

FRANKSTON DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB

Affiliated with the Victorian Canine Association INC. A0024447E



President's Report

After another hard year of lockdown, it was great to see so many happy faces back at club, enjoying training.

Normally at this time of year our club starts drawing to a close. However this year the decision has been made to continue with informal training over the Christmas, New Year period for our current members. At this stage we are looking at morning training sessions due to the fact it will be warmer weather. The club will be closed on Saturday 25th December and January 1st 2022. More information about summer training will be sent out in the coming weeks.

This year due to the uncertainty regarding covid restrictions, our end of year presentation evening at the Seaford Hotel, has been cancelled. This will now be two years since we have all come together to recognise the achievements of our members. This year however, we have decided to hold a picnic style

Christmas celebration at the club, followed by presentations so all members can attend. This will take place on the afternoon of Saturday 11th December. More information will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Our AGM will take place via zoom at 11am before hand. The event will be outdoors with gazebos and chairs provided, and will be catered for. I will require expressions of interest for catering purposes. Please email me at kim@fdoc.org.au if you are coming along. It will be fantastic to see all our members come together to celebrate our 30th year at Frankston dog obedience club.

It has been a hard year for all in many ways, and hopefully the worst is behind us. Let's all look forward to a great year in 2022, getting back to what we all love. I hope you all have a happy and safe Christmas and New Years.

- Kim

FDOC 2021 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Frankston Dog Obedience Club will be held virtually via Zoom on Saturday 11th December 2021 at 11am. You can register by using the following link,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZltf-CopzooGtWRnfOa7Ntnc8K-T6K5xUEr>

Your attendance will be greatly appreciated.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Club's Annual General Meeting will be held on **Saturday 11th December 2021 at 11.00 a.m.** via a **Zoom meeting**. This is your Club and therefore all members are encouraged to attend. In accordance with the Club's constitution, there will be an election of office bearers and committee members as follows:

The **President, Treasurer and four committee members** are required to stand down or nominate for re-election for a further two year term. Office bearers are required to be financial members of the Victorian Canine Association Inc. and required to remain so during their term in office.

Members wishing to stand for any of the above positions are required to submit a fully completed nomination form and lodge with the Secretary not less than 21 (twenty one) days prior to the meeting (20/11/2021). Successful candidates are expected to serve a two year period prior to having to re-nominate. Nominees for President and Vice President must have served on the committee for a full twelve months prior to the Annual General Meeting. Being an office bearer or committee member is no sinecure and the Club requires active administrators who are willing and able to accept responsibility and complete assignments as required by the Club's members and approved by the committee.

Although all members are invited to attend the A.G.M., voting rights are restricted to financial members who have been members for at least 3 (three) months preceding the meeting. One vote only is permitted per membership.

Junior members (under the age of sixteen years) shall not be eligible to vote or hold office as an office bearer or ordinary member of committee. Members unable to attend may request a postal vote where the number of nominations exceeds the vacancies. Applications for a postal vote must be lodged in writing with the Secretary 14 (fourteen) days prior to the A.G.M. (20/11/2021)

Notices of other (special) business to be placed on the meeting agenda must be submitted in writing to the Secretary 21 (twenty one) days prior to the A.G.M.

The address for the submission of nominations, notices or postal vote applications is:

Frankston Dog Obedience Club Inc. P.O. Box 900 Frankston Vic. 3199

or

Email: secretary@fdoc.org.au

Peter Gibson
Secretary



OFFICIAL NOMINATION FORM

Official Nomination Form for the two year period from the date of the Annual General Meeting **2021**, for the positions of office bearers and ordinary committee members of the Frankston Dog Obedience Club Inc.

I, hereby nominate
(Name of proposer)

..... for the position of
(Name of nominee)

Signature of Proposer Date / / 2021

Signature of Nominee Date / / 2021

ALL NOMINATIONS TO BE LODGED WITH THE SECRETARY AT LEAST 21 (TWENTY ONE) DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING.
(20/11/2021)

NOMINATIONS BY MAIL SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO P.O. BOX 900 FRANKSTON VIC 3199

EMAIL RESPONSES TO secretary@fdoc.org.au

Welcome to our New Members

Helen Paton with Patch
David Gleeson with Lulu
Philip & Kelly O Shea - Dovey with Alaiinn
Tanya & Max Burke with Dash & Lucy
Sally & Luca Douglas - Grossi with Kiki
Nathan & Desrae Cerisara - Presdee with Bailey
Cameron & Jasmine Hooper with Oscar
Danny & Jenny Whelan with Roh & Narla
Emma & Mark Scholes with Maeve
June & Dale Taylor - Clarkson with Billy & Clarkson
Amanda & Barrie Clague with Nelson
Eli & Timothy Babio - Bramall with Gromit
Drew, Caralyn & Ben Glassenbury with Jasper
Sheryn & Peter Kennett with Yogi
Joanne & Margarita Wall - Perfecto with Montgomery
Gillian Samuel with Biskit
Katherine Black with Chewy
Sally & Paul Webb with Huxley
Joel & Kristin Williamson with Nellie
Liz & Geoff Long with Jedda
Joanne & Luke Doyle with Kya
Leanne & Valjenna Doyle with Milo & Cody
Michael & Sarah Dunn - Goodwin with Winry
Chris & Marysia Evans with Bambi
Tracey & Jason Dawson with Yoshi
Joanne Keeling with Ziggy
Mitchell & Rani Lander with Millie

When we are able to return to classes please ensure that you stay up to date with current government requirements.

You must:

- Carry a mask with you at all time and wear your mask indoors at the kiosk and where you cannot social distance
- Practice good hand hygiene – Sanitizer can be found around the grounds. Please ensure to sanitize your hands when handling club equipment and after touching frequently touched surfaces
- Maintain a distance of 1.5 meters from other members

Agility News

What is Foundation Agility?

Foundation is where you start your agility journey. People often wonder why they cannot start in Beginners, but first you need to learn the foundation skills. Then you can progress to running short courses in beginners. Even experienced agility handlers start new dogs/pups in foundation!

Your dog needs to work equally well on your left and right hand sides, walking and running with you and changing sides fluently. You need to be able to position your dog (sit, drop or stand) on either side and to leave him in position while you walk away. We introduce the concept of a release word meaning your dog can break position when cued. Actually you should already be using a release word in obedience to end a behaviour such as a stay.

A prompt recall is also necessary. Your dog training skills will be tested as you learn to move away from luring a behaviour and begin learning to shape the behaviour. Understanding the use of a clicker or bridge word will be important. At this stage your dog should start to focus on the job not on the food or toy. Hopefully this will be an 'ah ha' moment for you and your dog.

You will also learn to send your dog away from you, initially around a cone, then to a jump. We introduce the tunnel which most dogs love and also some jumping exercises – believe it or not, not all dogs jump properly or know how to collect their bodies.

Finally you will learn how to teach your dog to weave thru 12 poles and to negotiate the large contact obstacles safely and correctly.

Whilst we use a lot of food rewards, we also like to use toys. Teaching a tug and retrieve to your hand is very useful.

To make any progress you need to put in time at home practicing all these exercises. Very little equipment is required – 4 garden stakes for weaving plus a short plank 30cm wide and as long as your dog. Jumps can be made with a garden stake on some bricks, height is not important at this stage. Traffic cones are useful but anything you can teach your dog to go around such as a chair will do.

Warning: Agility is addictive!

- Sandy

Lockdown Life

My humans are still home. It's great. I get long walks near home and lots of inside time. Unfortunately the magpie family in our trees also appear to be staying near home. I am happy to share my yard, and even my water bowl, with their fledglings, but what's a dog gotta do to have a bathroom break without getting dive bombed?!? In her own backyard! It's a disgrace. On the upside, though, it means I get to spend even more time inside.

Inside is pretty good at the moment. There's another Little Human now, who still needs training in 'sit' and 'stand,' but leaves little blankets all over the place for me to snuggle into. I do love a comfy blanket. It's my second favourite part of family picnics, too, right after the Big Little Human's leftovers. The Big Little Human still leaves lots of leftovers that I can wheedle out of my handler. I only have one complaint about the Big Little Human; his 'stay' and 'come' are appalling, yet he is ALWAYS off lead. Fairness would dictate I should be off lead just as much. He can't even keep up with the pram half the time.

For all his faults, the Big Little Human is way more generous with rewards than my handler in

training. Even bath time is acceptable if the treats don't stop appearing at my nose. He also throws the ball for me and gives me a treat for every meter I go to retrieve it. This is an excellent inside game. My handler keeps saying something about 'diet' and 'weight loss' for she and I, but I'm not sure what that's about - maybe more treats?

As good as home is, I miss my weekly hangout session at the Dog club. That's when I'm center of attention and I get to smell friends and duck poo. I wonder when I will get to go there again? I hope my friends are staying safe and having a lovely time with their humans too.

- Lana, Pink obedience



Volunteers Wanted!

FDOC is completely volunteer run. Everyone from the person that signed you up on your first day to the kiosk ladies to the instructors and everyone in between are volunteering their time for the greater good of the club. Thankyou to all our volunteers for the time and effort. We are always looking for volunteers to help at the club. Sometimes we need small things done, other times we need larger, more time consuming roles filled.

This year we have held 2 fundraising bbqs at Bunnings Carrum Downs. Thankyou to everyone that volunteered a few hours of their time to take a shift slinging snags. It was wonderful to see so many members volunteering to support these!

Can you help with any of the following?

Instructors! We are always looking for keen new instructors! We run an instructors course each year, if you're keen to get involved chat to Albert – our chief instructor!

Cleaners! Our clubrooms don't clean themselves. Can you donate some time to help keep our amazing facilities clean? If yes please chat to Kim in the kiosk!

Scanning in attendants! Can you help us to monitor the scanning in table. Our Covid Safe plan requires everyone to check in and we are responsible for monitoring this. If yes please chat to Kim in the kiosk!



2021 Committee

Executive

President – Kim Dearden

Vice President – Lauren Dolley

Secretary – Peter Gibson

Treasurer – Janice James

General Members

Tasha Sharp

Charles Murton

Kate Dunkley

Penny Roberts

Pauline Dodd

Mailie Gibson

Katrina MacDonald

Bruce Saunders

Flyball News

Although it has been a quiet few months for the flyballers, Frankston Storm managed to host our Let's Do it Competition between lockdowns on the 1st of August. Despite a string on new covid safe requirements, we managed to successfully host a small open competition hosting 14 teams from across Victoria. Donning our masks and dividing teams into separate resting spaces we hit the lanes (with social distance) to enjoy a day of winter sun!

Our teams raced beautifully snagging some great times and great close races.

For our flyball friends in lockdown or unable to come the day was live streamed to facebook allowing everyone to come together and enjoy the flyball fun!

Our division 3 team narrowly miss out (by 1 heat) on the Paul Louziotis Memorial Shield for the most clean runs in Division 3, a trophy in honour of Paul, whose absence is still felt every time we hit the lanes to race.

To keep the team motivated to train at home during lockdown Mailie has been setting the team weekly challenges using some of the foundation flyball skills. It has been wonderful watching our dogs continue to work on their skills at home and continuing this work will help these dogs come back quicker and stronger when we can train together again!

Photos from the Vault



Kali 2014



Dakota 2012



Pip 2011

Ella's Story

Vale ELLA

10/10/2007 – 28/9/2021



Every dog that we have the privilege of sharing our lives with enhances our lives in some way, but sometimes, once in a lifetime, twice if we are really lucky a dog comes into our lives that is something more.

Ella was one of those dogs. Pitched to us as a Golden Retriever x Border Collie (which as she grew (and grew and grew) we knew was completely wrong and DNA testing later confirmed her to be primarily Maremma Sheepdog), we adopted this tiny bundle of white gold fur and welcomed her into our home. In return for our endless love and kindness she proved to be the most out of control puppy I have ever known. She would bite us, bark incessantly and destroy everything. She would hide behind furniture and pounce at our ankles sinking in teeth and claws like a feral cat. Through this we met Jen, an amazing trainer that changed the path of our lives. Through puppy school, basics, trick classes and beyond we learned so much together and by 18 months of age the out of control puppy, that I'll admit I was at times scared of, was a far distant memory and we had the most beautiful (albeit still noisy) well-mannered loyal (so very very loyal) companion.

Inseparable friends, we decided to try our hand at flyball, and I will be forever grateful to her for leading me to this ridiculous game of fetch and with that some of the best friends and most amazing people in my life today. Those looking in from outside will never understand just what this silly game and the people that come with it has brought to my life.

Ella lived to break down stereotypes. No one believed a Maremma x Great Dane would be any good at dog sports. You could see this on the faces of the instructors every time we rocked up to try something new. Yet she proved that anything is possible, mastering complex tricks and gaining agility, jumping and flyball titles from her first comp until the day she retired, leaving with masters titles or higher in all disciplines. She taught our kids that nothing is impossible unless you decide it so. And to this day the Ella mantra lives on in this house. Ella could – you can to!

Because of Ella and our ridiculous obsession with flyball came Kali, another challenging dog that has taught me so much and shaped the direction that my life takes today. If not for her, my business would not exist, the ability to work from home while my children were young would not have existed and my life and that of my amazing kids would follow a very different path. I am so grateful for every





minute I got to spend with my kids and dogs during those years at home. Every milestone I witness was because I was home with them and I was home with them because of something that began with Ella.

More recently because of what Ella started, Joey joined us. Joey came to us when my son needed a friend most and unbeknown to us at the time, was a missing link in our family that we didn't realise was



missing until he was here. From the moment he arrived home Ella quickly took him under her wing and taught him the ways of our home – to bark madly at the door when anyone or anything (including ducks and stray leaves) enter the property boundaries, to steal the exact spot on the couch that someone was sitting on as soon as they stand up to grab something, to jump up on the bed just before people get in knowing perfectly well you'll get a cuddle before being booted to the floor but most of all to love and protect this family. And to this day Joey does not let those kids out of his sight from the moment they wake, until the moment they are asleep, a legacy Ella began that he continues.



In this last year as her old body began to fail her we would often find the kids lying on the floor with Ella. She would nuzzle into them stretching this way and that to guide them to where she most wanted to be scratched and stroked. Her old cloudy eyes could still look straight into your soul and although she was ready to move on, all those years together suddenly feel like no time at all.

There will never be another Ella, but what she has brought to our lives will remain forever.



Red
27/7/2005 - 15/7/2021

Red was not my dog. Red was a member of our family. I cannot tell you what he meant to anyone else but I can tell you what he meant to me and what he taught me.

The reason we were chosen by Red may seem obscure but to us it was relevant and has deep meaning. Red was a Karingal Pet Shop puppy. As a family, on a regular shopping trip, we spotted him just waiting on his new family. We got a cuddle and pat and a few moments to say hello. After this brief introduction we spent some time, as new migrants, finding reasons not to have a dog. Rental property, never having a dog as a family, the long term commitment and the list goes on. There were more cons and if it was another decision, that would have been the end of the idea. The only pro that I can remember was that if we got a dog, the difficulty in returning from whence we came would be so much more difficult. A dog would not only result in the commitment to his wellbeing and future but a commitment to our new chosen life in this foreign land.

Lessons learnt though the Red years, some obvious others took a long time to sink in.

As a dog, Red always seemed aloof, distant when meeting other dogs. His hackles would raise but no aggression would appear. He had no tail to raise high, hackles filled the role. He would circle, never greet face on, sniff and move on. He appeared to have extreme confidence in himself, dog self.

He was people friendly, making acquaintances on beaches. On our first road trip to Queensland when he was 5 months old we visited 'The Spit', a leash free area on the north end of the Gold Coast. On at least two occasions we thought that we had lost him. The first was when he joined a soccer match. The players were initially please to see a friendly dog join their game until they realised that his mouth was bigger than the football they were playing with. Before he managed to pop it, he was returned to us.

The second time he went missing in action, we began to scour the beach only to find him lying contented beside a sun baking couple. It was almost difficult to prise him away from his new found family. That was until we realised that they did not know he had settled with them.

In dogs we see many roles, splitters, (police calming dogs), hunters, (always looking for something to chase) and guardians, (the word says it all). Red was a guardian, not a guard dog, a guardian! On the many occasions we would visit Brighton Beach, the only 24/7 leash free beach we knew of, Red would chase and fetch the ball he was thrown, sometimes balls which were not his. This was when we started carrying spare, replacement balls for the unsuspecting victims of his ball stealing skills. He could do this all day BUT if and when he spotted a dog or two getting too near to his 'child', he would leave his fun and slowly settle in front of this child. The strength in his quiet calmness repelled those dogs and the child could carry on her play oblivious to the intervention. Strength of presence was more important than aggression.

On a trip to Coffs Harbour, we wondered why he was so intent on swimming in the river mouth only to realise that he was making his way to a swimmer who did not look very confident. He escorted that swimmer to the far side and we had to get over the nearby bridge to collect him.

Red was not successful in his one attempt at Obedience trialling or any trained discipline but made up for any lack of 'formal qualifications' by becoming a mentor and guide for dogs who joined the club and then had extra training to help them overcome their perceived problems. He was one of the faces of Frankston Dog Obedience Club, happy to have a go at anything with enthusiasm, if there were treats on offer!

Red: Commitment;
Loyalty;
Quiet Strength;
Body Language Translator;
Friend;
You Can Never Have Enough Treats! ;
Sadly Missed.



Bowie's Story

Bowie was bought as a \$300 six-week old Trading Post puppy back in 2006. He turned out to be a smart boy and was doing tricks at a very early age. We took him to FDOC in 2007 for some obedience training but he quickly became bored so one day we thought we'd try Flyball. That was an instant hit and Bowie learned full runs in about three training sessions. For anyone who ran him in training or comps, they learned to keep their hands clear of the tuggie on the way back. I learned the hard way as he would hit it so hard, I still have scarred hands. His first competition was at Best Friends Resort at Yarram in 2008 and a star was born.

In the early days we would often struggle to get a team of four dogs but over time the flyball group grew. Bowie would run all day often in hot conditions and he would love every minute of it. His teams won National titles at Canberra and Victoria over the years. Bowie would rarely make a mistake except for my early starts which caused him to run many extra heats. We tried sheep herding with him once but he was petrified of sheep!

He competed until the age of twelve in 2019 but could have kept going if I had let him. He was diagnosed with arthritis at an early age in his front paws from a poor box turn and I

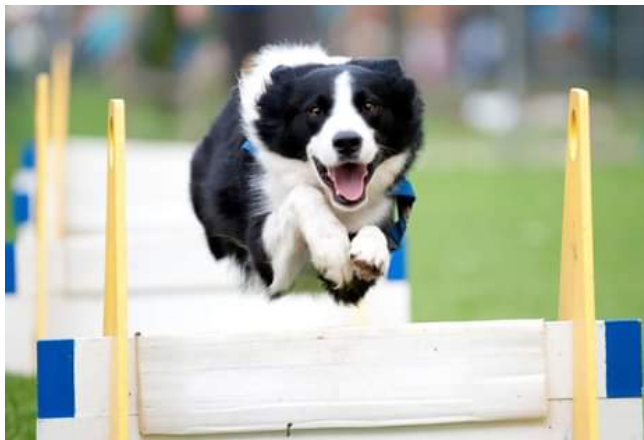


wouldn't let him run in pain. He finished his career with 3,076 points and earned the prestigious Jeddah award.

Bowie was more than a flyball dog though and I don't think I've ever met a more loveable dog. He would sit on stranger's feet facing away then lean back on their

legs for a pat. He had no interest in other dogs and I reckon he thought he was human. He appeared in the Herald Sun and on TV several times and I honestly don't think I ever took a photo of him without a smile on his face.

Bowie came down with severe pancreatitis in September and again in early October. I couldn't bear to see him in pain and made the tough call. His ashes and memories will stay with me forever.



- James