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

Happy 40th anniversary, Hills Dog Club!

Thank you to all of you for being part of our 40 year history. Thank you to all who contributed to this commemorative edition by telling their Hills stories, and an especial thank you to committee member and life member Belvane Parsons who kept club scrapbooks for the past 25 years.

Within these pages is a celebration of the club’s achievements, events and legacy over the past 40 years. I invite you all to enjoy it.

Of course, we still bring you our regular segments - The Scoop news, some handy dog info - this time on arthritis (page 11) - and a great ‘Stay’ story by Maureen Shepherd (page 10). In this month’s Instructor Feature, I’ve had the tables turned on me and was interviewed by fellow instructor Ryan Fergusson (page 8).

We also invite you all to the club’s AGM and Awards Presentation on 3rd April at the club house. It’s our opportunity to reflect on the year’s success, honour our members’ achievements and look ahead to the next year. Would you like to join us? We’d love to see you.

Ellen
Editor

Editors - Ellen Mok, Tony Vink

Graphic Designer - Tony Vink

Stewards are required for our trial May 11th, only three months away.

If you are interested in being a steward see Bob Watters (Gus’ dad) and find out what is required.

Pauline Hartwell will be giving a stewards’ clinic in the ring Monday night 15th April so come along and support your club by becoming a volunteer steward.
PROMOTIONS - FEBRUARY 2019

Beginners to Graduate
☞ Taryn with Itty Bitty the Jack Russell X
☞ Linda with Bonnie the Fox Terrier X
☞ Dave with Clyde the Fox Terrier X
☞ Todd Hartwell with Benson the Border Collie
☞ Ric with Gip the Maltese X

Graduate to Advanced
☞ Jessica Leckie with Heidi the Bernese Mountain Dog
☞ Lisa Hope with Andie the Weimaraner
☞ Gabriele Loft with Lucy the Brittany

Advanced to Triallers
☞ Louise Horton with Nessie the Bernese Mountain Dog
☞ Susan Adam with Toby the Border Collie
☞ Dave Clark with Clyde the Foxie X

Congrats to all our graduating dogs!
Hills District Kennel and Training Club Inc.

The History

The inaugural meeting for the club was held in March 1979. The club was named Inala All Breeds Kennel Club and was affiliated with the RNSWCC. 13 dog judges and fanciers had got together to form a club in the Hills area as the area became a popular place for dog people to live (closest clubs were at Blacktown and Parramatta). It was held at Inala because the President, Barry Langdon, of this club worked at Inala and a room was made available for meetings.

They held meetings once a month for approximately 2 years (1981) then moved to the grounds at Castle Hill Showground – still under the Inala name. The club applied to hold a breed show and were told by the RAS that they wouldn’t accept any charity sponsored shows so the name was changed to Hills District Kennel Club in 1981.
The first two shows in 1982 were Open Breed Shows and in 1984 they held their first Championship Show.

Obedience Training started on Monday nights in 1983 and they held their first Obedience Trial in 1986. Tuesday morning training was started by Jenny Schwebel in 1989 to give instructors time to train their own dogs and members were invited to attend as well. The club changed their name to Hills District Kennel and Training Club in Sept 1996. Introduced puppy classes in 1994 and introduced an 8 week training course with only soft collars to be used in May 1997.

John Rogerson was invited to the first dog training conference held in Australia as suggested by Dianne Atkins. 320 attendees - Proceeds were used by NCA for George Bell Pavilion refeb. - The first 12 month Instructors Course run by Dianne Atkins was introduced with 16 members participating. Club changed name to Hills District Kennel and Training Club Inc.
**A club manual was presented to the club to be used in Beginner classes by Chief Instructor Dianne Atkins and accepted – this took a number of meetings as it was very controversial because of the No Check Chain/soft collars only clause – It was passed the following meeting May 1997**

**The Instructors’ Manual and Pet Education Booklet was completed and published. 1998 Instructors Course run -- 17 members participated.**

**A new trialling class was introduced to the club to cater for new Triallers.**

**New building opened with club donating $83K towards buildingns**

**Instructors Course started 15 members participated.**

**Instructors Course run - 14 members participated**

**OUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENTS...**

**Dianne Atkins** Learning that rewarding works in all walks of life. My grandkids are really benefiting from this:) the power of positive is so true!!

**Rachel Lawler:** Put it this way, before I joined the club my day job had absolutely nothing to do with dogs whatsoever... and now dogs are literally my whole life.. and I am lucky enough to work with them everyday because of what the club 'sparked' in me.

**Bob Watters** Becoming an instructor.

**Vicki Gresser** Besides what I have achieved with my own dogs I would say all the learning I have done from the club and lecturers that have helped me become the best positive reward trainer I can be and in turn I can give that back to the club and also help others and as Dianne says positive reward can be used in all ways not just for dogs.

**John Rogerson 1998**

**John Rogerson 1998**

**Opening of new buildings 2006**
Training manual update - Classes changed to accommodate different levels of students - Introduction of the ring for trialers.

Name change to:
Hills Dog Club

K9 Companion Award introduced

60 Club Instructors! John Rogerson revisited

Hills Dog Club turns 40!
OUR FAVOURITE INSTRUCTORS

Michelle Raymond: During my 4 years at HDC, all the instructors have been absolutely fantastic, each with their own style and personality. Whether they stand out for gentle correction, expert tips about footwork, help with correcting behaviour, inspiring us to improve, making us laugh, helping us achieve a skill or imparting their passion for training, they are all inspirational and memorable in some way.

Rosalind Oliver: For me it has to be Dianne. After many years I am still learning and trying out new things. The classes are never boring. She notices most things and I am sure she has eyes in the back of her head. Also Maureen and Judith who has helped me with working in the ring. Their experience and knowledge is amazing.

Vicki Gresser: I was terrified of going into Dianne’s class, we could hear her instructing her class on the field and she sounded tough. I eventually did, you didn’t get away with anything, she has eyes in the back of her head and never missed a check on the lead or you doing something you shouldn’t, but by God with so much experience and knowledge her students learn so much, and we all improved and became good positive trainers and those of us who trial received great advice too.

INTERVIEWING THE INTERVIEWER

By Ryan Fergusson

So we’ve all read a lot written by the editor of the Howler: her book reviews, editors notes and monthly updates on goings-on at the club. But how much do you really know about the mysterious young woman behind the paper? In an effort to find out about the person pulling strings at the Howler HQ, I sat down with her recently to get an insight into the life of Ellen Mok.

Ryan: What is your favourite dog breed?

Ellen: Wow, most people can answer that straight away can’t they? I don’t know yet. ’Cause most people would say the dog that they own, but I don’t own any. I mean I work with dogs already but I’m probably going to need to own some, and then the one that’s right for me is probably going to be my favorite breed. I’ve always dreamed of owning a Golden Retriever because they’re total goofballs, but my current dream is to own a White Swiss Shepherd.

Ryan: How did you get into dog training?

Ellen: A friend needed her dog looked after. And she had a very spoilt, very attached little dog that I was happy to look after for a month on the condition that I got to work with it first. Otherwise, I knew I was going to be in a load of trouble. So I started looking after her dog and I’d also walk another friend’s Lab for a while before she moved away. Both of those dogs were the willing recipients or possibly unfortunate recipients of my first training experiments.
but it kind of escalated from there. But I think the interesting thing is I started with training, I was never an animal person. I didn’t grow up with animals so I started very much from a training point of view as opposed to ‘I like to cuddle all the dogs.’

However, when I say “I was never an animal person” what I mean is I grew up terrified of dogs. I was the kid that if I went to someone’s house they would have to put the dog in the yard because I was too scared.

**Ryan:** Oh wow! When did that change?

**Ellen:** Don’t ask me how because I don’t know but I was probably about 12 or 13 before I stopped being afraid of dogs. I think actually, one day I was bored and, you know, looked up cute pictures of dogs on the internet. I discovered a whole blogging community where people pretend to be their dog and write things like: “what did I do today? I dug a hole.” And you know, that just doesn’t sound very scary. So I think I got interested after that, and it started as a very academic interest.

**Ryan:** What is the best trick you’ve ever taught to a dog?

**Ellen:** Probably what we call ‘Ava’s Blind Spot Check.’ That’s when I put my hands up to my face, make a scream face and tell her “BEHIND YOU!” And she turns and looks over her shoulder. That’s probably the best trick I ever taught because it’s completely useless -- it serves no purpose other than to be a party trick.

**Ryan:** How did you get involved with Hills Dog Club?

**Ellen:** Well, Steve Austin brought me in 2016 after I did their Statement of Attainment in Dog Training at Sydney TAFE, and afterwards we were like “Great! We’ve done this course. What do we do with this knowledge? Where can we take it?”

But I actually have to say that if it weren’t for Ryan I wouldn’t be here either, because he is the one who went to Steve Austin and said “Look, now we’ve done this course, what do we do next?” And Steve was like “Well Ryan, let me take you to this club.” And it just so happened that we were both local and that he was doing one of the lectures in the instructors’ course at the time. And so he said, “well actually I’m doing a talk there next week, you should come.” And we did! But I have to say that Ryan definitely prodded me a few times into joining saying “so are we gonna join? They’re starting up again next week, are you coming?” And it all worked out in the end and I’m so grateful to Steve, and Ryan for poking me, and you know, Dianne for taking us on as well.

**Ryan:** What is your favorite type of food?

**Ellen:** Ooooh goodness! Favorite breed of dog may be almost impossible, but favorite food HAS to be impossible. I guess my favourite foods that spring to mind would be anything with chicken and anything with peanut butter. Have I spent too much time around dogs?

**Ryan:** (laughs) How about favorite cuisine?

**Ellen:** Oooo ok! Ummm. I could eat Japanese food for the rest of my life I think. I could eat Italian food for the rest of my life too. I always thought that if I had to pick one, yeah easily. Ramen, sushi, you know. All of it. I also have a special love for junk food.

**Ryan:** What your “go to” junk food?

**Ellen:** Gummi Bears.

**Ryan:** (laughs profoundly) So niche. That’s awesome.

**Ellen:** You asked!

**Ryan:** I did. And I’m not disappointed. At all.

**Ellen:** The world is a better place for having gummi bears in it.
The stay exercises should not cause any more angst than a dog being asked to “come”. It is not rocket science. Perhaps a more common sense approach might be adopted, for in continually doing trial group stays with a dog that has, or is beginning to have a problem, may not be the answer. A more natural practical demonstration once the dog knows the true meaning of the word stay, may be more beneficial. So to coin a modern phrase, it might just pay to climb out of the square you live in and try a simple straight forward living by what you have learned approach, to the dreaded stays, in asking your dog to remain where placed is a very normal and natural part of training, as easy on the mind as recall.

Most of us do not spend years training just for a blue card. We dedicate ourselves to enhancing the quality of life for our dogs, so that they may join in most of our daily activities without being a nuisance or embarrassment to others, and so becoming a true Canine Companion (CD). This is what it is all about. To be able to stay in a crowded room, a shopping mall, a park etc in a calm accepting manner, no demands. No expectation, other than quietly waiting for your return, is a most satisfying feeling for both. Ten little people were very satisfied with themselves Tuesday morning!
The ACT government is considering proposed new animal welfare laws, including one which bans “violent animal activity”, which includes using an animal to hunt, catch or kill another animal. However, the wording of the bill means that sports and competitions which do not involve live ammunition or game could be banned as well, with people taking part facing fines of up to $48,000 or jail time.

The ACT Gundog Society has spoken out against the ban. Their club runs two trials a year and they do not involve live ammunition or live game, only dummies.

One sport which could be affected is lure coursing. Lure coursing allows dogs to test their coursing instinct on plastic bags. It was developed as a way to test sighthound instinct, but it is an ANKC recognised sport for all breeds of dogs. And under ANKC laws, only plastic can be used as a lure. Other gundog sports involve the finding, flushing and retrieving of game.

Dogs ACT is also in discussions with the government over the ban. Their president Simon Mills has stated, “These sports test the dogs’ original functions of finding, flushing and retrieving game only. A dog that flushes an animal before being cued, that chases any animal or that returns game that has been mouthed too hard is penalised.”

After taking community feedback into consideration, the bill will be introduced into parliament in the first half of this year.

Source: The Canberra Times

---

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY DOG HAS ARTHRITIS?

by Narelle - Puppies 1 Instructor

We know when our dog is getting on in years, the usual ailments of old age are bound to be an issue, just like us humans, however this can affect dogs at any age.

Some signs

- Lameness or limping even for a short time
- Difficulty getting up after a sleep
- Licking a joint
- Difficulty eating from a bowl on the ground
- No longer rushing to greet people or play with toys
- Avoids getting on the lounge or in the car
- Growls when someone is going to touch them
- Sad, unhappy, hard to motivate

Have someone else assess your dog – a friend may see things differently to you. When you see your dog everyday you may not notice the subtle early signs of arthritis.

What can I do to make my dog more comfortable?

A lovely soft warm bed and warm place to sleep

Keep them dry and out of draughts

Regular gentle exercise is good but not wild games or running after toys and balls across uneven ground.

For taller dogs putting their bowl on a stand so that they
from Sandy O’Neill

The most important thing is to make it fun for the dog.

HDC LIBRARY
Did you know that Hills Dog Club has an extensive library of books about dog training, behaviour raising and any other endeavour one might fancy in the world of canines?

You are hereby reminded, or made aware of this wonderful resource. I would like to encourage you to make use of this resource, there are many titles and much learning to be had.
OUR AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is on 3rd April 2019 at 7:30 pm in the Clubroom.

This last year has been difficult because we unfortunately lost both our Secretary, and our Trial Secretary.

These two positions are VITAL TO OUR CLUB, (along with many others).

I THEREFORE ASK THAT EVERY FULL MEMBER HAS A HARD LOOK TO SEE IF THEY CAN OFFER THEIR SERVICES.

The Secretary job is not overly onerous, and with an assistant, can be done fairly easily. If you can take minutes, use a computer, then you can do it.

Please try it, for our Club’s sake.

The Trial Secretary job is virtually a twice yearly job involving our two trials.

We have people who have done it before but now do other jobs, so plenty of help is on hand to help you.

All you Triallers think about helping us out here.

Both of these positions are currently vacant, so why not join us on the Committee and help your Club?

Gordon Fenbow

THE BEST THING ABOUT OUR CLUB...

Bob Watters: Making so many new friends with one thing in common, their dogs.

Vicki Gresser: The camaraderie and lasting friendships and that everyone is happy to help each other and all the students and the common goal we have to help people train their dogs to live in harmony with them and be good members of society.

Jess Vujcich: The people - instructors, admin staff, students and their families. Without them there is no club.

Maisy Neville: Positive learning environment.

Sandy O’Neill: Definitely the camaraderie ... and then looking at all the new dogs coming along and thinking which ones I would love to take home ;)

Ellen Mok: We’re a big club so there’s a variety of people (men, women, kids, young couples, retired people, different cultural backgrounds, occupations etc etc) and dogs (different breeds and temperaments) of all kinds at the club. I like seeing rare breeds or unusual mixes.

Tom Wilson: The Cakes

Holly Master: The shared love and interest in dogs

Sue-Ellen Fahey: The grass is good. No bindis, and kept mowed.

Passionate instructors. Lots of classes, so it feels like we’re being promoted regularly

Anne Salisbury: The help that is given us all by those in charge at HILLS A top dog club unlike any other:))

Karen Richardson: The wealth of knowledge and experience that is so willingly passed on to club members and the amazing lectures with guest speakers.

Alison Irving: It has to be one of the friendliest clubs around. So glad

Lisa Charles: wow it changed my dog for the better thanks to two fantastic instructors Kellie Neville and Barb Rock, two people who knew how to help.
A FEW OF OUR JOURNEYS...

Rosalind Oliver: I joined Hills in 1995 with my Cocker Spaniel Cinders. I was a very nervous beginner who knew nothing about training. Everyone was so friendly but also seemed to know a lot more than me. Cinders loved classes which at the beginning kept me going; she would wait at the door on a Tuesday morning ready to go. I do remember Anne with her 2 Goldies who would sit on a mat through class and only get up if asked. Very impressive. Morning tea in the old shed was always friendly and very welcoming. Cinders had a stroke, sort of recovered but always knew Tuesdays and kept coming right up to the end at age 14. I then got a Logatto Holly and thanks to the Hills and all I have learnt we now have our novice title. She is now 9 years old. So after 23 years Hills has been a great club.

Rachel Lawler: Photo from September 2013, so proud of our achievement to get into graduate class! Well I was anyway. I originally came to Hills with Kelly early 2013, because she was quite leash reactive and needed positive exposure around other dogs. We spent the first couple months slowly being able to work closer and closer to the class, until we were finally able to participate as a normal student in the class.

You wouldn’t know it now. Kel comes to the club every once in a while and is almost completely cool calm and collected.

We have a lot to thank the club for :)

Jeni Schwebel: I joined 1981. Small club very friendly never any problems. Met wonderful people who are lifelong friends and even though methods were different I hope I helped people. I am very proud to see many still there instructing I think because I saw their potential, put in some extra time with them and they put in so much time and effort to learn. I was chief instructor for a short while and Dianne took over. We had a lot of fun and I am still a member of Hills 38 years later.

Vicki Gresser: I first started in 1992 after moving from another club and suburb with my yellow lab Amber and Peter Guenther was my instructor in 1st class as it was then. I left after a few years but returned in 2004 with my black lab puppy Chelsea my instructor on that day was Anne Small. I have remained at Hills ever since.

Do you know Bob and Gus? Part of the furniture at Hills, always found ready to say a hello to new members and puppies at the clubhouse. Bob and Gus joined in 2012, when Gus was 4 months old. (All together now: awww!)
NOTICE IS GIVEN OF THE GENERAL MEETING

of Hills Dog Club Inc.

When:  Wednesday 13 March 2019 - 7:30pm
Where:  Meeting Rooms at Castle Hill Showground.
Who:  Everyone is welcome to attend.

AGENDA

1. Open Meeting
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of previous General Meeting
4. Business arising from the minutes
5. Correspondence
6. Treasurer’s Report
7. New members
8. Chief Instructor’s Report
9. Show Secretary’s Report
10. Trial Secretary’s Report
11. Publicity Report
12. Club YouTube Account
13. General Business

TELL ME ANOTHER ONE

Q: How do dog catchers get paid?
A: By the pound!

Q: What do you get when you cross a dog and a calculator?
A: A friend you can count on.

Q: What kind of dog does Dracula have?
A: A bloodhound!
HILLS HOWLER - MARCH 2019

GROUND RULES

1. As a condition of membership, all dogs are required to be properly vaccinated according to current veterinary guidelines.

2. Members are responsible at all times for the behaviour of their dog/s whilst present on the training grounds or representing the club.

3. 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. 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 and/or dog/s which are un-well or have an infectious condition are not permitted on the obedience training grounds.

6. Members are to pick up after their dog/s and help keep the grounds clean and tidy.

7. Adequate sensible dress with appropriate footwear (no thongs, scuffs or bare feet) is required to be worn by Handler during training.

8. 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. 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. Members who use Club equipment must ensure it is returned to the storeroom and stored correctly after classes are conducted.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND NEWSLETTER

All Club correspondence or enquiries should be addressed in writing to The Secretary, PO BOX 392 Round Corner NSW 2158 Hills Howler is available at the clubhouse on training days/ Nights and online. All members are encouraged to contribute.

For admin purposes, please keep us informed of change of email address.

CLUB MEETINGS

The club meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, except January, in the clubhouse. Meetings start at 7.30pm. All welcome! Tea and coffee provided. Club financial year is 1st January to 31st December.

NOTICE:

Election Obedience- and Rally Judges will take place at the general meeting every November

Would you like to receive your Howler via email?

Email us at: hillshowler@gmail.com
Subject: Send Howler

Check us out on Facebook – Like our page to get Club updates.

https://www.facebook.com/hillsdogclub/
FOR NOTICE OF CLASS CANCELLATION
In the event of extreme weather conditions (heat or rain)
Go to: www.hillsdogclub.com OR
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/hillsdogclub
Pages updated Monday 4pm &
Tuesday 8:45am

HILLS DOG CLUB - MEDIA CLIPPINGS

In these days of digital media one tends to regard the old newspaper with a bit of disdain, however, let’s see how well we can get clippings of our digital media in the next 40 years. ;-)

Tony Vink
The Hills Howler newsletter is written by members, for members. The views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the Hills Dog Club Inc. and the club does not accept responsibility for any information, articles or advice published. We welcome requests for articles and info, and also allow members to post dog/pet related notices at editors discretion. Members are encouraged to write and contribute letters, stories, with photos related to dogs and experiences with dogs. Share a joy or a sadness with us. Most web links on the digital version of this Newsletter are live and may be clicked to go to the appropriate site. Some images also contain web links.

Copyright Notice:
The Newsletter may only be reproduced in full without any deletions or additions. Some of the content in our Newsletter is protected by copyright. Please write us to ask for permission to use specific content before publishing elsewhere.