



The Tararua Tailwagger

September 2022

**Join us on Facebook for Club news & updates
or letting us know if you aren't able to get to class**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Kia ora,

What a term it's been so far, rain, mud and more rain. Kudos to all those participants and instructors out in all weather in the darkest half of the year. It's always harder to get the dogs to "Down" when the grass is wet or the tennis court is covered in puddles, so I can't wait for the summer terms to arrive with the sunshine and long lazy days.

Still things are looking up. We've just hosted the NDOA Obedience Champ Show and it stayed fine for the weekend except for one brief shower at the end. There was a good attendance, and there were lots of comments about how nice it was to get out to shows again after all the COVID lockdowns. A huge thank you to all the participants, judges and volunteers who made this show happen. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes, and it's great to have all the help we can get to make it possible for our furry members (and their faithful humans) to showcase their talents. It is also nice to have the feel of normality once again after all the restrictions COVID brought.

Thinking ahead to Term 4, we already have good numbers of enrolments and classes are filling up rapidly, so do get your enrolments in ahead of time. Hope to see you there. Term 4 classes will take place in our lovely Ashurst grounds, and we are looking forward to welcoming you all there. As a club, we are committed to make our classes as inclusive as possible, so please, don't be shy, ask if you need to and what you need to. We are here to help.

Whakapau kaha,
Jen

Your committee

President: Jen H.
Vice President: Sue C.
Secretary: Dorothy Ch.
Treasurer: Nerolie M.
Publicity Officer: Elizaveta T.
Club captain: Chris B.
Enrolment Officer: Patricia S.

Members: Anthea F.
Karin T.
Owen M.

Non Committee

Trophy Steward: Uvana C.



Term dates for 2022

Term 1 (at Ashhurst)
8.01.22 – 5.04.22

Term 2 (at Longburn)
3.05.22 – 28.06.22

Term 3 (at Longburn)
19.07.22 – 13.09.22

Term 4 (at Ashhurst)
4.10.22 – 29.11.22

Location of training

In Ashhurst we train
at the Manawatu
Canine Centre
grounds, accessed
through the carpark
on Cambridge Avenue

Our Longburn facility
is in Ngaire Street
(first turn on the right
after the railway
overbridge)

Class times

Classes times will be
given out on the first
night of term.

Classes last for 30-45
minutes.



CLUB MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

OBEDIENCE & WORKING TRIALS:

Cushla & Journey 03.09.22 Central Working Trials Club
UDX (Utility Dog Excellent)
1st place in the 35km Distance Sled Dog Event (2hrs 36min)
10.09.22 Horowhenua Dog Training Club
CDX, highest qualifier

Cushla & Esky 16.07.22 Central Working Trials Club
UDX (Utility Dog Excellent), second qualification
Best track results

Cushla & Team Big Trophy at the 35km Wai-O-Tapu Long Distance Race
(Bliss, Esky, Journey)

Uvana & Epic 28.08.22 TADTC, Test A – 3rd place

Tanya & Drive 10.09.22 Horowhenua Dog Training Club, Test A – 1st place

Jade & Ruger 27.08.22 TADTC, Beginners – 1st place
28.08.22 TADTC, Beginners – 1st place
10.09.22 Horowhenua Dog Training Club, Beginners – 1st place

Renee & Beau 13.08.22 Central Working Trials Club
WDX - highest qualifier, highest new qualifier
14.08.22 Central Working Trials Club
WDX

RALLY-O:

Renee & Beau 23.08.22 Hibiscus Coast DTC Rally-O, Excellent B – 3rd place
24.08.22 Norwest DTC Rally-O, Advanced B – 2nd place
24.08.22 Norwest DTC Rally-O, Excellent B – 3rd place
10.09.22 Horowhenua Dog Training Club, Advanced B 2nd place



Cushla and Esky



Beau

SCENT WORK

Chris and Lani 27.08.22 Wairarapa Dog Training Club & Titahi Bay Canine Obedience Club
Lani (Tauanui Lanarkshire Lass) qualified in all three searches - novice interior, novice exterior and novice vehicle, earning Handlers Choice for the vehicle search. She now has 3 qualifications for each of these disciplines and only requires 1 more in each to title in each of these.



Results and pictures for the TADTC's latest show are to appear in our next issue.
A reminder to all competing club members to send their updates (and photos) to tailwagger.editor@gmail.com



Club's success stories

Renee and Beau

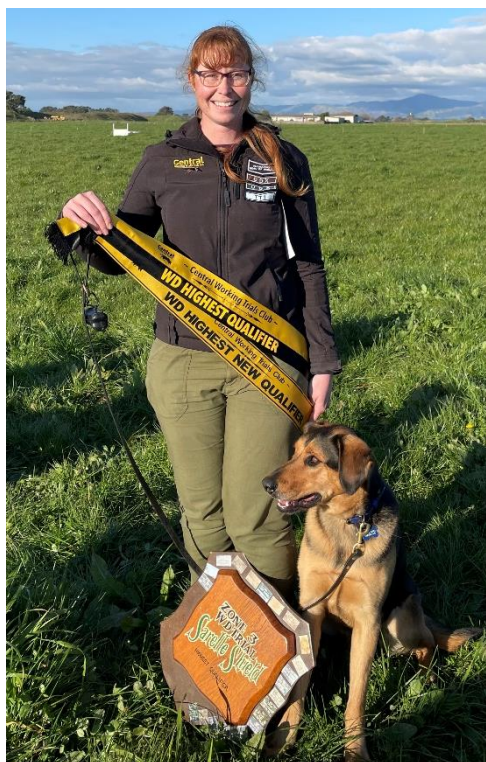
Renee and Beau are one of our most prolific teams, who won two prestigious awards for our club in 2021: Angus of Belabi Rally-O Trophy and Best Dog Trophy. Yet, their successes are not limited to Rally-O alone. They have recently won titles in Obedience and Working Dogs Trials, as our regular readers may know. Tailwagger asked Renee to tell our members about Rally-O, which seems to be Beau's favourite. Renee has also recently qualified to be a Rally-O judge, and we were very fortunate to have her as part of TADTC team. Here's Renee's story.

For those that don't know me (or heard my dog), I'm Renee & I've been training with Tararua Allbreeds for about 5 years, having started with my Rottweiler Abby, who started my love of Rally-O. Currently I compete with Beau, who's a 3-year-old farm bred Huntaway from Taihape. We are in the top classes, working towards our Rally Advanced Excellent title with the goal of gaining Rally-O Champion one day. We represented Central Region in Rally-O at Obedience Nationals at Advanced Level last year and are fortunate to be representing our region again this year, but this time at Excellent level.

So what is Rally-O? Rally-O is a fun sport where you & your dog make your way around a course following signs of different skills and positions, kind of like tricks on the go! There are 3 levels – Novice, Advanced & Excellent – split into A & B classes, which you move up through the classes & levels as you qualify. As it is a qualifying sport, it is built around team work, and although it has heel work as such, it isn't as precise as what is needed for competition obedience. In Advanced & Excellent levels there's even a jump & poles to send your dog around.

As well as being an active competitor, I have recently completed the requirements to become a judge at Novice level. To do that I had to have qualified a dog at Novice level (which I had done with Abby having gained an Advanced title with her), complete 4 judging probationaries on courses I had designed & sit a small online exam.

My advice for anyone considering giving Rally-O a go is remember to relax, have fun & enjoy the team work with your dog. Don't focus on trying to get a qualifying score. That will come eventually!



We are wishing this hard-working, dynamic, and fun team all the best for their future endeavours, and we are sure that we will see more of their outstanding performance.



Vicky and Paulie: Journey to Canine Good Citizen Foundation Level

Vicky shares hers and her beautiful dog's Paulie journey.

The CGC's vision is "Creating well-mannered dogs and encouraging responsible owners". I wanted my dog (a blue heeler) to be a 'respected member of the community' and relate to strangers, especially children, and socialise well with other dogs, so I thought CGC training would be great for both of us.



We joined up to CGC following puppy school at the end of 2019, and enjoyed the weekly meetings and working our way through the exercises and the assessment criteria.

In December 2020 (after lots of interruptions with COVID), we attended our first Foundation Assessment - **"that is an automatic fail"** were the words I remember from the very first station during that assessment.

Examination of the dog by the handler - acceptable: mild avoidance, with eventual acceptance.

Not acceptable: Over exuberance or jumping up (my dog!).

We carried on and completed all the stations for the experience. It then took us a further 18 months to pass Foundation Level. My dog could do all the other exercises but continued to be over-exuberant when someone else wanted to inspect him. One of the most frustrating things was I knew he could do it. My trainer never gave up on me or my dog and patiently encouraged each week to give the Foundation Level another go. Two weeks out I was ready to call it quits as my dog seemed to be getting worse and way over excited.

If it wasn't for my trainer and a good friend, I wouldn't have fronted to the assessment. I had learnt along the way that my heeler needed plenty of exercise and stimulation, so I became very focused on this as well as used my friend to inspect my dog at every opportunity. On assessment day, I couldn't believe how nervous and uptight I was. I ran him hard before we started, and then he managed to achieve all the exercises for Foundation, and Bronze on the assessment day passing both. What a relief!

The whole experience has been wonderful, I've learnt a lot about my dog, and a lot about myself. My persistence and resilience waivered at the end, but sheer determination and stubbornness got us through with the support of the trainer and my good friend.

CGC training is fun and useful. Through it, my dog and I have established a closer bond, and thank goodness, it is not a competition and does NOT require that me and my dog perform with precision. Look out Silver Level – it may take us another 18 months or more but looking forward to the challenge!

Tailwagger congratulates Vicky and Paulie on their great achievements, and we are certain that quite a few of our members will find their story inspirational. Indeed, with determination, perseverance and a bit of stubbornness success is sure to come!

If you want to share your story, please, email tailwagger.editor@gmail.com



Exciting Sport: Working Trials

Another interesting option for your dog to pursue is Working Trials. Our instructor Cushla and her team (Esky, Journey and Bliss) have been actively engaged in this sport, and have recently won the 35km Distance Sled Dog Event with a great time of 2hrs 36mins. We have asked Cushla to tell our members what this sport is about.



If you've ever thought you'd like to do some tracking with your dog, Working Trials (WT) is the sport for you. You must learn to interpret your dog's actions to work out whether they're on the track or not. Included in WT are other components as well.

The track is laid by a person. It's between 600m to 900m long, depending on the level you are working at, and will have at least three corners in it and have an article at the end and, for the higher levels, one or two articles in the middle.



Utility Dog (UD) has a 600m track with an article at the end, and is laid half an hour before before you run it. You also have a seekback (where you drop an article and your dog must track back and find it), a heelwork course, sendaway, a scale jump, clear jump and long jump (the height and length are dependent on the dog's height), and a 10-minute down stay with the handler out of sight.

Working Dog (WD) has an 800-900m track with one article approximately halfway, and one at the end, and the track is 1½ hours old. It also contains a search of an area 23m x 23m which contains four matchbox size articles, the clear jump and long jump are included in the heelwork. In the sendaway, once your dog has gone out 50m, you must redirect it left or right depending on which way the judge indicates. There is also a 10-minute down stay as in UD.

Tracking Dog (TD) contains three tracks, a 600m hard surface track, which is either gravel or tarseal with one article halfway and one at the end, 15 minutes old if on gravel and 5 minutes on tarseal. A 400-600m free track which is 30 minutes old with one article at the end. The dog completes this one by themselves while you stay at the start peg (probably the dog's favourite track!). The 800-900m leash track is 3 hours old with two articles on the track and one at the end.

Recently Tracking Only Trials (TT) have been added. These are completely separate trials, again, there are three levels with the tracks being 1, 2 or 3 hours old depending on the level you're at. There are also added challenges of blind starts, decoys and cross tracks. The TTs are really also good if you have a dog who, for some reason, can't do the other components of Working Trials (you wouldn't ask your Bassett Hound to jump for example!).

While all dogs can track, the difficult part is getting them to track what you want them to – a human scent is much less inviting to a dog than a rabbit track so if you think you might like to give this sport a go my best advice would be don't let your dogs chase rabbits!



Recipe to try: Sardine & Cheese treats

(sampled and approved by Anthea's basic and intermediate classes)

Note from the chef: I have pyramid fat reducing mats that I bake my treats in (see the picture). I bought them off Trade Me, but you could try spreading out on baking paper instead.

Ingredients:

- 1 can of sardines in water
- 2 eggs
- 100gm grated parmesan cheese
- A handful of roast veges (no onions!)
- 1/3 cup flour (I quite like tapioca, coconut or hemp seed flours)
- If using mats, add approximately 1/3 cup of water

Process:

1. Preheat oven to 180 degrees Celsius.
2. Blend all ingredients together to make thin smooth batter (for mats, you need it be more watery, or it doesn't spread easily).
3. If using a tray, cover an oven tray with baking paper, spread the mix until about 4 - 5mm thick.
4. If using a fat reducing mat, put the mat on an oven tray then spread the mix over mat.
5. Bake on a tray for 15 minutes to start with, then from there, see how crispy it looks around the edges. If it doesn't look like it's going to be crunchy, keep cooking it in 5 minute blocks (or you could try cooking for 15 minutes then turning the oven off and leaving it in there to cool). Once cold, cut into strips like a smacko (so you can break up for training).
6. If using mats, bake for 15 minutes.
7. Store in a sealed container in the fridge.



Benefits of homemade treats

Our dogs depend on us to provide them with healthy food that is full of nutrients and supplements that will help them live their best lives. Good food makes their coats healthier, gives them more energy and boosts their immune systems, helping them to fight off diseases. Being more intentional with your dog's diet can lead to an overall healthier lifestyle, just like it does for us when we are intentional with ours.

One way that you can really make an impact on your dog's nutritional system is through the use of treats. Homemade dog treats don't contain the same amount of preservatives, fats and chemicals that regular store-bought treats contain. This is simply because homemade dog treats don't have to sit in bags on store shelves for weeks at a time, so homemade treats can contain the freshest and most natural ingredients available. These healthier ingredients do more good for your dog's digestive system, and they also contribute to healthier hearts, teeth, gums and fur.

If you have a recipe to share, please, email it to tailwagger.editor@gmail.com



Game to try: Two Paws On

Engaging in physically and mentally stimulating exercise with your dog is a great way to keep them healthy. It also strengthens your bond. Here's a simple game from Karin (who knows a lot about and loves games) that you can try with your pooch in your free time.

Helps with: On-lead walking, listening to you, relationship and heel work. Also good for boosting confidence, optimism and focus.

You will need: You + food + dog + any object safe to put paws on e.g. book, yoga block or step.

Step 1: Place the object on the ground and reward (with a Yes!) any steps towards it.

Place/throw food away from the object.

Step 2: Wait for your dog to choose to return back to the item and reward (with a Yes!) steps towards it.

Step 3: As the dog gets closer each time then reward (with food and a Yes!) any paw on the item. Then throw a treat away.

Step 4: Begin to reward for choosing to stay with feet on object and add duration and begin to add a 'release' cue e.g. Break, OK, Free. Then throw a treat away.

Step 5: Take Paws on to new locations.



Have fun!

Remember to keep every session under 3 min.



Instructors' best tips

Our experienced instructors are committed to your safety and the safety of your dog. This valuable tip is from Anthea, and some of our pooches have already benefitted from its effectiveness.

Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for our pooches to get into close, unsafe encounters with other, less friendly dogs. If your dog is off the lead, and you just need to get it out of the place as fast as possible (yet getting the clasp into the ring on the collar will take too long), here's a tip that will allow you to put the dog safely on the lead and get it out of immediate danger.

1. Put the clasp side of the lead through the handle to form a loop.



2. Place the loop over the dog's neck so that it acts as a choker. While we do not recommend using a choker on a regular basis, it will help you control your dog for the short time that you may need to get it out of a potentially dangerous situation.

3. If you are too late and the bitey bits are already engaged, you can put the lead under the dog's tummy and make

a loop around its waist. This can be quite fast and hence less dangerous for you if you need to drag your pooch from another dog.



We hope that you never need to use step 3, but it's always good to know what to do just to be on the safe side.

Don't forget to have a chat with your instructor about classes for next term

Contact details for the club:

Website: www.dogtraining.org.nz

Facebook: Tararua Allbreeds Dog Training Club

Email: tadtc@yahoo.co.nz – for information & queries

Please, email your news, updates, details and ideas for stories to tailwagger.editor@gmail.com

