

Frankston Dog Obedience Club

Affiliate with the Victorian Canine Association INC. A0024447E

Brrr! It's been a cold and wet few months! But what a busy few months they've been! It's great to see so many dedicated members out in the wet weather gear working with their 4 legged friends at the club! We've got an exciting few months ahead with our second open Flyball competition and our annual open Obedience and Rally-O trial coming up!



A Word from the President...

Welcome to the second edition of the FDOC newsletter for 2016. It's great to see so many of our members braving the wintry conditions to train their dogs.

We just held our second Fun day for the year which was a great success, with a lot of entries in all classes. Congratulation to all those who took home a prize. Many thanks goes to all our tireless volunteers who went above and beyond again to ensure the day ran smoothly and thankyou to all those who donated food to feed our hungry judges and stewards.

Each month, our instructors meet to discuss our on field training, review our techniques and look at improving the instruction that we offer.

At our May Instructors' meeting, Lea Cogley held a training session for our instructors. Lea was part of our team responsible for our instructors' handbook and the development of our current training methods. We were able, in this session to look at 'how to train the Dumbbell'. Though this is not part of our core instruction, it is an exercise which is required in Obedience Trialling above Novice level. We discussed the need to make the dumbbell a happy, rewarding item or toy that the dog wants to work/play with. Depending on the dog's personality, the dumbbell can be introduced passively without a lot of fuss but instilling the desire to interact with it. Conversely, the more exuberant dog can have an exciting introduction, again instilling the same desire.

Upcoming Dates

30th July – Fun Day

30th September – On The Fly Flyball Competition

9th October – Open Obedience and Rally Trial

5th November – Fun Day

3rd December – Presentation Evening

10th December - AGM



If you have a story for the newsletter please contact the newsletter editor at flyball@fdoc.org.au

At our June meeting, Lea returned and focussed on our instruction of loose lead walking and progressing this to full Obedience heeling. This was a useful reminder of our tips and exercises we give to our members on the training field. Lea's input on all things 'dog' is always informative and much appreciated.

On Sunday 14th May 2016, Frankston Dog Obedience Club held its Inaugural Agility Trial at KCC Park. After 25 years as a club and a very successful cohort of Agiliteers, the time was right to host an Agility Trial. Our first attempt proved to be great success with around 850 runs and 118 passes gained. The social media and personal feedback was very positive.

Congratulations are deserved and extended to Penny Roberts, Trial Manager, the organising Sub-Committee and all those who

helped make the trial happen. We have plans to make this an annual event to add to our events list.

Our ANKC Open Obedience and Rally trial on Sunday 9th October is fast approaching. Our trial secretary Peter Gibson is working hard to make this event a huge success again this year.

The "On the Fly" Flyball competition is coming up on Friday the 30th September (just for this year it will be held on the Friday instead of the Saturday). This is our yearly flyball competition hosted by Frankston and is always a fantastic day thanks to Lauren our Flyball coordinator and her tireless team of flyballers!

Speaking of Lauren, she is also our editor for this fabulous newsletter so please if you have anything you wish to put in our next edition

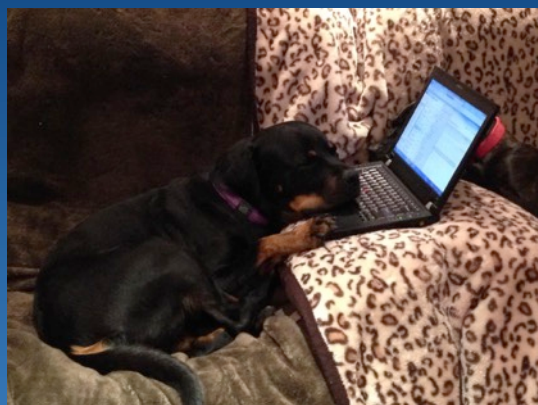
head over to Flyball and have a chat to Lauren.

We have received delivery of our new uniforms, which is very exciting and I must say they look fantastic.

In this edition of the newsletter you will find pictures and a price list. Please see me at the canteen for an order form.

Continue to brave the weather and have fun training your dogs and remember you can grab a barista coffee and cake at our kiosk to warm up between classes.

Kim Dearden
President of Frankston Dog Obedience Club



Eris

Owned by: Mel Larcombe

DOB- 10/12/2008

Name- TCH Jabrini Blue Illusion CD RN

Eris- named after the greek goddess of trouble and strife.

Got her tracking champion and companion dog titles before she was 2

Was working on Open and TSD when she got epilepsy went on to get her RN title.

Now retired

Loves me because I feed her yummy treats!!

Meet the Committee...

Have you found yourself wondering who is behind this amazing club? It's time to meet your committee! Each newsletter will feature some of the FDOC committee members so you can get to know them all!

Name: Lauren Dolley

Committee position: General member

Roles at FDOC: Flyball Coordinator, flyball instructor, newsletter editor

Tell us a bit about yourself:

By trade I'm a teacher. Currently I'm taking a break from working in schools, thoroughly enjoying being a full time mum to my 4 year old and 10 month old. I'm a teacher through to my core. I love to learn and I love to help others learn and I can't help but seem to end up teaching everything I get involved in.

Tell us a bit about your dogs:

I have a 9 year old Maremma Sheepdog x, and a 6 year old Border Collie. Both dogs did basic obedience at FDOC and then went on to train and compete in agility and flyball. My dogs were my first babies, they're spoilt but they're loyal loving family pets that just want to please and be loved and I couldn't ask for more!

What made you decide to get involved in the committee?

I'm a big believer in the notion that that you should be a part of the change you want to see in the world. I love our club and I wanted to be a part of the group charged with continuing to take it forward. I just can't seem to help getting involved in everything I do!

Name Janice James

Committee position – Treasurer (16 years so far)

Roles at FDOC – Foundation Member, Life Member, Vice President (10) years, Part Time Instructor.

Tell us a bit about yourself – Past President, Foundation Member & Life Member of Lure Racing Club of Vic. Inc., (14 years) .

Foundation Member and Vice President of the Earth Dog Club of Vic. Inc

Foundation Member and Committee Member of Bichon Related Breeds Club of Vic. Inc.

Married, 2 Adult Children, 2 Married Grandchildren and 5 Fantastic Great Grand Children.

Tell us a bit about your dogs – Jack Russells who have all passed over the Rainbow Bridge were Sandie CDX, Bertie CD, SE (Senior Earthdog) and 3 passes out of 5 for his Master Earth Dog Title and Mollie FDX, SE, who was one of our first dogs to compete in the Thunderbolts Flyball Team, we enjoyed 2 trips to the Nationals in Canberra and 1 trip to the Nationals when they were held in SA.

My present dogs are Havanese, Zarlle has an Aust Ch. & Neut Ch Title plus CCD, her Daughter Leah also has Aust Ch. Title.

These girls are now retired from the Show Ring and will be returning to the Obedience rings again. Bundy is now 10 and retired from Flyball. Rose (Auskrest Kiss From A Rose) is now coming into her own in the Show Ring, I expect big things from this little one, Polly has now joined us and will also be in the Show Ring this year.

What made you decide to get involved in the Committee? – Its so long ago I don't remember.

Some Gentle Reminders...

The following reminders are for the safety of all.

The kiosk is a dog free zone! Please tether your dog when signing in or purchasing goodies from the kiosk. We don't want disagreements between pooches without enough space in the line or dog paws on the counter or cakes!

Please avoid the flyball area when flyball is in progress. There have recently been a lot of people walking from their cars to the kiosk straight through the area or across the back of the area. We ask this for both for your safety and for the benefit of newer flyball dogs that may be easily distracted. We would hate for a flyball dog running at full speed to crash into you or your dog as you're walking through.

Please do not let your dog approach another dog without first asking the owner. This goes for children too, please ensure they do not approach dogs without asking the owner first.

Please allow dogs in yellow coats plenty of space. There are many reasons why they might need space. This is both for the benefit of their training and for your safety!



2016 Committee

President

Kim Dearden

Vice President

Joy Quinn

Treasurer

Janice James

Secretary

Peter Gibson

Committee

Jenny Pepper

Kris Daniels

Pat Mattingley

Bob Mertens

Lauren Dolley

Melanie Larcombe

Candice Storme

Elaine Pearte



The Frankston Storm Flyball team at the Kingston Pet Expo earlier this year.

ANKC Agility Nationals South Australia 2016

The ANKC Agility Nationals are held every two years and the event is growing each time it is held. This year the host state was South Australia and the venue was Wirrina Cove on the way to Kangaroo Island. Beautiful venue, lovely ground to run on and lovely facilities. Competitors travelled from all over Australia and there was a contingent from New Zealand as well. Overall there were more than four hundred handlers, working with six hundred and twenty-eight dogs, involved in five thousand eight hundred and fifty-one runs. Then the finals. Rather a busy five days.

We were allowed to pitch shelters after midday on the Tuesday, a little like a LeMans start as choice space was limited, the challenge being the distance to walk to the rings. Wednesday morning dawned wet and wild, but despite struggles to put gear up, it was all managed. The first event was the teams event, which is State against State and with NZ team thrown into the mix as well. The Victorian team did really well and finished equal first, coming second on a count back, of course we had to wait until the Sunday at presentations to hear the results. Congratulations to our team on a great effort. Renee and Spike, Peter and Prada, Greg and Crash, Stephen and Willow, Katie and Nakita and Stephanie and Penny.



The individual competitions started about the middle of the day and the first day continued after dark to complete all events, they did have lights. The events are

organized according to height and so dogs are competing against other dogs of similar leg length. Fun event to attend, great watching the best teams in the country and challenging to run yourself. The judges put courses on the ground that suited the various sizes of dogs and that in itself is thought provoking. The four days of competition lead ultimately to finals, which teams gain entry to by placing in the heats. The number of dogs that qualify depend on the number of dogs competing in the height, about five percent of each heat would qualify. In the case of 200, the first dog only qualified for Masters Agility and the first two would qualify for Masters Jumping and so on.

The weather was kind on Thursday, but unfortunately Friday was feral, so the organizers cancelled the day's events and then we ran Friday's events on Saturday, not starting until noon to give the grounds some drying time, so lights again needed. The rings themselves stayed in fairly good condition, which was great, the pathways to the rings, not so good, rather muddy access. A number of Frankston members competed and had a degree of success, which to be honest is all you hope for at these big events, clean runs are brilliant. Congratulations to Penny Roberts, Donna Merrilees, Sandra Scafocchia, Tammy Beattie, Leonie Jasper, Jenny Williams, Kaye Grant and Geraldine Kisielnicki, who topped off a good week by winning Masters Agility 500.

The event concluded with the finals on Sunday and presentations, overall a fun and rather exhausting experience. I was lucky enough to qualify for the finals for Masters Agility and Masters Jumping in the 200 height, so got the full experience. The Victorians did well, with many making finals and gaining places, so plenty to cheer about on the last day. The next Nationals are in Victoria, in 2018, so not so far to travel, bring it on.

Carole Denehey

Inaugural Agility/Jumping Trial

Well as most of you by now will know that our Agility Trial ran smoothly seeing we had 857 entries it was a mammoth job however all went according to plan. This couldn't have happened without a good subcommittee we all worked well together; thank you too Tammy, Geraldine, Sue and Kaye.

On the day prior to the trial Ian, Bob, Carol, Donna, Kris, Tammy, John and Sue Gonelli were a huge help, setting and marking the rings which made the morning of the trials set up so much easier.

As the dawn broke on 14th May 2016 Frankston Dog Obedience Club members, Wayne, John, Ian, Bob, Ron and Albert were at KCC Park all ready to help us set up the agility courses which Sandy S organised. To each of you thank you.

Ian, Ron, Bob and Albert stayed working as pole setters for the remainder of the long busy day (or part of the day) Which helped the day run as well as what it did which was greatly appreciated by our judges and competitors. Once again our judges set some great courses always with their challenges but lots of fun. We also had brilliant scribes, lead runners, marshals, pole setters and a really good VCA rep Trevor Moore.

Tammy did an amazing job with the time chart which worked really well with us finishing earlier than I first thought when I saw the large entry. John, Kim and Peter were also very supportive and helpful, in so many different ways behind the scene☺ With our great raffle prizes supplied by one of our sponsors "Pet Food Co, Langwarrin" tickets sold well thanks to Cathy and Ross.

I would like to lastly mention that the food supplied by the competitors and members of FDOC for the judges, scribes and stewards was plentiful and delicious which was very well organised by Sandy. Kel in the kitchen once again did a super job☺

See you at KCC May 2017.

*For now that's all from up at agility.
Agility Trial Secretary: Penny Roberts.*



Fun Day Results - Obedience

Puppies

- 1st – Leanne Cree and Walter
- 2nd – Jessica Hibbard and Lexi
- 3rd – Carry Heinze and Gem

Beginners 1

- 1st – Natasha Sleep and Cole
- 2nd – Eileen Foley and Ms Em
- 3rd – Natasha Sleep and Blue

Beginners 2

- 1st – Nicola Millward and Spartacus
- 1st – Mary Tredinnick and Boof
- 2nd – Justin Fox and Piper
- 3rd – Anna Guzeva and Sochi

Pink

- 1st – Candice Storme and Charlotte
- 2nd – Eric Simmonds and Pfluger
- 3rd – Lana Mattingley and Louie

Yellow

- 1st Delilah and Jenyn Pepper
- 2nd – Jessa nd Andre Torpy
- 3rd – Tanya and Nick Ely

CCD

- 1st – Storm inateacup and Jenny Clancey
- 2nd – Peppa and Stephanie Johnson
- 3rd – Delilah and Jenny Pepper

Novice

- 1st – Rastus and Robert Mertens

Open

- 1st – Belle and Kate Bentley
- 1nd – Shadow and Melissa Ferabend
- 3rd – Deltah and Pat Mattingley

Utility

- 1st – Shadow and Melissa Ferabend

UDX

- 1st – Oliver and Kate Bentley

Veterans

- 1st – Kenny and Carol Buxton
- 2nd – Inga and Wayne Collihole
- 3rd – Banjo and Andre Torpy

Rally Beginners

- 1st – Jazz and Ann Rogers
- 2nd – Delilah and Jenny Pepper
- 3rd – Charlotte and Candice Storme

Rally Intermediate

- 1st - Spartacus and Nicola Milward
- 2nd – Emmy and Janese Carlile
- 3rd – Jemima and Jenny Pepper

Rally Expert

- 1st – Misty and Carol Buxton
- 2nd – Shadow and Melissa Ferabend
- 3rd – Kenny and Carol Buxton



A huge thank you to our sponsor 4 Legs for your ongoing support.

Fun Day Results - Flyball

Division 1 Pairs

- 1st - Willow and Kali
- 2nd – Ruby and Bowie
- 3rd – Kenny and Coco

Division 2 Pairs

- 1st – Lily and Skater
- 2nd – Stevie G and Stryker
- 3rd - Ella and Rufus

Beginners 1

- 1st – Jetta

Beginners 2/3

- 1st – Molly
- 2nd - Maggie

Fun Day Results - Agility

Brrr colder than forecast but thankfully dry and our waterlogged ground was better than expected. Trainee judge Geoff Taylor designed some really fun courses though the opportunity to speed was the undoing of many of the larger dogs.

Masters Jumping

- 1st Tammy Beattie and Moby
- 2nd Carol Denehey and Phin
- 3rd Carol Denehey and Dart

Excellent Jumping

- 1st Jo McComiskie and Jack
- 2nd Marg Boreham and Penny
- 3rd Jenny Williams and Woody

Novice Jumping Tried

- 1st Judy Tricker and Snoopy
- 2nd Jannelle Carlile and Emmy
- 3rd Danielle Marsh and Ty

Novice Jumping not Tried

- 1st Ron Deane and Toby
- 2nd Catherine Baird and Brightly
- 3rd Eileen Foley and Dottie

Masters Agility

- 1st Sue Kerwin and Flynn
- 2nd Penny Roberts and Izzy
- 3rd Carol Denehey and Phin



Excellent Agility

- 1st Roger Padfield and Charley
- 2nd Donna Merrilees and Link
- 3rd Cathy Jaques and Missy

Novice Agility Tried

- 1st Sandra Scafocchia and Shilo
- 2nd Danielle Marsh and Ty
- 3rd Jenny Williams and Woody

Novice Agility Not Tried

- 1st Ron Deane and Toby

Beginner Agility

- 1st Eileen Foley and Dottie
- 2nd Catherine Baird and Brightly
- 3rd Stephanie Johnson and Pepper

Having a Ball: Flyball News

Victorian flyball is currently in its winter break so there is not many competitions being held locally but training is still in full force, with the Nationals in September coming up. Frankston Storm had an excellent run of placings in comps especially at the Hastings comp in April with the Storm Chasers taking out the Champions Trophy.

This is a handicapped run off of all first place division winners with the teams having their times set by the fastest they've raced over the two days. Unfortunately for Frankston the two teams in the Champions Trophy had to race each other first up and the Cyclones just couldn't match the Chasers and were eliminated. Hopefully next year we can get an all Frankston final.

The Chasers then had the daunting task of beating the fastest team in Victoria who had a time set at 17.894 seconds. It was an impressive sight (and sound!) with the remaining Frankston team members lining the side of the ring closest to their fellow teammates racing and cheering the dogs on! There was in particular one Border Collie, who is a very casual runner, sped up when cheered on so it was great to see even the dogs getting into the spirit. They managed to hold onto their lead for all their races and walked away the victors of 2016!

In June, T'Keilor held their first comp in several years and thankfully we were blessed with beautiful sunny weather. With three teams entered and a fair few other teams from other clubs entered, it was very relaxed and we all got to sit on the chairs that are usually neglected at comps other than at lunchtimes. One team even had a 3 hour break between races!

During the last few weeks, some people may

have noticed that there are a few flyballers training earlier than usual on Saturday mornings. With the Nationals coming up in September, the Nationals teams have decided to start early enough that all members can train together to ensure our best possible change of bringing home a trophy or two.

This year we will be sending two teams to Clarendon, NSW which is a 10 hour drive away. One team consists of Chad, Coco, Colby, Jovi, Kenny and Willow with Ash, Bowie, Lily, Pip, Stevie G and Stryker making up the other team. Our captains are currently working tirelessly to suss out suitable orders for the dogs running to ensure even times regardless of the four dogs running and making sure our crosses are consistent. A captain's job is never easy especially when there are dogs in the team who don't like teammates, can run in certain positions only and have their own little idiosyncrasies that make the correct team order essential. Even if we don't win a trophy to bring home, I am sure all our teammates and the rest of Frankston Obedience will be proud of our achievements of just getting to represent the club again, our comradery and encouraging attitude of all involved.

Natasha Sleep

Recent results:

Hastings Two Day Competition April 2016

Lighting Bolts - 3rd in division 1 – BT 19.056
Cyclones - 1st in division 2 – BT 19.795
Twisters - 2nd in division 4 – BT 22.992
Chasers - 1st in division 5 – BT 24.076

CHAMPIONS TROPHY:

Frankston Storm Chasers!

Back to T'Keilor Competition June 2016

Typhoons – 4th in division 1 – BT 19.206
Hailstorms – 2nd in division 2 – BT 21.386
In a Teacup – 2nd in division 5 – BT 25.711

Welcome New Members

Connie MacEachern and Archie
Tracey Carter and Leo
Jane Comey and Folley
Amanda Tipping and Finn
Charlotte Duff and Banga
Claire & Keenan & Julie Adonis and Oscar
Jane Homberger and Zara
Lainie & Simon & Shannon & Patrick Noonan and Obi
Ashlee & Trent & Judi Broughill and Dash
Kelly Roberts and Piper
Michelle Ruic and Nellie
Holger Hansen & Katherine Bubb and Tardis
Kim Jones and Darcy
Sophie & Robert Madgwick and Lily & Georgia
Paula & Patrick Barton McGuire and Knox
Tash & Ajax Gillatt – Fitton and Agatha
Peter & Lesley Egan and Poppy
Milia & Airlie Bell and Luna & Oden
Bec & Daniel Maitland – Taylor and Indi & Nala
Howard & Rhiaian Alexander and Coco & Sirius
Kate Bentley and Oliver & Belle
Cate Faulkner and Ash
Cazna & William Cooper – Taia and Zeus
Beth & Jordan Atkinson – Blake and Rebel
Samantha Isarin and Sally & Bobby
Susan & Ken Ralph – Lindsay and Buddy & Roxy
Jude Hudson and Bindee
Haydn John Ball and Max
Kate Scott & Family and Harry
Scott & Jenny McLean and Dusty
Kellie Monea and Sophie
Helen Campbell and Munchkin
Erin & Ethan Newman – Hamill and Indy
Sarah Thompson and Sonny
Robyn & Elise Macdougall and Ruby & Poo
Belinda & Phillip Osler and Paco & Archie
Carolyn & Bryce Hayward and Zorro



Charlotte & James Cleverdon – McKay and Caesar
Belinda Barrow and Roxy
Sarah Forbes and Benji
Ross Taylor and Dougal
Sarah & Aidan Pincott – Stephens and Frankie
Jacqueline & Steven Woolston and Sheba
Michele Rowe and Mia
Chelsey Bakof
Helena & Rachael Revell – Gadanec and Toby
Graham & April Wright and Kai
Aven & Edward Lines and Bronte
Madison & Serena Simkin – Merry and Winston
Georgie & Tony Brousil and Floki
Iris Barnes and Oscar
Michael Conell and Benji
Airlie Robshaw and Abbi
Danielle & Daniel Kyle – Rogers and Gizmo
Marjie & Chris Arnold and Monte
Lee & Mariana Hahir – Clarke and Maximus
Margaret Arrowsmith and Elfie
Petroura Osianlis and Maverick & Shiloh
Gabrielle & Veronica Hammill and Angus
Lisa Retford and Jackson & Buddy
Joanne & Oliver Burke and Splash
Leanne & Adam Gee and Zara & Walter
Jennifer Mussett and Moo Moo
Yvonne & Victoria Middlebrook and Finn
Daniel & Marina Whittle – Leccese and Bonnie
Gary Clark and Koda
Brett Clark and Axel
Seti & Rosie Salesa and Bounty
Emily & Kevin Lomax and Celia
Jessica Hibberd and Lexi
Sonja & Joska & Meaghan Bottern, D'argent – Price and Milou and Zara
Paul & Lucinda Ruppik and Kippur
Casey & Edwin Eickmeyer – Boelen and Radar & Kobi

Every effort has been made to correctly include all new members. Please accept my sincerest apologies if there have been any errors or omissions.

Club Pride!

In other exciting news our new FDOC uniforms are available now! So you too can support your club and look stylish in a club polo, jacket or rain jacket. All club merchandise is beautifully embroidered with the FDOC logo.

The royal Blue and Sky Blue polo shirts are held in stock and can be purchased by seeing Kim in the kiosk. But because we know that blue isn't for everyone other colours are also available by order only. Jackets and spray proof jackets are also available to order. Please see the lovely ladies in the kiosk for an order form.

Rain Jacket (Black with royal blue sleeves and gold logo)	Available in sizes XS - 5XL Outer: 100% Nylon Body Lining: 100% Polyester micro fleece Sleeve lining: 100% Polyester Concealed hood with 2 way full zip and storm flap Internal pocket	\$120	
Jacket (Royal blue and yellow)	Available in Sizes XS – 5XL Outer: 100% Micro fibre Jacquard Ripstop with Micro fibre panels Body Inner: Single jersey lining Sleeve Inner: 100% Polyester Taffeta Lining Full zip front with two zippered pockets	\$60	
Polo Shirt (Royal blue and yellow) (Sky blue and Navy) (Grey and Black) (Hot Pink and Black – ladies sizes only)	Available in Mens sizes S – 5XL and Ladies sizes 8 – 24 100% breathable Polyester Single Jersey Knit Snag resistant fabric	\$38	

Katie Kelpie

In the previous newsletter, I mentioned Katie as one of our dogs in "Meet the Committee..." section. I told you of Red, Tam and Blue but did not give anything away about Katie. Here is Katie's story.

We first heard of Katie from a teacher at Mailie's school. She was looking for a new home for Katie. We were told Katie was a jumper and had escaped a couple of times. We decided to have a look at her in a neutral area and, if our other dogs accepted her, we would walk her back home and introduce her to her new home. Well, they got on very well and Katie was the first one to jump into the van for the journey home.

We never wanted Katie to be an obedience dog, she was with us to enjoy her life. Oh, did I mention that she was nine when she chose us?

Adopting a dog can have its problems. Observing so many dogs at the club and doing some research, dogs in new surroundings tend to display appeasing behaviours for the first four to six weeks. After that period different behaviours may appear. Luckily for us, Katie's tail did not stop wagging for the first two weeks, even when sleeping! Towards the end of week three, she had a bark. This was the first of her many excited noises.

Katie's first visit to the beach told us that she had not spent a lot of time on a beach. She tip toed into the water, only progressing a little further to follow us. Eventually and by following the other dogs deeper she found out she could actually swim. It wasn't pretty at first but she became a distance swimmer. There was no problem swimming from Keast Park to Carrum Lifesaving Club. She would have kept going if we could have carried on further. In a curious twist, Katie would not swim back towards Frankston. This happened a few times at different locations before we noticed that she only seemed to swim towards the north!

When we met Katie she was nine years old. Some seven years later and at the age of sixteen, Katie had serious issues with her marbles, losing three or four and sometimes remembering where one or two were. Her eyesight and hearing becoming more and more impaired. When switched on, enthusiasm exuded from her.

We visited a relative during our summer holiday. He is an elderly uncle who coincidentally has memory and general health issues. When it was time to take the dogs down to the local park land, my uncle volunteered to take Katie. Kindred spirits.

Shortly after Easter this year, I had the opportunity to take Red and Katie back to NSW for a small family gathering with my uncle. During this visit, as a treat, Red, Katie and I visited a bay beach near my uncle's home. The beach looked flat and calm, ideal I thought. Unfortunately, when the first couple of waves broke on the beach, they chased us a few metres up the beach. The third one dragged Katie back into the water, the fourth slammed her old, frail body onto the sand. At this point she became unconscious. As I was about to enter the water, a local swimmer moved into the water and retrieved her. She was unconscious and unresponsive but with teamwork we revived her. A very fast and barely notified visit to a local vet gave me the reassurance that we should at least reach home. On arriving home, we visited a more local vet. Katie had not eaten for almost 48 hours and she had drunk very little. The consultation concluded that the trauma had accelerated the already progressing body shut down. We said goodbye to Katie that day. Katie is missed by all her human and canine family and friends.

Peter Gibson