

1963 – 2013 History of the Club

IN THE BEGINNING

Mid 1963, Anne Jackson placed an advertisement in the window of Bill Allen's Pet Shop in Dispensary Walk, asking for people who were interested in dog obedience training to contact her. Anne's first enquiry was received by Dorothy Nolc, who owned an Airedale Terrier. Anne and Dorothy joined with about fifteen other people who trained and worked together for some months as an informal group.

Other members of this initial training group included Jill McMaster (Jill Terry at that time) of Kadnook Kennels, Christine Kelly of Curltriever Kennels, Hans Adam and Alma Ridding.

Training progressed and members of the group discussed their shared interest in competing in obedience trials. They agreed to form a club and sought an affiliation with the Kennel Control Council of Victoria (KCC), (now known as Dogs Victoria). The group accepted the KCC approved constitution and made an application for affiliation on 19th December 1964. The application was granted on 3rd May 1965 and cost three pounds and three shillings. The Bendigo Obedience Dog Club (BODC) was officially formed, with Anne Jackson as the first president and Roma Jeffrey as Secretary/Treasurer.

In July 1984, the BODC applied for incorporation and became the Bendigo Obedience Dog Club Incorporated.



Anne Jackson



Ricky

SEARCHING FOR A HOME

1963	→ Londonderry Oval
1964	→ Girton College oval
1966	→ Carpenter Street
1967 (circa)	→ Lake Weeroona
1975 (circa)	→ Sports Centre/Park Road Hall
1978 (circa)	→ Lake Weeroona
1979	→ Centenary Park
1981	→ Ewing Park
1982	→ Sandhurst Centre (now the Finn Street Recreation Reserve)

Training was held on the Londonderry Reserve however, when it became clear that the group would continue training they began looking for a more suitable training ground. Anne Jackson was a house mistress at Girton College at the time. She arranged a meeting with the College and was granted permission to use the college's small fenced oval as a training ground. This was much safer for the dogs than the Londonderry Oval as the dogs had progressed with their training and were now working 'off lead'.

In 1966 Anne Jackson married and moved to Carpenter Street. Training sessions were held in her backyard and new members Anne Bernhart, Kaye Straede and Fred Cowie joined the club.

Training at Lake Weeroona - 1969

As the club continued to grow, room to train became a priority. Training moved to Lake Weeroona for a few years, but as the membership grew, the available lawn space dwindled. The training site had provided a high profile for the club, with many visitors to the lake stopping to watch the dogs at work.



Around 1975 the City Council granted BODC access to the Sports Centre and Park Road Hall. Training was conducted on an unkempt area which was littered with broken glass, rocks,

pipes and other assorted rubbish, with the Hall only utilised on wet days. As membership continued to increase the oval area was incorporated into the training area for some classes.

An unfortunate dispute with the Athletics club, where the club was wrongly accused of leaving dog droppings on the oval, resulted in the City Council requiring the club to find alternate training premises. For the interim, the club relocated training sessions back to Lake Weeroona while a more suitable area could be sourced.

The BODC commenced training at Centenary Park in 1979. The ground was across the road from Lake Weeroona looked to be a positive prospect as a permanent home for the club. However, the City Council advised that the area would be developed into a hard court tennis centre and the BDOC were once again looking for a home training ground.

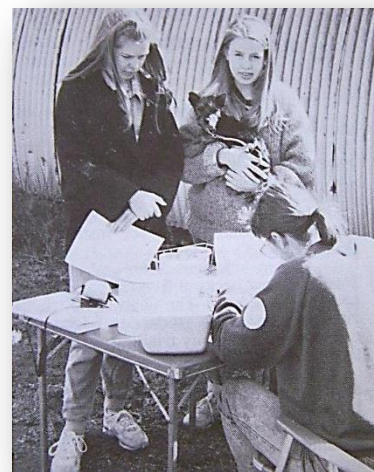
Ewing Park was made available to the club which offered a well maintained oval. It was to be shared with a soccer club, which sometimes caused distractions. Some of the players arrived early for their training and often posed distractions for the dogs and handlers as they kicked their soccer balls amongst the dogs. The proximity of a creek on the edge of the park also offered some distractions for dogs who loved to swim. On a more sinister note, in 1981 an unknown person laid baits around the area and club members had to be vigilant to avoid any contact by their dogs.

BODC considered construction of permanent club rooms at Ewing Park. The timing of this decision occurred during a dispute between the local councils over the costs for the provision of sporting facilities: in order to justify its claim that it was meeting an unfair share of the costs, the Bendigo council announced plans to introduce a 'user pays' system. The BODC committee was advised that annual rental for Ewing Park would rise from \$280 to over \$3,000. This cost increased with each trial and fun day conducted, resulting in an overall cost of approximately \$5,000.

The club dispensed with plans for making Ewing Park a permanent home and gave serious consideration to options for a permanent residence for the club and its members. Some of the options included schools, ovals, paddocks and buying land with club funds.

In 1982, after almost twenty years as a club and moving from training ground to training ground, the club moved to the Sandhurst Centre, near the Ordinance Factory. The premises

**Sharon bacon enrolling
puppy class members**



offered a large oval and wide open spaces. The area contained a number of nissen huts and was a residential Centre for intellectually disabled adults.

BODC members Peter Hargreaves and Chris Pascoe approached the Manager of the Centre, John Freeman, who made the club welcome, subject to departmental approval. 1982 was the year that BODC found a home.

The club had settled into the Sandhurst Centre and were looking toward a bright future. However, the future of the Centre was not certain as sales of the excess land on the Reserve was being negotiated.

The Victorian Government altered the Reserve's boundary line to include the BODC club house, which had originally been one metre to the oval side of the building. The BODC's occupation of the Sandhurst Centre was overseen by the Finn Street Recreation Reserve Ground Management

EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES, BUILDINGS AND HARD WORK!

The BODC equipment developed over time, with the lack of permanent storage space limiting what the club could own in the early years of training. During the 1970's, whilst the club were training at the Sports Centre and Park Road Hall, the club had possession of one set of jumps, a card table, a fold up chair and a large wooden lockable packing case, sourced by member Graham (Bill) Austin. The equipment was locked away in the Park Road Hall for safe storage.

When the club relocated back to Lake Weeroona from Park Road Hall, Chris Pascoe built a caravan to use as an office and for storage of equipment. This caravan is still used as storage at the club grounds today.

In 1982 when the BODC members entered discussions with the Sandhurst Centre to make this location their home they thought the location would be ideal. There were plans to

The club Caravan



include a second oval and the facility offered storage space in some of the old buildings where the club would be able to store their equipment. The caravan was moved to the Centre and used as the office and in anticipation of the planned oval, the club erected a shed close to the proposed site as a permanent office and store. So confident were the members of BODC that they poured a concrete floor for the new shed. The oval was never constructed and in 1991 the shed was dismantled and sold. Club members consoled themselves with the idea that the shed was never the hoped-for clubhouse; it was remote from the training ground and did not have power.



Puppy playtime at the Sandhurst Centre (now the Finn Street Recreation Reserve)

In 1986 the BODC Christmas break-up was a very wet day. John Freeman, who was in attendance as usual to present the winner's prizes, took pity on the club and opened the old bootmaker's shop for the club to use. It had been used as a storeroom by the Centre and with a quick tidy the grateful club members came in out of the rain. John indicated that the club may be able to use the room permanently and a few visits to his office over the next few months resulted in a set of keys. With keys in hand, the big clean up began. Faye and Clive Jackson, with Tric and Mo Thorpe all equipped with brooms, mops and a trailer, turned the room into a comfortable home for the club with the Centre's goods neatly stowed away in what was to become the club's kitchen area.



Flag pole repairs. Jennette Stiles, Len Stevens and Clive Jackson 1993



Geoff Delmenico, Ken Howe, Nathaniel Delmenico, Lexie Barber, sprucing up the outside of the club house

access to the entire building and permission to renovate as they wished.

It soon became apparent that there was a lot of work to be done. The exterior of the building needed painting, some boards needed replacing, spouting had to be cleaned and repaired, security mesh was necessary for the windows and many, many other jobs required attention. The working bees started and were widely supported by the fabulous members, which made renovations progress quickly. The old nissen huts surrounding the newly spruced up club house seemed a little shabby in comparison when the renovations were complete.

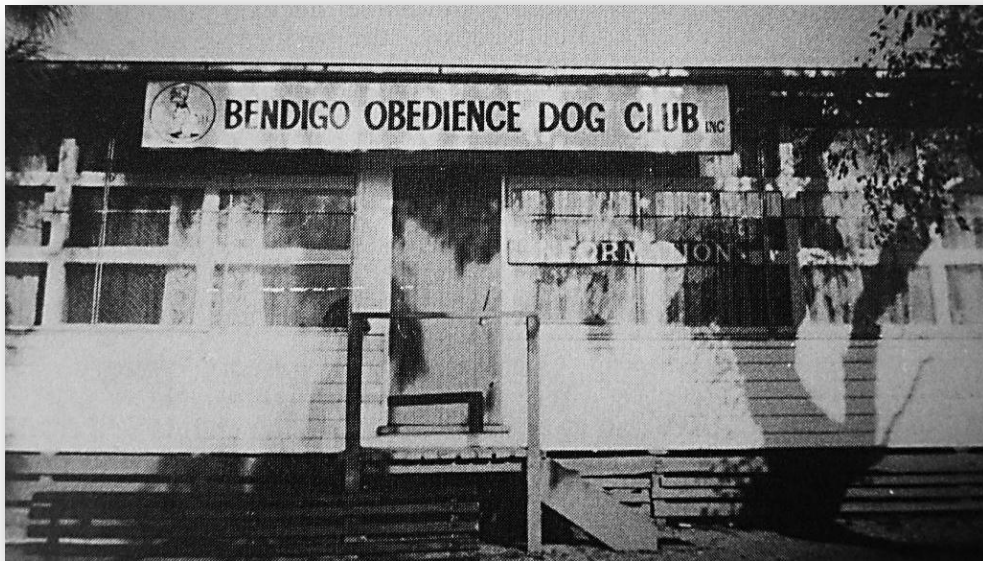


Fred Cowie, Mario Marrone, Doug Dellar, Nick Atyeo erecting the Finn Street sign

Attention then turned to the interior of the building. The mess was a legacy of years of the carpenter's sawdust which stuck to everything. There was grease everywhere and holes in the walls and floor where machinery had been removed. An electrician had to be engaged to ensure the area was safe as power was still connected to the cables which had been cut off at floor level. It was a daunting task but thanks to the drive of Faye and Clive Jackson, and the help from a handful of members, this area was transformed into a spacious and welcomed home for the BODC members.

The oval was also given a make over, with the grandstand repaired and painted. The fence and concrete retaining wall around the oval removed and trees pruned.

The Sandhurst Centre was eventually renamed the Finn Street Recreation Reserve and in 1993 the club house was officially named after our Patron, John Freeman.



BODC – 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



The original dog cart pulled by Shannon & Cleo, with Kristy Pascoe (age 5) collecting donations for the RSPCA

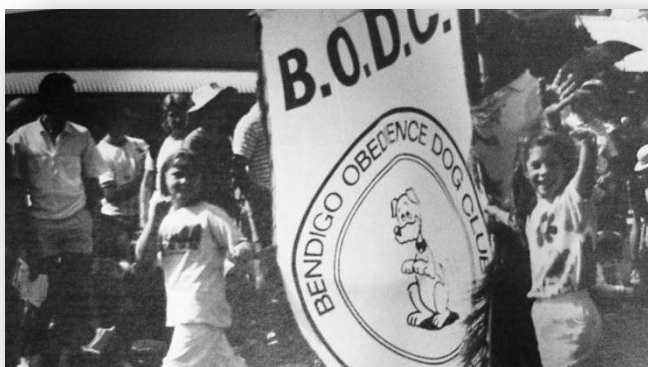
In the early 1980's the Club took the decision to have a greater role in community affairs. The annual RSPCA fund raising event held in the central business district and Marong Village was supported by the club on a number of occasions and over \$1,200 raised. These events not only raised money for the RSPCA shelter, they also provided important socialisation for the dogs.

In 1985, in conjunction with the KCC, the BODC participated in an open day for local primary school children as part of the state wide Children's Week. Thirty nine local schools were invited to send pupils and their

dogs to a Beginner's Class, then to go onto an observation of the other classes training at the club and to witness a display by the club's demonstration team. Although the program was discontinued, those children attending enjoyed their morning and some later joined the club.

Junior handlers

The BODC has encouraged children to participate in training and learning dog behaviour. From time to time in the past, special child handling classes have been undertaken. Today, the club has children training with the adults and although some of them need a little more attention, our child handlers have shown great handling skills and an understanding of their dogs.



Junior members leading the Easter Parade

Many of our child handlers have gone on to compete and gain titles in a variety of competitions including agility, tracking and obedience.

The Anne Caudle Centre

The BODC members and their dogs began visiting the aged patients at the Anne Caudle Centre in 1984 on a trial basis. The visits originally were held outside, with patients taken to the garden to visit with the dogs. By 1993 the dogs were visiting the wards and giving and receiving attention from many of the patients and staff.

Ken Howe and Tessa at the Anne Caudle Centre



Continuing Education Course

Dot Heffernan, a volunteer worker with Continuing Education suggested that a basic obedience class could be conducted through the Continuing Education system.

The courses commenced in 1988 and each course ran for a six week period. Called "It's A Dog's Life". Club instructors volunteered to run the courses and the club received a percentage of the student's fee for attending the course. The courses were well supported and raised substantial money for the BODC.

The Bendigo Easter Fair

There is a long tradition of attendance at the Bendigo Easter Parade. On a number of occasions the club prepared a float. In 1982 the BODC caravan was decorated with flowers

and posters of the club's dogs and titles. Other floats included a large dog kennel on a trailer, constructed by David Bayley, Tony Lawler, Darren Cartner and Terry Ryan.

In 1993 the club festooned all the dog collars and leads with flowers in keeping with the year's theme 'Bendigo in Bloom'. The club was awarded the 'Best Entertaining Animal Entry' which carried a cash prize of \$150. The club has also received numerous encouragement certificates from the Easter Fair Society.



Club members at the 2012 Easter Parade

In recent years the club has not participated in the parade, mainly due to dwindling club membership. In 2012 the BODC returned to the Easter Parade and received great feedback from the general public, with the dogs providing great enjoyment for the crowds.

Each Easter Parade has been followed by an influx of new members, making this event a very worthwhile one for the BODC.

School Education Programme

The BODC was actively providing responsible pet ownership education for schools and in 1991 became involved in the Victorian Canine Association's School education programme. The club collected a variety of educational material to present to schools in respect to responsible pet ownership. The material ranged from colouring pictures to word find games suitable for classes from kindergarten to grade six. Twenty four educational worksheets were developed to compliment the presentation by club members. The educational kits that the club produced were all funded by the BODC.

Demonstration Team

Over the years the BODC has participated in many community activities displaying the rewards that can be achieved through club participation.

Demonstration teams have included obedience and agility displays and have been conducted at fetes, community days, shows, pet week promotions, RSPCA fundraising days,

country fairs, schools, Royal Melbourne Show, gymkhanas and other events. These activities have also been conducted in Bendigo and surrounding districts.

Interclub competitions

These one day competitions were played for club trophies and forged great friendships between interclub members. The competition was fierce but conducted in a friendly manner. Clubs from Geelong German Shepherd and Obedience Dog Club, Shepparton, Wallan, Rottweiler Club of Victoria, Altona Obedience Club and the Dobermann Club have all competed in these interclub events with Bendigo.

Recall Newsletter

The BODC's first newsletter was produced after the Annual General Meeting in 1977. The first newsletters were a one or two page document, produced monthly. The newsletter was named 'The Recall' in 1983.

During the 1980's the club purchased a duplicating machine to produce the newsletter. By this time it was beginning to grow in size, with more pages of information. In 1989 the club purchased a small photocopier to produce the newsletter and in 1991 a larger copier was obtained to produce the increased need for the now larger newsletters.

The current format includes club information, training dates and special events, training tips, recipes, club member profiles and photos of members and their dogs.

Previous issues of the club newsletter are being placed into electronic form and will be available on the club internet site.

'Mutley' The club mascot

In the late 1970's the club decided to have a car sticker made for members. Club member Chris Pascoe did some drawings and the mascot character of Mutley was born. Mutley first appeared on the club letterhead in 1981 and the club banner in 1985. Mutley is now incorporated into the club logo and used on all club clothing and documentation.

The Library

Over the years the club has collected a wide range of books, magazines, dvds and videos. Everything from picture books for children to training manuals and educational dvds. These are all available to club members for loan.

Club Room Walls

Perhaps one of the best traditions that the BODC has in place is the title photos. Each club member who achieves a title provides a picture of their dog to be placed onto the wall. These photos have attracted a great deal of attention and admiration over the years. They

are a great talking point and generate a lot of memories for club members and visiting competitors alike.

In 2013 club members volunteered their time to strip all the photos from the walls and clean the clubhouse ready to be painted. This was a task that hadn't been done for twenty years. The walls were repainted, with thanks to the great work of club member Greg Hicks. The photos were cleaned, sorted and signs displaying the name of the discipline in which the titles were achieved were also added to the wall. The photos are in dated order and exhibit the wonderful achievements of the club members.

A Life member board is also displayed on the club room wall and trophies from club members adorn the high windowsills.