



**THE HOBSONS BAY
OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB inc.
NEWSLETTER**



Volume 3, Edition No. 3

Message from the President:

What a great year we have had, our membership has grown to well over 200. Our fundraiser at Bunnings in July was a great success. Thanks to Janette, we received a generous donation from the Port Phillip council, so all in all the club is in a good position. In saying that we face a shaky future with the redevelopment of Murphy reserve but be assured we will be in there fighting for the best outcome for the club. Finally a huge thankyou to the committee members for all their hard work during the year and welcome to our new committee members Andrea, Michael and Rebecca.

Jim Couch, President

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Committee members announced at recent AGM:

At the club's Annual General Meeting on Sunday 19th September, the following members were nominated and confirmed as **Committee Members:**

Committee Members:

Andrea Trebble, Michael Scheurer, Phil Keeghan, Rebecca Markson, Sue Georgiou and Sue Porter.

Current Trainers and office bearers are:

Jim Couch: President & Diamond Class Trainer

Janette Wilson: Vice President & Beginners Class trainer

Vera Hume: Secretary & Silver Class Trainer

Jackie Couch: Assistant Secretary

Nick Georgiou: Treasurer:

John Frigo: Trainer Beginners Class

Glen McIver: Trainer Bronze Class

Tim Kraehe: Trainer Gold Class

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting are available in the shed-office for your further information.

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Diary Dates - upcoming events...

The Christmas break-up party (and last club day for the year) will be on **SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER**. More details to come about the Christmas break-up party activities. Training will resume **SUNDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2011**

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Vice President Janette has compiled a members survey asking for your feedback on how the Club is run, your likes/dislikes and any suggested improvements. A copy of the survey can be obtained from the shed-office. Your participation in completing a survey would be appreciated in helping make our great club even greater!

The proposed redevelopment of Murphy Reserve:

Port Phillip Council has advised the Club that plans are proposed to redevelop Murphy Reserve. The main impact to the Reserve and the HBODC is the development of wetlands in the reserve on the southeast corner of Graham Street and Williamstown Road, (primarily the area where beginners and Bronze classes are held). This will mean our club will need to relocate.

Vice President Janette has been the club's representative and has attended several Murphy Reserve Redevelopment sub-group meetings, held by council to discuss the impact of the proposed redevelopment on the various clubs who use and occupy recreational space and facilities within the reserve and how we are all likely to be required to 'fit into' the proposed redevelopment. The main impact from the proposed redevelopment is **on our club**. We have been given various options by council:

- To relocate within Murphy Reserve and share facilities with other clubs such as the pavilion and possibly the baseball or football grounds;
- To relocate to another reserve/park within the Port Phillip municipality, two options have been given to us at this stage: **Julier Reserve** - located between Gellibrand Road, Edina Avenue and Dunstan Parade or **Garden City Reserve** - within the boundaries of Beacon Road, Tucker Avenue and Crichton Avenue

Both these alternative reserves are located within dense housing (aerial maps are available in the shed-office for viewing), which is a concern for the club considering the nature of our activities, the day and time of day we conduct our training and other activities.

Specific issues which the club have raised with council representatives Joanne McNeill, Open Space Planner and Samantha Buckley Parks and Recreation Officer are:

- The club has been at Murphy Reserve for 50 years and we would like to stay;
- Due to our current location and public profile, our membership has steadily increased to over 200 members;
- Other locations suggested by council are not suitable due to the proximity of housing, parking difficulties and unsuitable/share arrangements for club rooms;
- Our requirement to have a club room in close proximity to our training area due to some dogs being untrained, and attendance of children, elderly and disabled members
- The use of heavy equipment at times on fun days that needs to be securely stored and not have to be carried long distances.

Majority of Committee and Trainers collectively visited the two proposed alternative sites with the council representatives on *Sunday 24th October* and concluded that both sites are unsuitable for our clubs activities and training needs due to:

- The close proximity of residential housing and the potential noise impacts;
- Inadequate parking for the number of club members cars each Sunday (approximately 30);
- No main road visibility for promotion of our club; and

- potentially not having exclusive access to our own independent clubroom or pavilion

On Monday 25th October, majority of the Trainers and Committee Members attended a council meeting where Vice President Janette put forward the clubs submission to the members of Council outlining how we as a club will be impacted by the proposed development of the wetlands and redevelopment of Murphy Reserve and why we (currently) cannot support the proposal.

Several other clubs who occupy and use the Murphy Reserve grounds and facilities also voiced their opinions on the proposed redevelopment plan namely, Soccer, Baseball, Community Garden Group, local neighbourhood group, and the Colts Football club. All were in support of the proposed wetlands and redevelopment.

Some of our clubs needs, Janette outlined to council Members as seen as minimum requirements considered necessary to maintain or relocate the club were:

- Main road exposure for advertising and important visibility.
- Separate entrance and separation from other sports for safety (providing for a wide range of member capabilities, and for untrained dogs)
- Clubrooms that dogs can enter, so that volunteers can provide one-on-one advice. Carpet is not suitable.
- Sufficient outdoor open space for training approximately 60 dogs per week. This space is also required for large training equipment on certain occasions.
- Secure space for storage, training seminars and social functions.
- Access to toilets.

Close proximity of clubrooms to training grounds. This is particularly important for registration of children, families, elderly and handicapped members, and for transport of large pieces of

equipment.

- Car parking - allowing for up to 30 cars on a regular basis
- Acceptance by locals and acceptance of the noise and proximity of dogs every Sunday morning.
- Safe grounds for training (safe from adjacent heavy traffic)

Our preferred option if the wetland *does not go ahead*, is that our club remains in our current location with some Council funding for improvements.

Our preferred option if the wetland *does go ahead*, is that our club remains in Murphy Reserve with a *dedicated clubroom* provided, and leases on the ovals as training grounds. All such modifications to be in place before work on the wetland commences.

The draft plan was motioned to go to consultation. Our submission will be formally lodged with Port Phillip Council.

Other news:

Congratulations to Mark and Border Collie Griff who at the Werribee Obedience dog Club on 24th October achieved their 3rd pass in the Novice competition with the Australian National Kennel council (ANKC).

This means that they now have their Companion Dog Title and Griff's pedigree name will be formally changed to reflect this. **Well done** to them both!

On a sad note ...

Our thoughts are with David Wood whose black cocker spaniel Avila (diamond dog class) passed away during the week of 11th October. Those who knew her will sadly miss her (and David's) participation at the club.