

The Tararua Tailwagger

Newsletter of the Tararua Allbreeds Dog Training Club

Winter 2015

Volume 3, Number 2



Another term over and hopefully another group of handlers and dogs who have learned a lot. We also hope that both people and dogs have enjoyed themselves (give or take a little bit of rain!).

We have tried something new this term – the Advanced class has been “off campus” for half of their classes. It has given dogs (and handlers) some valuable experience in a slightly different setting.

We hope to see a good few of you back for classes next term. Meanwhile, don't forget to practice – and its amazing how much training can be done inside where it's warm and dry.

Term dates for 2015

Term 1 (at Ashhurst)
27/01/15 – 17/03/15

Term 2 (at Longburn)
07/04/15 – 26/05/15

Term 3 (at Longburn)
9/06/15 – 28/07/15

Term 4 (at Longburn)
11/08/15 – 29/09/15

Term 5 (at Ashhurst)
20/10/15 – 8/12/15

Location of training

In Ashhurst we train at the Manawatu Canine Centre grounds, accessed through the carpark on Cambridge Avenue

Our Longburn facility is in Ngaire Street (first turn on the right after the railway overbridge)

Class times

Classes times will be given out on the first night of term.

Classes last for 30-45 minutes.

Your committee

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| President: | Anthea Finlayson |
| Vice President: | Sue Cooper |
| Secretary: | Cushla Fitzwater |
| Show Secretary: | Cushla Fitzwater |
| Treasurer: | Nerolie Morrison |
| Senior Instructor: | Robyn Bland |
| Club Captain: | Nicky Redwood |
| Newsletter Editor: | Sue Cooper |
| Trophy Steward: | Meredith Pitcher |
| Members: | Renee Dunbar Kristin Elliott Nathan Morrison Owen Morrison Chris Tews |

Training tip

When living with, and training, a dog, all you need to remember is *dogs do what works* to get what they want. It's your job to make sure that what “works” for your dog is what is acceptable to you. Dogs are also master trainers in their own right – after all, they haven't got a lot to fill their days. They will very quickly train you to do what they prefer if you're not careful! Make sure you remain in charge.

Behaviour tip

Remember to take your dog's breed into account when considering it's behaviour. Retrievers carry things around and love water. Beagles follow scent trails and can become selectively deaf while doing so. Spaniels chase birds. Guarding dogs guard. Huntaways bark. So do terriers. Herding breeds herd (the kids if nothing else is available). And so on. This doesn't mean you (or your neighbours) have to put up with unacceptable behaviour, or that you have to settle for a lesser standard of obedience. But it does mean you may have to be more persistent or inventive with your training, and more careful with your management.

"In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog that will worship him and a cat that will ignore him."

-- Dereke Bruce





Well term two has rushed by with a mixed bag of weather. Some very cold nights and one very wet night.

Thank you to all our instructors who volunteer their time and come out each Tuesday night regardless of weather to help our students with training their dogs.

Congratulations to all those students who passed their class this term. And to those who didn't quite make it, don't despair, look at how far you and your dog have come this term and don't forget any time spent working with and training your dog is time well spent.

Please talk to your instructor about the training options that are available to you next term. We only have a one week break between terms so classes recommence at 7pm on Tuesday 9th June here at Longburn. Please consider enrolling before you leave tonight so we have an idea of class sizes for next term or alternatively enrol via our website. Also don't forget, only the Advance and Competition classes need to bring their dogs with them on the first night.

We will be holding a working bee to keep up with the grounds maintenance on Saturday 6th June at 2pm. If you can come along and give us a hand for an hour or two it would be appreciated. Bring your gardening gloves and tools, secateurs if you have them.

On 29th and 30th August the club will be holding our annual Championship Obedience Show weekend. This year for the first time we will also be holding Championship Rally O. If you think you may be interested in either of these dog sports, please talk to your instructor or stay behind after your class one week and watch the competition class or ask some questions about Rally O (which is currently taught as part of our Advanced class). We are always looking for helpers over the weekend and baking donations.

As always, keep up the good work with your dog and don't forget in the reduced daylight to be safe and be seen.

Anthea

Recent Competition Results

| Club | Show* | Date | Handler | Dog | Test | Place |
|-------------------|-------|----------|------------------|--------|--------|-----------------|
| Wairarapa | Ch | 22/03/15 | Anthea Finlayson | Hunter | Novice | 3 rd |
| | | | Robyn Bland | Lucas | Novice | 4 th |
| Wainuiomata | Ch | 26/04/15 | Anthea Finlayson | Hunter | Novice | 3 rd |
| Wanganui | Ch | 3/05/15 | Cushla Fitzwater | Bella | Novice | 2 nd |
| Napier | Ch | 9/05/15 | Anthea Finlayson | Hunter | Novice | 4 th |
| Central Allbreeds | Ch | 16/05/15 | Anthea Finlayson | Hunter | Novice | 3 rd |
| | | | Sue Cooper | Frost | Novice | 5 th |

* Ch = championship show, RT = Ribbon Trial

2014 Club Trophies

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| TADTC Cup (most improved dog) | Kristin Elliot and Aster |
| Tararua Perpetual Trophy (most improved dog and handler) | Kathryn Simmonds and Henry |
| Brunswarick Desperado Points Cup (overall points) | Cushla Fitzwater and Bella |
| Quesan Hot Fudge Trophy (Novice) | Cushla Fitzwater and Jeopardy |
| The Critter Cup (for Working Trials) | Cushla Fitzwater and Bella |

Congratulations to Cushla and her dog Cassie on achieving Working Trial Champion status. As the story below shows, this is not an easy qualification to get – Cushla and Cassie are the first handler-dog team to complete this qualification while members of Tararua.

Here's Cushla's story:-

“Our first introduction to tracking was a demo at the end of year fun day at Tararua Allbreeds DTC.

We went to the tracking seminar in Levin when Cassie was 3 years old and while we did okay at the initial peg tracks it was the night track that blew me away. Cassie could do it!

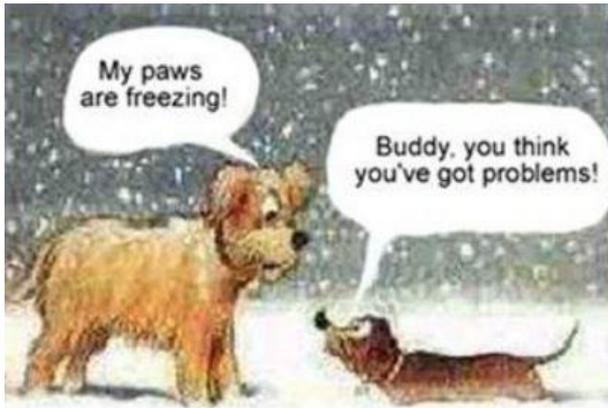
We puddled our way along and with the help from a lot of people, finally, two years after we started we achieved our first UDX, then at the next qualification weekend we gained two more.

In WD she loved the search! We spent another two years in WD before we finally finished the track without help. Each time we were getting better and I always knew that by the time we were able to complete the track all the other tasks would be mastered. The first time we achieved our WD track I looked back at where we'd been, where we'd overshot a turn and ended up 50 metres away from the track but went back, found the turn and completed the track, and I just thought “Wow! That was so cool”. I couldn't get the stupid grin off my face.

Everyone says when you get to TD it's easy because it's just tracking! Famous last words! Achieving all three tracks [TD has a leash track, a free track and a hard-surface track] one after the other can be really difficult not to mention really disappointing when you don't quite get one! Two years for us to achieve that. Unfortunately the first one didn't have the elusive X on it. But finally after three years working at the TD level we achieved our second TDX, she did it the hard way by missing the free track article but only losing 11 points over the three tracks. What a relief!

So finally, at ten and a half years old Cassie has her Working Trials Champion to add to her Sled Dog Champion. While we had a lot of fun getting the SDCh it is small compared to the satisfaction of working as a team to achieve her Working Trials status.”





Manawatu's weather doesn't often get this extreme, but winter can be cold. A dog coat might be appreciated, and a warm bed certainly will be

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Frosts Facts

Hi. I'm Frost, and I live with the editor and make sure that she behaves herself and that my father Ice doesn't get ideas above his station. I provide some useful (hopefully) information in each newsletter.

Its that time of year when I remind your owner that it gets dark out there a lot earlier in the evenings, and stays dark later in the mornings – its less than a month until the shortest day. So its important to be seen when you're out walking. There are reflective vests like my one available quite cheaply, and in different sizes. Your owner can also buy a collar or lead with built-in flashing lights, or a little flashing light (available in different colours) to hang from your collar.

Its not a bad idea for owners to wear a reflective vest or belt as well, or at least light-coloured clothing. Remember, just because you can see the car, it doesn't mean the driver can see you.

We are sorry to hear the news that Robyn has lost her senior dog Chrissie due to illness.

Contact details for the club:-

Website: www.dogtraining.org.nz For training enquiries, phone Nerolie on 027 616 3083 (after 5pm please)