

**STOP PRESS:
Million Paws
Walk 21 May
2006**

Hello members

International Day of the Dog

Firstly a reminder that Sunday 30 April is International Day of the Dog and that straight after training a photo of handlers and their dogs will be taken, followed by a morning tea. The photo will be emailed to the UK for inclusion on the IDOD Web site.

<http://www.internationaldayofthedog.com/events.html> All most welcome and please wear a brightly coloured top if you are going to take part in the photo.

Off Leash Areas

Last reminder about proposed off leash dog areas - please provide Janet with details of any area you think could be considered, including a location map. The Club's committee will then work on a submission to present to Shoalhaven City Council.

Club Championship 2006

Both the Lyn Brookes and Marion Mann Championships will be held in 2006. These two Championships give the opportunity for all types of dogs to be entered, as the Marion Mann Championship is for the smaller dogs. The total points score possible is 150. The handler and dog achieving the highest score wins the Club Championship Award. In the case of a tie the award will be given jointly. All events may be completed on-lead, but a points deduction will occur where no lead is the required standard. A bonus points system will be established for timed events – e.g. Jumping and flyball. Entries close on 31 July 2006 and entry forms and information notes will be available during May.

Food Refusal

Please watch what your dog eats – don't let them pick up food scraps when you are out for a walk, it could make your dog very sick. Remember snail baits are poison to dogs and also that Fox baiting is often carried out in both National Parks and State Forests. A good exercise is to teach your dog to only take food on command – called food refusal, talk to Chief Instructor Diane or your class instructor, who will be able to give you some training tips.

How to be a Responsible Owner

For many people, owning a dog is a great joy in life. Being a responsible dog owner means ensuring your dog is registered, trained, healthy, safe, well cared for, and does not create a nuisance to other members of our community. Having your dog well-trained is important not only for your own enjoyment and peace of mind, but also for the safety and comfort of your own dog, other people and animals. It is important that it responds quickly to commands. Remember that you are sharing locations where you walk your dog with many different users. Not every person or dog is comfortable when approached by dogs with which they are not familiar. Do not give people an excuse to complain about dog walkers.

The Companion Animal Act requires that all dogs be under effective control at all times. This means that if your dog does not respond to commands quickly, it must be kept on a leash, even in off-leash areas. It must always be on lead when taken for walks in public places. This is important to limit the negative impact on the environment and to ensure the safety and enjoyment of other users. And please don't forget to take your plastic bag so you can clean up after your own dog. (*Amended extract from Council of Sydney website*)

RSPCA Million Paws Walk

The Dog Club demo will commence at 9.30am and run for approximately 45 minutes. We invite all members to come along and support both the Dog Club demo team and the RSPCA. The following information is copied from the RSPCA Web site -

Date: 21 May 2006

Location: Lions Park, Princes Hwy, Burrill Lake

Time: Registration from 9.00am, walk commences 10.30am.

Activities: Registration, Vet checks and gift bags, Dog club exhibition, craft stall, raffle, clown, dog wash, Lions merry go round, BBQ, cutting ribbon, St George Dragon.

Registration prices on the day: Adult \$5, Child/Concession \$3, Family \$15.

Contact: Nicole Rattenbury 0414 749 490

Newsletter enquiries to:

Janet – Secretary ☺
4455 3137

If you would like to receive your Newsletter electronically please send an email to:

miltondogclub@bigpond.com