

THE BARK

Newsletter for the

WILTJA DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB

INCORPORATED A0023144z



WINTER 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

Lesley Jones

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	

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

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Wiltja Dog Obedience Club AGM will be held at
7.30pm on TUESDAY 13th OCTOBER, 2026
at KINGSBURY BOWLING CLUB, Dunne St, Kingsbury.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

To be eligible to vote, should elections be required, members must have been financial members of the club by July 13th 2026 or earlier, and renewed during July.

Nominations for office bearers and General Committee need to be received by September 22nd 2026.

If the number of candidates exceed the number of positions, then voting will take place at the AGM.

Should members be unable to attend the AGM, a postal vote may be applied for in writing, 14 days prior to the AGM and provided to them within 7 days.

Please notify the ladies at the front desk of your intention to attend and of any special dietary requirements, for catering purposes.

Robyn Edwards
Secretary

HALLOWEEN FUN DAY & BBQ

SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER 2026

**Please mark this date in your diary
and come along and join in.**

Dress up your dogs in scary costumes for lots of fun !!



HAPPY 35th BIRTHDAY WILTJA

From humble beginnings, the Wiltja Dog Obedience Club is proud to be celebrating its 35th anniversary, since the first official training day, in June 1991.

We owe our thanks to the foundation members, Enid Crowl, John Lewis, Mike West and Fred Lambert, who joined forces back then, with the vision of creating a non-profit dog obedience club, run fully by volunteers. Stan Buck, Betty Buck and David Conway were invited to join soon after. The foundation members were a group of very experienced and dedicated dog trainers, who shared the passion and foresight to establish a new dog obedience club, for the general community to train their dogs in basic obedience, and to promote the importance of responsible dog ownership.

It was all very basic in the beginning. No clubhouse, just a tent, and later a trailer and then a caravan. But this didn't stop members from joining and staying with the club.

My dear late husband, Wayne, was an instructor and committee member at Wiltja for many years. He wrote these words, for Wiltja's 20th anniversary in 2011 :

"I started with Wiltja about 10 weeks after the club started. I was asked to join by foundation member, Enid Crowl, who I knew as an instructor from a previous club. Enid taught me a lot to do with dog training and obedience trials. When I joined, the clubhouse was a tent. We would train in gumboots due to a broken pipe on the ground. Our boots would get stuck in the mud, and the dog would just about pull you over or the boot would get stuck and your foot would come out of it. Our instructor would say your dogs should work in all conditions, yes but not mine. After classes we would sit around and chat about the funny things that happen in classes."

The spirit of persistence and determination of our early members is still apparent today, with dog owners training in all sorts of weather and being able to have fun along the way.

As time went on, the German Shepherd Club started building their compound and our committee at the time went into discussions with them, Bundoora Park and Darebin Council, to see if they could accommodate our club. This all worked out, and we are grateful to still be using the club house today.

Our founding members would be proud to know that 35 years later, after their initial dream of starting up a dog club, their hard work was all worth it. From the early days, up until the present time, Wiltja has developed and grown so much, always being fortunate to have had dedicated committees and instructors and loyal members.

From flyers and word of mouth advertising in the beginning, our membership grew year after year, even before our first website was developed in the year 2000, and it took many years before club uniforms were introduced too. Many members and their dogs have been involved and participated in the club over the years, and sadly many have passed on. Because of the involvement from everyone, whether it be as a committee member, instructor, class member, and those behind the scenes, our club has stood the test of time and has helped an enormous number of dog owners over the years. And that's what it's all about.

HAPPY 35th anniversary everyone and thank you to past and present members who have supported us, and above all, have fun with your dog training!!

Carol Craig Newsletter Editor



*Wiltja's very early beginnings
back in the good old days*



Our first classes



Original website photo, taken in 2003



The old tent



*Committee and Instructors at our 20th anniversary in 2011,
with special guest, Dr Katrina Warren*

*We have come a long
way since the tent,
trailer and caravan!*



Banyule Festival, formerly Heidelberg Festival



Our former mascot



WINTER WORD SEARCH

Some familiar names among committee, instructors and members, that you may have heard over the years !

SHAUN	M	O	U	R	E	C	H	R	I	S	T	E	L	E	D	A
HELEN	A	X	O	Y	A	R	R	U	M	E	W	A	O	D	R	S
ROBYN	Y	Y	U	R	M	I	L	T	O	N	S	Y	N	N	E	J
DEBRA	O	A	O	E	B	E	P	H	U	E	Y	C	I	D	Y	E
PAULINE	T	L	K	N	A	F	G	A	R	H	D	B	C	N	J	O
CAM	A	U	Z	H	G	S	H	E	U	E	A	L	O	L	E	C
VICKI	L	I	C	N	T	S	T	S	K	L	V	T	L	R	G	A
MORGANA	A	I	E	A	N	D	Y	L	W	E	I	L	A	R	R	M
EVA	M	A	N	G	R	A	N	E	E	N	C	N	T	B	O	R
RALPH	I	N	Y	D	A	N	C	H	I	A	K	L	E	R	E	G
ERIC	E	N	T	G	A	I	L	C	R	E	I	D	G	V	G	L
NICOLE	M	V	T	P	R	E	O	D	R	L	O	A	O	V	A	E
DANIELA	V	A	E	B	S	L	N	Y	E	C	N	D	E	N	F	N
SAM	G	H	B	T	E	A	N	M	R	A	L	P	H	I	N	D
MICHAEL	E	N	A	H	S	J	M	K	I	N	A	L	Q	U	I	A
SANDRA	N	O	H	T	A	N	O	J	C	C	L	A	U	D	E	Y
STEVE																
LANI																
LINDA																
LUKE																
SHANE																
NICOLA																
STAN																
KERYN																
ANN																

TONY
JONATHON
DONNA
MILTON
GLENDA

BETTY
ADELE
GEORGE
SYD
MEL

CHELSEA
YONG
JENNY
CLAUDE
CAROL

GAIL
TERESA
RUTH
MURRAY
LATOYA



Some Interesting Dog Facts

Dogs have sweat glands at the bottom of their paws (the paw pads) Hence wetting their paws can help on a hot summer day.

When dogs howl at each other, they adjust the pitch of the howl to sound more unique.

In the dark, dogs use their whiskers to pick up subtle changes in the air currents. This gives them a better understanding of the environment and helps them "see" better in the dark.

The dog's nose print is so unique and detailed that it can be used to identify specific dogs. It's like our fingerprint.

Thesmartcanine.com

Some words from our President.....

The winter months have arrived again, and we have had some challenging weeks with the weather, but our loyal members are still braving the elements to come and train their dogs each week.

We are still averaging around 85+ members on ground every Sunday, which is great, and all our classes are running smoothly and successfully.

Our upcoming AGM is on **Tuesday 13th October 2026**, with all the details included in this newsletter, and we invite and encourage all members to attend.

RSVP is required for our AGM, for catering purposes, so please register at the front desk.

For anyone interested in joining our committee for 2026/2027, you will need to fill out a nomination form, which is on the back page of our newsletter, or you can obtain one at the front desk. Closing dates are listed in our AGM Notice.

If you have any questions or suggestions at any time, or if you wish to assist our club in any way, please speak to myself or any of our committee members, and we would be happy to talk to you.

Thank you everyone for your dedication and continued support and keep enjoying your dog training.

Shaun Lowdell, President

Just a reminder.....

AFL GRAND FINAL



LONG WEEKEND

SUNDAY

27th SEPTEMBER 2026



NO TRAINING

Some More Interesting Dog Facts

Despite popular belief, dogs don't only see in black and white. In fact, they can see in blue, green, yellow and grey too.

A dog's nose is always wet because they help in absorbing certain scents. Furthermore, a dog will lick the nose to taste the scent.

A dog can sense the earth's magnetic field. It's a big reason they're so effective at finding their way home.

It's estimated that roughly 21% of all dogs snore in their sleep.

The popular phrase, "raining cats and dogs" originated from England in the 17th century. It was believed that many cats and dogs died during these heavy storms.

TheSMARTcanine.com

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

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 1 min.
- * 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



NOMINATION FORM 2026-2027

I (name).....

Nominate (name).....

to the position of :

☐

President

☐

Vice President

☐

Secretary

☐

Treasurer

☐

General Committee Member

.....
Signature of Nominator

.....
Signature of Nominee

Date: / /