

THE BARK

Newsletter for the
WILTJA DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB
INCORPORATED A0023144z



AUTUMN 2026

Now in our 35th year of Dog Training

 Find us on Facebook



Wiltjadogobedienceclub@gmail.com

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
2025/2026****PRESIDENT :**
Shaun Lowdell**VICE PRESIDENT :**
Morgana Jones**SECRETARY :**
Robyn Edwards**TREASURER :**
Debra Caddy**GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS :**
Cam Kinder
Vicki Masocco
Eric Maxey
Nicole Jahne
Eva Butcher**SUBSCRIPTION OFFICER :**
Keryn Arnold**ATTENDANCE MONITOR :**
Pauline Arnold**NEWSLETTER :**
Carol Craig**SOCIAL MEDIA :**
Vicki Masocco**DIRECTOR OF TRAINING :**
Ralph Sherry**SOCIAL SECRETARY :**
Vicki Masocco**VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTORS :**
Cameron Kinder
Daniela Burazin
Eric Maxey
Eva Butcher
Helen Lowdell
Helen Tootell
Michael Madden
Mike West
Morgana Jones
Ralph Sherry
Robyn Edwards
Sam Failla
Sandra Jones
Steve Bracher
Lani Andersen
Linda Garner
Luke Judd
Shane Collins
Nicole Jahne
Jonathon Truscott**HOUSE RULES**

Every Club requires its members to observe rules. Ours are not demanding and are based on common sense and courtesy.

1. WILTJA DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB inc. is not responsible for any misdemeanour caused by a handler or dog.
2. All Members must wear their Membership Card when attending classes.
3. Bitches in season or sick/injured dogs are not allowed on the training ground.
4. Dogs must be on lead at all times whilst on the training ground, except when engaged in “off lead” exercises in advanced classes.
5. Dogs droppings must be picked up and placed in the bins IMMEDIATELY by handlers with the equipment provided.
6. Children 12 years and under must have adult supervision at all times whilst on the training ground and at the toilets.
7. Smoking is not permitted in class.
8. A dog that has bitten or shows undue aggression must be reported to the committee.
9. Members are not allowed to use SPIKED COLLARS or ANY ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, or ANY OTHER DEVICE NOT APPROVED BY THE CLUB, on their dogs on the training ground.

**“ OFF LEAD EXERCISES ”
DOES NOT MEAN YOU SHOULD ALLOW
YOUR DOG OFF LEAD IN PUBLIC PLACES**

LIFE MEMBERS :

Claude Tonna	David Conway	Shaun Lowdell
Tony Ellis	Donna Ellis	Carol Craig
George Griffiths	Sandra Jones	Mike West
David Goldstein	Rosine Goldstein	Milton Embling
Robyn Edwards	Keryn Arnold	Syd Ellis
Ralph Sherry	Stephen Bracher	Pauline Arnold
Daniela Burazin	Helen Lowdell	

“NEW INSTRUCTORS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED”

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER INSTRUCTOR
PLEASE SPEAK TO RALPH SHERRY, DIRECTOR OF TRAINING**

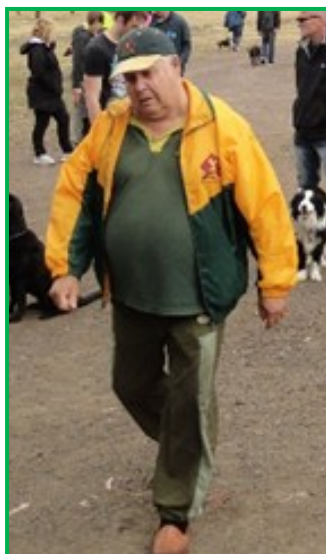
If you have any articles or pictures you would like to contribute to The Bark please send an email to cwcraig@bigpond.com

Vale - George Griffiths (1940-2026)

Life Member

Many of us at the club will remember George Griffiths. We were very saddened to hear of his recent passing, at the age of 86.

George was a longtime member here at Wiltja. He was a very popular and well-respected instructor, and he also served on the committee for many years.



George at the Christmas Fun Day in 2012

George was awarded Life Membership in September 2014, for his ongoing commitment and dedication to our club. He truly loved helping members to train their dogs.

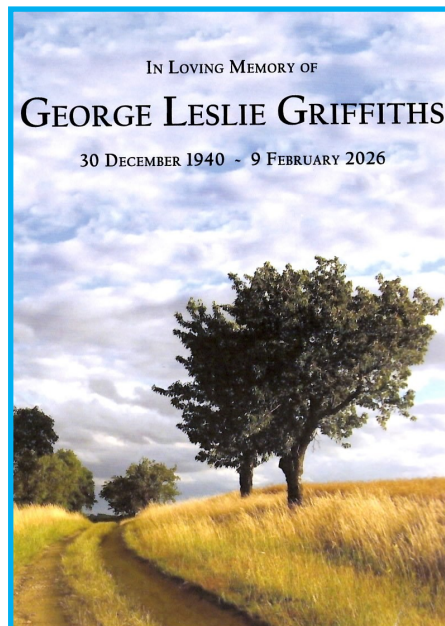
George had many dogs over the years, and we mostly remember his faithful companion Jack, who was by his side for a long time. After losing Jack, he named his next dog Mack.

As the years passed, George's health declined. In his most recent visits to the club, he was on a mobility scooter, due to several health issues.

Many of us have fond memories of this cheerful, chatty gentleman who loved his dogs greatly.

George was always there to lend a helping hand in setting up and packing up each week, and he always had time for a friendly happy conversation.

George will be sadly missed, but always remembered as an important member of our thirty five year history.



George receiving his Life Membership in 2014, with our Auditor, Milton Embling

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER.....



SUNDAY 7th JUNE 2026

KING's BIRTHDAY LONG WEEKEND

"NO TRAINING"

Dogs and chocolate

Just a simple reminder to keep chocolates away from your dog all year round, but especially at Easter time when there is a lot of chocolate around. Chocolate contains cocoa, and cocoa contains compound theobromine. Theobromine is toxic to dogs and other animals at certain doses. Chocolate poisoning can easily happen to dogs and cats and other animals.

If you know or suspect that your dog has eaten chocolate, please consult your Vet for immediate advice.

Greetings from our President.....



A warm welcome to all members.

I'm very pleased to report that we have had a very good start to 2026.

We have continued to meet new members each week since we returned in early February. In our first week alone, we registered 21 enthusiastic new members, which is very encouraging, and we have maintained around 100 members on ground each week, despite the changing weather we have experienced during summer.

We are proud to say that the club began back in 1991, so 35 years later we are still going strong and continuing to grow and develop.

Our club is run fully by volunteers, made up of our committee and instructors, and other helpers behind the scenes, and all efforts are very much appreciated. We are here to help you achieve your goals in dog obedience, and to answer any questions you may have, in a friendly happy environment.

A big thank you to all who organised and participated in our Easter Fun Day. It was a great success as always, and we are grateful for the ongoing support from you all.

Enjoy your classes everyone, and keep up your dog training at home, as we look forward to another successful year.

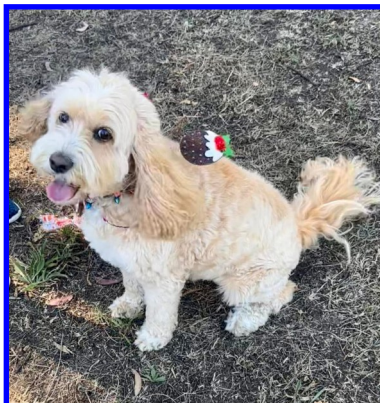
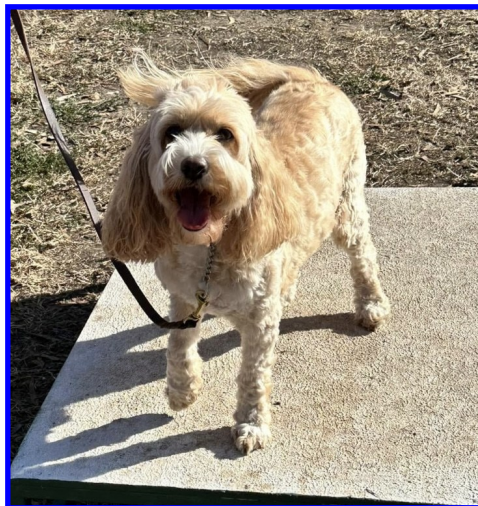
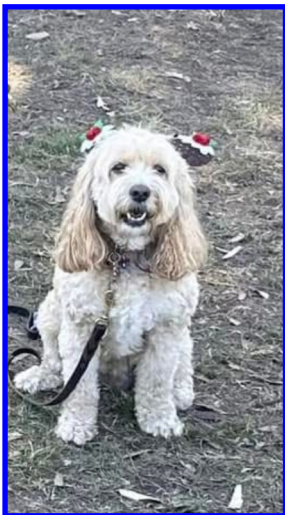
Shaun Lowdell

A Tribute to LOLA

With heavy hearts we said goodbye to our beautiful Lola, she had a wonderful and happy personality which brought us so much joy over the last 12 years and is so very sadly missed

Thanks to the Wiltja Dog Club and all of the instructors that helped with Lola's training over the years.

Gail and Raegen Fisher.



AUTUMN WORDSEARCH



TRAINING
CONTROL
SIT
HEEL
COMMIT

DEDICATE
LEARN
CLASS
HABITS
CANINE

PUP
BEHAVE
REWARD
TREATS
SIGNALS

STAND
DOWN
GENTLE
TRIAL
TUNNEL

A	S	N	O	S	S	E	L	E	L	T	N	E	G	P	H
E	G	Y	A	B	T	E	V	X	R	Z	I	N	C	A	A
V	O	T	A	C	A	R	W	A	L	K	I	M	O	W	L
I	O	E	N	T	A	R	I	L	H	M	P	R	M	S	T
T	D	C	W	I	S	N	K	A	I	E	E	G	M	O	I
I	D	G	O	B	I	T	I	T	L	L	B	A	A	C	C
S	O	R	D	N	T	W	A	N	D	K	O	M	N	I	Y
O	G	E	G	A	T	C	B	N	E	C	H	E	D	A	D
P	T	S	S	U	T	R	A	D	D	E	L	S	S	L	S
O	A	T	N	I	E	H	O	L	E	A	R	N	S	I	L
F	P	N	V	W	C	B	A	L	L	D	F	G	T	Z	A
F	E	E	A	H	D	R	O	P	I	J	I	K	I	E	N
L	T	R	E	A	T	S	E	S	S	A	L	C	B	M	G
E	D	C	O	L	L	A	R	X	C	O	M	E	A	N	I
A	P	U	P	L	A	Y	S	L	E	A	S	H	H	T	S
D	O	U	R	O	T	C	U	R	T	S	N	I	Z	E	E

OFF LEAD
EXERCISE
COMMANDS
LESSONS
COLLAR

POSITIVE
TIMING
DROP
GOOD DOG
HALTI

STAY
COME
BARK
GAMES
PAT

BALL
PAWS
ACTIVE
REST
PLAY

LEASH
SOCIALIZE
WALK
INSTRUCTOR
HANDLER

A Pet's Love

*A companion, a pal,
A very best friend.
Someone to trust,
To love 'til the end.*

*Someone to trust,
When feeling blue.
Always a smile,
To always greet you.*

*Always a smile,
To dry up your tears.
A person to be there,
To quiet your fears.*

*A person to be there,
When lonely or sad.
Loving regardless,
If hating or mad.*

*Loving regardless,
If caring or cruel.
No matter what, Genius or fool.*



*No matter what,
They stand by you.*

*Who is this person,
Have you a clue?
I'll tell you who.*

*This is your pet, That loves
Through and through.*

**Author
unknown**



EASTER FUN DAY Sunday 29th March 2026



A huge thank you to Vicki for taking our wonderful Easter festive photos once again !!



A great day was had by all, thanks to the committee and many helpers who made it all possible !!

You are all very much appreciated !!

**HAPPY EASTER AND ENJOY
YOUR EASTER HOLIDAY BREAK**



**EASTER RAFFLE WINNERS**

1st Prize Shaun
2nd Prize Lani
3rd Prize Eric

Thank you to our hard working committee for organising the generous Easter Raffle Prizes, and thank you everyone for participating in our Easter Raffle.

**EASTER CARROT DOG BISCUITS****INGREDIENTS**

1 CUP CARROT PUREE
2/3 CUP WHOLEMEAL FLOUR
2/3 CUP OAT FLOUR
2/3 CUP PLAIN FLOUR
PINCH CINNAMON POWDER (CINNAMON IS SAFE FOR DOGS IN SMALL DOSES) (also you can leave out the cinnamon)

PRE HEAT OVEN 180C

METHOD

IN A LARGE BOWL COMBINE THE FLOURS AND CINNAMON POWDER

ADD THE CARROT PUREE STIR IN WITH A LARGE SPOON TO MAKE A SMOOTH DOUGH (IF ITS STICKY ADD MORE FLOUR, IF ITS TOO CRUMBLY ADD SOME MORE WATER OR PUREE)

ROLL DOUGH OUT ON A FLOURED SURFACE UNTIL ITS APPROX 1-2 CM THICK

BAKE FOR APPROX 15 MINUTES UNTIL CRISPY

(when cooled give to your dog they will woof them down !!) Happy Easter !!

(Thank you Deb, for sharing your doggie recipe with us. Much appreciated !)



TRAINING GUIDE and CLASS EXERCISES

Teaching your dog to respond to your commands is fun and rewarding. However, it does take dedication on your part – **Patience Persistence and Perseverance**. Your dog will learn by repetition and by how you learn to communicate with it using your tone of voice. The three basic tones being – **Praise Reprimand and Command**. You will be taught these tones from the first day you begin training your dog at our Club.

Only 5 –10 minutes a day is needed to train your dog and if at any stage you become frustrated in the progress, it is best to stop the session and commence again later or the next day. Always end each session on a positive, so you can praise your dog for something well done. Include some playtime either in between or after each training session.

Tones of Voice should be practised on your own so as to be instinctively used. Explanation of tones will be given to you by your Instructor in Introductory Classes.

PRAISE REPRIMAND COMMAND	High pitch happy tone Low deep growl tone (do not shout when reprimanding) Middle range - Authoritative tone
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YOU SHOULD ONLY PRACTICE THOSE EXERCISES AT YOUR OWN CLASS LEVEL

Class 1

- * Heel on lead with guidance & encouragement
- * Sit at heel with guidance
- * Right about 180 deg. turn
- * Left and right 90 deg. Turns
- * Basic stand exercise with guidance
- * Sit for examination – human socialisation
- * Basic sit stay on lead – handler close in front and stepping side to side. Approx. 1 min.
- * Drop exercise from sit – treats allowed initially to encourage dog
- * Start of recall – on lead
- * Dog Socialisation

All returns are back to dog's side

Class 2

- Class 1 exercises with dog responding more readily to heelwork and commands*
- * Left about turn
 - * Slow pace heelwork
 - * Stand Stay to end of lead.
 - * Down from sit with command & hand signal
 - * Sit Stay on lead – 3 to 5 mtrs for 1 min.
 - * Down Stay on lead – 3 to 5 mtrs for 1min.
 - * Stand for examination to end of lead – minor movement allowed
 - * Recall on 3mtr lead from sit stay
 - * Sit at heel with less guidance
 - * Drop from Heel
- All returns are back to dog's side**

Class 3

Dog to heel with less correction and guidance Lead held left hand over right. More consistency with Class 2 exercises

- * Sit at heel on one command when handler stops.
- * Sit and down stay to 5mtrs off lead for 1min.
- * Recall on and off lead to 5mtrs. Dog to take up sit position in front of handler.
- Off lead is Optional**
- * Stand stay to end of lead for 1 min.
- * Fast and slow pace heelwork.
- * Stand for examination to end of lead – no movement allowed
- * Finish to heel exercise – done separate to recall exercise. Quick response, minimal guidance.
- * Figure of eight heeling exercise

All returns by handlers are behind dog to the heel position

Class 4

All heelwork on loose lead held in left hand. No commands to heel. Heel command allowed only when starting exercise or after a stop.

- * Automatic Sit
- * Offlead work (**optional**)
- * Sit and down stay 3 mins. with distractions
- * Stand stay to 6 mtrs for 1 min.
- * Stand for examination at 6 mtrs
- * Sit stay out of sight for 1 min.
- * Down stay out of sight for 3 min.
- * Drop, sit and stand hand signals at 6 mtrs.
- * Recall from 30 mtrs.
- * Recall from free walking off lead (optional)
- * Drop at random

All returns by handlers are behind dog to the heel position