



THE HOBSONS BAY
OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB inc.
NEWSLETTER



Volume 4, Edition No. 1

Message from the President:

Last year was one of the busiest I can remember in my 13 years as President. We had **230 members** come through the club and I am glad they didn't all come at the same time each week! This year has started where last year left off. We have already got over **100 members**. We will be relocating from Murphy Reserve after 50 years. It's a little sad, but we should look to the future and work to make our new area the best it can be. I know all the Committee have been working very hard to this end, so thank you to all.

Jim Couch, President

--oo0oo--

Diary Dates - upcoming events for 2011

- **Sunday 15th May** - First trial/fun day
- **Sunday 5th June 2011** - Training at Garden City Reserve (not Murphy Reserve).
- **Saturday 28th May** - BUNNINGS BBQ
- **Sunday 7th August** - Second trial/fun day
- **Sunday 27th November** - Third trial/fun day
- **October** - (date and venue yet to be confirmed) we will be celebrating the club's the Clubs 50th Anniversary

--oo0oo--

As indicated under *Diary Dates* the club will be hosting a sausage sizzle at the BUNNINGS Port Melbourne Store on Saturday 28th May 2011 to raise additional funds for the club. **Please consider supporting the club and giving the committee a hand by donating an hour or two of your time on the day.** A roster is being drawn-up, so any assistance you can give on the day would be appreciated.

Please speak to Vera to register your interest in assisting.

Update on the HBODC Relocation.

As most people will be aware, our club will be moving out of Murphy Reserve in the near future. The Depot where our clubroom stands is to be redeveloped, and our training grounds will be developed into a water-recycling wetland. As mentioned to members and as a reminder, City of Port Phillip Council is working with our club to relocate us to the **Sandridge Community Centre at Garden City Reserve.**

We are working very closely with the Council to ensure that all of our needs will be properly met, and also that the residents in the local vicinity will be well-informed and comfortable with our move.

It is anticipated we will relocate by September this year. We will keep you informed of the proposed relocation, as information becomes available.

If you have any concerns you would like to raise regarding the move, please speak to either Jim or Janette.

--oo0oo--

Results of 2010 Member Survey.

Thank you to the members who responded to our Member Survey, held in 2010. As a result of this survey, HBODC will be making some improvements in our "obstacle course/agility" equipment and activities, as well as improving communication to our members about what is expected in each class and at each trial/fun day. We hope you enjoy the changes that we are planning.

Professional development for HBODC.

Keeping up with current trends in training and behavioural issues is vital for our committee and trainers. This year it is planned to have two professional development courses for Committee, Trainers and other guests. Our first course, dealing with behavioural problems, was held recently. We are committed to keeping abreast with current trends and dog behaviour, so we can help our members with the various issues that they experience with their canine pals.

Our first information session was run by *Underdog Training* on *Dog Psychology* and covered such issues as

- Understanding behaviour;
- Causes of behaviour problems
- Dealing with behaviour problems
- Extinction training
- Reinforcement
- Drive and the effect on learning
- Classical conditioning
- Separation Anxiety, hyper excitability, fear/timidity and various forms of aggression

What other activities are there out there for dogs?

Apart from obedience and agility, there are lots of other activities that you can enjoy with your dogs.

Recently Janette and Bingo attended a workshop in Canine Freestyle, better known as "doggy dancing". In a highly structured routine set to music, you and your dog must work as a team. This discipline requires focus, communication and trust - and it's a lot of fun!

For the less energetic, you and your dog would be welcome visitors to hospitals and nursing homes, as "Therapy Dogs". Bingo is being certified by the Victorian Canine Association as a Therapy Dog, and makes visits to entertain long term patients with his obedience and dancing routines, and to enjoy the pats.

See Vice President Janette if you are interested in any of these activities.

Things dogs must try to remember ...

I will not play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he is on the toilet
The garbage collector is NOT stealing our stuff
I do not need to suddenly stand straight up when I'm lying under the coffee table
I will not roll my toys behind the fridge
I must shake the rainwater out of my fur BEFORE entering the house
I will not throw up in the car
I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish etc.
I will not chew crayons or pens, especially not the red ones, or people will think I am haemorrhaging
When in the car, I will not insist on having the window rolled down when it is raining outside
We do not have a door bell, so I will not bark each time I hear one on the TV
The sofa is not a face towel, neither are Mum and Dad's laps
I must remember the nappy bucket is not a cookie jar
I will not wake Mum up by sticking my cold wet nose in her face.

Reprinted from Golden Retriever Club Newsletter, April 2009

--ooOoo--

Are you interested in becoming a HBODC trainer?

The club is seeking new trainers.
If you would like to know more, have a chat to President Jim.

--ooOoo--

DOG QUOTE:

My goal in life is to be as good a person as my dog already thinks I am.

Author unknown.

