



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



Volume 4, Edition No. 2

**Message from the President:**

Hi All

A few words about our club. Our club has been at Murphy reserve for just on 50 years. It's a community-based club that is run by volunteers. Our time at Murphy reserve is coming to an end, we will be moving to Garden City Reserve in late September. Over the years the club has been there to give assistance to thousands of people in and around the Port Melbourne area. It saddens me to hear that a few local people see our club as a threat to their park, or is it a park for all people to enjoy and use? One group likened the dog clubs relocation to putting a nursing home on the park. As you all know we are there for about one and a half hours a week. How could anyone compare that to building a nursing home on the park. It's a pity these people don't put their energies in to helping the community instead of their own agenda's. On a happier note the committee and trainers are looking forward to moving to a new location. We will have on site loos, our new rooms will be air conditioned and heated. We will also have use of the community centre rooms (Trugo Club) for the odd seminar.

**Jim Couch, President**

--oo0oo--

**Diary Dates - upcoming events...**

- **Sunday 21st August 2011** second trial/fun day
- **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2011** Annual General Meeting
- **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2011** third trial/fun day
- **October 2011 *Special event*** ... we will be celebrating the club's **50th Anniversary**. (date and venue yet to be confirmed)

**Meet Lydia Spicer our new trainee  
-trainer ...**



**How long have you been a member of  
the HBODC?**

I have been a member about 1 year.

**What was your first experience with  
dogs?**

I have had dogs for a long time.

**What is your current dog's name?**

My current dog is called Luna (named by my children, because she is black), she is a German Shepherd/Labrador cross and is 18 months old. She is the most challenging dog we have owned.

**How and why did you choose her?**

My youngest daughter chose her from a breeder at Castlemaine "my daughter would have died if she didn't have a dog!" Now Luna is Lydia's dog ... funny about that!!

**Ever thought what you might do if you lose your dog or find a lost dog?** Information from the City of Port Phillip Council (CoPPC) website might be helpful:

**What should I do if I've Lost my dog or cat?**

If you have lost your dog or cat, you can report it online using Council's eServices. If you prefer you can call ASSIST on (03) 9209 6777 or (03) 9209 6713 and ask for Animal Management. When making a report, please provide the following information:

- ≡ Microchip number (where possible)
- ≡ When and where the animal was lost
- ≡ Your name and a contact phone number
- ≡ A description of the animal
- ≡ The current registration tag number

If an animal fitting the description of your pet is found in Port Phillip, you will be contacted and asked to go to the Lost Dogs' Home to determine if it is your pet.

Refer to the Animal Registration page on CoPPC's website for details about life-long animal ID tags and Micro chipping which both increase your chances of getting your pet back.

**What should I do if I've Found a dog or cat?**

If you have found a dog or cat and have it contained, you must contact Council as soon as possible. If the animal has identification, Council can get in contact with the owners by tracing the registration tag number or microchip. It is important to report any found animals to Council. Although you may not wish to see the animal impounded, you are required by law to deliver the cat or dog as soon as is reasonably possible, to an authorised officer of the Council or to a person or body which has an agreement with Council, such as the Lost Dogs' Home. Not doing so can reduce the owners' chances of finding their dog or cat, as the pound is the most likely place they will check. It is also important not to take the animal out of the area where it was found as this also makes it more difficult for owners to find their pet.

**General news:**

**Congratulations to Janette's dog Bingo** who achieved his first pass with the Victorian Canine Association at Open Obedience competition level at Geelong Obedience Dog Club recently, and came first in his class.

We would also like to acknowledge and say 'thank you' to the CoPPC for a recent Community Grant awarded to us as a contribution towards some new agility -training equipment.

--ooOoo--

**Articles of Interest ...**

**Did you know there are 1001 uses for Baking Soda and Vinegar?** Read on for some great tips...

**Pet Beds** - to keep them smelling fresh, wash the bedding then when completely dry sprinkle the bedding with a generous amount of baking soda and let it sit for half an hour then vacuum

**Does your pet have itchy ears?** - if your pet is scratching at their ears constantly it might be a sign of an irritation or ear mites. Help that itch by using a cotton ball dipped in a solution of 1 teaspoon of baking soda and a cup warm water.

**Dry shampoo** - if your dog is a little on the nose in between washes, then reach for the baking soda. To get their coat shiny and clean without any odour and reduce fleas, simply sprinkle baking soda on their coats and then brush it through thoroughly. It's perfectly safe and non-toxic.

**Another dry shampoo option ...** Use baby powder and follow the same instructions as above.

**Pet stains** - if your pet has left a mess by using your carpet as the nearest toilet then you need to act quickly. Don't remove any of the mess, just add baking soda to it and let it sit until it soaks up the mess. Then scoop up the baking soda and then apply it again and let it sit for 10 minutes and then vacuum it up. Then, pour some undiluted vinegar and when it starts to foam, soak it up with a sponge. Leave it to dry and it will dry without leaving a stain or any odour.

--ooOoo--

### **Socialisation Throughout Your Dog's Life**

As your dog becomes older socialisation is still a vital ingredient in a healthy dogs life. This is because it provides both physical and mental stimulation.

When dogs play together they are able to exercise far better than when they play with us, as they are far more agile than we are and able to expel a lot more energy in a shorter period of time.

Dogs just like humans develop relationships with other dogs around them and enjoy this social interaction. Most dogs spend a good deal of time confined to a small area and often by themselves. This can cause problems such as boredom, which can lead to barking or destructive behaviours. A well-socialised and trained dog is less likely to develop these problems.

CoPPC understands that off-leash parks are an integral part of the socialisation of dogs and provide as many quality off-leash parks as possible. Having well-socialised and trained dogs within our community means it is a safer community for adults, children and pets alike. In the same respect it is vital that dogs are socialised as much as possible.

Off-leash parks could not be provided if a large amount of dogs weren't well socialised, as the risk of dog aggression would be too high.

### **Ever wondered why dogs yawn? ...**

Dogs most often yawn because they are anxious. It is technically called 'displacement behaviour'. They tend to do this when they are unsure what the appropriate response is to a given situation, so they yawn. Some dogs will continually need to have something in their mouth, such as a pinecone or a toy, which is a similar response. This is nothing to worry about and quite natural. Extract taken from Dogs Life magazine, August 2009 edition.

--ooOoo--

### **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 now being emptied out as part of the redevelopment plan of Murphy Reserve. As mentioned to members in previous newsletters, the City of Port Phillip Council continues to work with our club to relocate us to the ***Sandridge Community Centre at Garden City Reserve.***

CoPPC has put proposed Plans forward for our Committee's consideration. Our new club room (which will be a free standing dwelling) will be located next to the current Trugo Club rooms. We are continuing discussions with City of Port Phillip Council regarding the dimensions, layout and facilities we will require in our new abode.

We will keep you informed of the proposed club room and relocation details as information becomes available.

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