

**STOP PRESS:  
No Training  
Sunday 6  
March**

## **NEWSLETTER NO: 1 MARCH 2005**

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Well we certainly started off 2005 with a great roll up at Milton Showground, welcome back to existing members and hello and welcome to all our new members.

It is planned to produce a Newsletter every 2 months, so future editions will be in May, July, September and November. If you have any interesting articles or information you would like included please let me know. Also if you would like to take on production of a Newsletter for one of those months please see me at training – any help is most welcome!!

As announced at our first training session the Club was very proud to receive an award on Australia Day to celebrate our 25th year in 2004. For those who read the local newspaper you would have seen a very good two page spread on the Dog Club in October. In fact our articles in the local newspaper are very informative – did you see that great photo in this week's edition? Many thanks to Margaret for her excellent work as our publicity officer.

This year your full time instructors are Diane, Barbara, Julie, Sue, Janet and Bob. Robyn is in training and nearly ready to take her own class, Peter is available once a month and Jo can attend every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, Roy is available to take classes when needed. The plan is for Robyn to take over Class 1, Janet will then take Class 2. On the last Sunday of each month Peter will take Class 3 and Diane will take a Class for instructors and their dogs, starting at approximately 10.15am. As you can appreciate our instructors do not get the opportunity to train their own dogs in a class situation, so this will give them a great chance to do some work alongside other dogs.

If you took part in last year's Club Championship for the Lyn Brooks Trophy, yes it will be run again this year. However, there will be a number of changes to the format and a sub-committee of Roy, Diane, Janet and Bob has been formed to finalise the format by May, so that we can provide anyone wanting to take part with full details before they enter. The

main change is that there will be one compulsory section and then choices of events to enter, this should cut down on the number of weeks the competition runs. Another change is that there will be a separate trophy for the smaller dogs, and their competition will run in parallel with the Lyn Brooks Championship.

This year's big project will be the construction of our new shed alongside the Agility Ring. Roy has drawn up the plans and is liaising with Council so the development application can be submitted. Once the plans are approved we will let you know as we will be organising working bees.

### **HOW DO DOGS LEARN?**

Dogs learn by repetition of a pleasant experience, for example, the dog sits – it is given a reward. Dogs learn best by positive reinforcement. This means teaching the dog to perform a response to get a reward. The reward must be very desirable. Once dogs have learned a response, they remember longer if they are rewarded intermittently. Behaviours which are not reinforced or rewarded gradually disappear. This is the way to change an unwanted behaviour – ignore it, while rewarding the behaviour you want. (*extract from RNSWCC Obedience Instructors Manual*)

### **THE LEARNING PLATEAU**

In every learning curve there is what is known as a learning plateau. Your dog may suddenly appear to have forgotten things he has learned. This is only temporary so continue with training and perhaps go back to an easier exercise. Most importantly, BE PATIENT. (*extract from RNSWCC Obedience Instructors Manual*)

Newsletter enquiries to:

Janet – Secretary

4455 3137

email: [smithje@bigpond.com.au](mailto:smithje@bigpond.com.au)

Any contributions for May's Newsletter most welcome.