they look.*

### Did you know we have a library?

That’s right! In the club house there is a library corner where you can borrow a various range of books – all to do with dogs!

Dogs in general, or specific breeds, there’s also early editions of The Recall newsletter.

It’s an honour system, and we’ll gladly accept donations as well.

Ask a committee member if you’re interested to see what’s available to borrow.







## TAIL-WAGGING TRAINING TIME



### 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.

- **Arrive early**

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

- **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.

- **Collar and lead**

We encourage everyone to aim to train their dogs in flat collars. However an alternative, such as a harness or martingale, may enable the training outcome in a safer manner. Their use is implemented after a review of purpose and fit with your instructor.

Your lead should be longer than a metre as short leads restrict ability to train the skills we aim to teach.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Lots of treats!**

We want to reward our dogs. Special soft treats with high reward value (eg cooked sausage, devon, cheese) aid with training. Make sure they are easily accessible (in a pouch is ideal).

- **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.*





## STAY PAWSOME!

### CLUB SPONSOR

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**POP UP SHOP**

**Sunday 17 August**

**at the Obedience and Rally Trial, here at Finn St Reserve**

Fun-filled and adventure-ready products for your dog, for home and away!

**[www.zaliandco.com.au](http://www.zaliandco.com.au)**

### *Our website is getting a refresh!*

You may have visited our website recently and noticed a few changes!

Changes are taking effect over the next few months, so for now, if you're after specific information, talk to one of our committee and we'll be able to assist with any questions.

Feedback is always welcome! Email [bendigoodcnews@gmail.com](mailto:bendigoodcnews@gmail.com) with your suggestions.

So for now, don't sit, drop or stay – scan the QR code or go to **[www.bendigoodobedienceclub.com](http://www.bendigoodobedienceclub.com)**



## Club Sponsors

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



**KONG**



**ZALI & CO.**

## *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](mailto:bendigoodcnews@gmail.com)**

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