FAITHFULLY YOURS



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Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc PO Box 186 GEELONG 3220 Phone: 52 434 555

March 2000 Issue No 98

GEELONG OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB INC

Committee for 1999/2000

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NON-COMMITTEE	Desma Dickeson Ray Rogers Sylvia Noblett	52 789 585 52 755 271 52 817 442	Training Supervisor/ Display Team Leader Shop Manager Librarian
	Vacant		Raffle Steward

The opinions in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc. All Committee and Sub-Committee reports bear the name of the respective Officer.

All correspondence should be addressed to:-THE SECRETARY PO BOX 186 GEELONG 3213

Visit the Club's website at http://www.pipeline.com.au/users/jcgret

Newsletter closing date for all items – 15th of each month

INDEX				
Reports1	Walk for Animal Welfare12			
Trial Results3	Breeds Brain Teaser			
When I got my new dog5	General Meeting Minutes14			
Trial Dates5	Rites of Passage 15			
Dog Breeds – A to Z6	US Canine Tax Return 16			
Club History7	Library News			
Top Trainers use Psychology8	Club Calendar 17			

Reports Reports Reports Reports

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Firstly on a sad note, on March 4 2000, we lost a friend, past President and Life Member of the Club – Anton Pape – his courageous battle with cancer finally over. Our sympathies are extended to Dot and family. Anton's humour and wit will be missed around the Club.

Welcome to all our new members who have joined over the last month. This is your Club now and I hope you gain as much enjoyment as I did when I first joined the Club all those years ago.

April is fast approaching and boy what a busy month it is. A few important dates for you to remember – Tuesday 4 April is our General Meeting please come along and find out what is happening within your Club. The meeting will get underway at 7.30 pm with Helen Read as our guest speaker and her topic will be "Prevent-a-bite for both children and adults".

Sunday 9 April is our first Promotion Day for 2000. Good luck to those that will be taking part in the testing. Saturday 15 April is our annual Spirit of the West Challenge with Werribee Obedience Dog Club. Lets aim to bring the trophy back to its rightful place on our Club walls, instead of the wooden spoon which is now in its place.

Sunday 16 April, the Walk for Animal Welfare is on again at Queen's Park. This is an important and worthy fundraising event for Geelong Animal Welfare, so do come along and help us support this cause.

Happy training - Leonie Kelleher - President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Firstly, Janelle and I would like to offer our sincere sympathy to Dot and family on the sad lose of Anton. He was always a smiling face around the Club and his sense of humour will be sadly missed. Rest in peace.

As Leonie has said in her report, there is a lot happening in April. The Spirit of the West Challenge is a great family day and a chance for you to bring home a ribbon and hopefully the Shield for Geelong. It has graced Werribee's walls long enough to the point that Werribee Club jokingly suggested renaming the Shield, but we can't have that. So come along and enjoy the day, there are classes for everyone, including our newest puppies. Talk to your Instructor if you are in doubt as to which class to enter.

And don't forget to offer your support for the Trial. The list that was given out recently lists all the jobs that are involved in running a Trial and with the variety offered there is someway that every member can contribute. Even if you have never considered Trialing, the image portrayed by the Club should be important to you, as it is your Club.

'Til next time - Pam Convery - Secretary

TRAINING SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Time for my report for the Newsletter and again we say a final farewell to a long-time Life Member, former President and friend – Anton Pape- who lost a long battle with illness on 4 March – rest in peace Anton.

Promotion Day is fast approaching so I hope that Classes are working hard towards being tested on 9 April and with consistent hard work, regular practice and luck a pass to the next Class level will be achieved and new challenges met. Obviously, if the homework isn't done, there is very little point in going for a test before both handler and dog work reasonably well together

It is rather unfortunate that several holidays occur early in the year but as this situation arises every year we just have to work around those days off.

Please remember everyone, that all Instructors work voluntarily to help you achieve your goals, so if you cannot attend a Class for any reason, do let your Instructor know or leave a message on the Club answering machine as a matter of courtesy.

Finally thank you as always to the Instructors for all the hard work they do every Sunday Happy training everyone - **Desma Dickeson** - **Training Supervisor**

GROUNDS MANAGER'S REPORT

Well here is my first repot for this year. As you all know there is not much grass to cut. The ground is drying out and cracking up badly in places. But one thing came out of this drought; it is a lot easier to see where some of you did not pick up after your dog. So please, do the right thing, use the buckets supplied. Treat your Club ground like you would treat your own back yard.

We have an Agility Trial coming up on Saturday 6 May and for that we need your help. Janelle, our Trial Secretary has a list out for you to indicate where, how and when you can help. Remember "many hands make light work". Last year we had to have some outside competitor to move and pack up the gear and that was a bad reflection on our Club. I know we can do better, so how about showing them what we are made of!!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the members that attended my Mum's funeral and for the many cards I received. This Club support made it a lot easier to carry the grief. At 94 it was always to be expected, but it still hurts to lose a mother.

The Club support was also shown again at the recent passing of our Life Member – Anton Pape – with a large group of members attending the service. Anton was a good Club person and a good friend to many of us. It is the involvement in the Club that forms friendships and the feeling of belonging. So rally around your Committee and be part of the Club.

Fred Lehrmann - Grounds Manager

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GXPIRES MAY 2000

Vale Ch Lochbelle Beau Basil "Basil"

9/11/85 - 21/2/00

Basil was a very special boy, but Obedience just wasn't his scene. He couldn't see the sense in drop

stays, there were much better things to do. He just loved the show ring, all that excitement and tears when he became an Australian Champion. Basil thought the Walk for Animal Welfare, the Grand March at the Highland Gathering and the Royal Melbourne Show was put on just for him.

Many people, especially children, loved him. His family, friends and others will miss his gentle and loving nature

John's constant mate for 14 years and 3 months, they were never parted.

Basil rest in peace, our little champion John and Chris Shields



TRIAL RESULTS

Rottweiler Club of Victoria

26 February Susie & John Baird Ch Jahzorn Brilliant N Blue CD TDX 1st pass Open (Rasa) 2 2nd Place

Warrnambool Obedience Dog Club

Saturday 11 March No results available Highest Scoring Geelong Member Fiona Mackey
Sunday 12 March No results available Highest Scoring Geelong Member Fay Bolden

Albury & Border Kennel Club

Saturday 18 March Janelle Convery Cyndanz Spring Spice 1st pass Novice (Brodie) 3rd Place



VALENKAR RUBY VALLEY CD AD"TILLY"

ell, after obtaining my CD titles with both Tilly and Crissy, I decided not to go into Open but to branch off into Agility. In my first Agility Trial at Geelong, Crissy was in season so I only had Tilly in the afternoon trial. What a disaster, I was way out of the allotted time and had something like seventy course faults (five course faults being one error), but a learning experience

Both made a vast improvement very quickly, (which means I did too) and with Janelle Convery and Cathy Bond's encouragement, I soon had several passes under my belt, taking out first place with Tilly at Northern in a field of 34 dogs.

On the 20th of February I was going for AD titles with both dogs. Neither made a clear round in the morning trial, but believe it or not I was very pleased with their performance. Crissy missing out by ½ a second, (she was six weeks pregnant at the time) and Tilly knocking down a jump. In the afternoon trial, Crissy unfortunately missed a color on the walk over due to my cutting her in to fine on the corner, but did a clear second round to take second place. And Tilly did a clear round to gain her "AD TITLE"...

Thank you Janelle and Cathy for your guidance and Fiona Mackey for your company at many of the Trials. To all the new members who are unsure about entering trialing, "GO FOR IT",



it's a lot of fun (and hard work) and gives a great deal of satisfaction. You also meet many nice people and their dogs...... John Blonk

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WHEN I GOT MY NEW DOG

I asked for strength that I might rear her perfectly;

I was given weakness that I might feed her more treats.

I asked for good health that I might rest easy;

I was given a "special needs" dog that I might know nurturing.

I asked for an obedient dog that I might feel proud;

I was given stubbornness that I might feel

humble.

I asked for compliance that I might feel masterful;

I was given a clown that I might laugh.

I asked for a companion that I might not feel lonely;

I was given a best friend that I would feel loved.

I got nothing I asked for, But everything that I needed.



	I KIAL DE	ALES
6 May	Agility (2)	Geelong Obedience Dog Club
7 May	Agility (2)	Altona & District Civic O D C
13 May	Agility (2)	Bendigo Obedience Dog Club
13 May	Tracking	Knox Obedience Dog Club
13 May	Obedience	Murray Valley Obedience Dog Club
13 May	Endurance Test	Warrnambool Dog Training Centre
14 May		Murray Valley Obedience Dog Club
14 May	Agility (2)	Ballaarat Obedience Dog Club
•	9	Knox Obedience Dog Club
•		GSD Club of Victoria
•		Ovens Valley Kennel Club
21 May	Agility	GSD Club of Victoria
21 May	Obedience	Wangaratta Kennel & Ob Dog Club
21 May	Agility & Obedience	Berwick Obedience Dog Club
28 May	Obedience	Mornington Obedience Dog Club
3 June	Agility (2)	Croydon & District O Dog Club
4 June	Obedience	Keilor Obedience Dog Club
10 June	Obedience	Bairnsdale Dog Obedience Club
10 June	Tracking	GSD Club of Victoria
11 June	Tracking	GSD Club of Victoria
11 June	Obedience	East Gippsland Obedience Dog Club
12 June	Agility & Obedience	Gippsland Obedience Dog Club
12 June	Tracking	GSD Club of Victoria
17 June	Agility (2)	Aust. Shepherd Dog Club
17 June	Tracking	Southern Obedience Dog Club
18 June	Tracking	Southern Obedience Dog Club
24 June	Tracking	GSD Club of Victoria
24 June	Endurance	GSD Club of Victoria
25 June	Obedience	Broadmeadows Obedience D Club
	13 May 13 May 13 May 13 May 14 May 14 May 14 May 20 May 20 May 21 June 10 June 10 June 11 June 11 June 11 June 11 June 12 June 17 June 17 June 17 June 17 June 17 June 18 June 24 June 24 June	6 May Agility (2) 7 May Agility (2) 13 May Agility (2) 13 May Tracking 13 May Obedience 13 May Endurance Test 14 May Obedience 14 May Agility (2) 14 May Agility (2) 14 May Agility 20 May Agility 20 May Agility 21 May Obedience 21 May Agility & Obedience 21 May Agility & Obedience 28 May Obedience 3 June Agility (2) 4 June Obedience 10 June Tracking 11 June Tracking 11 June Agility & Obedience 12 June Agility & Obedience 12 June Agility & Obedience 13 June Tracking 14 June Tracking 15 June Agility & Obedience 16 June Tracking 17 June Tracking 18 June Tracking 18 June Tracking 19 June Tracking 19 June Tracking 10 June Tracking 11 June Tracking 11 June Tracking 12 June Tracking 13 June Tracking 14 June Tracking 15 June Tracking 16 June Tracking 17 June Tracking 18 June Tracking 19 June Tracking 19 June Tracking 20 June Tracking 21 June Tracking 22 June Tracking

DOGS BREEDS FROM A TO Z

Bluetick Coonhound

Height: 20 - 27 in (51 - 69 cm) Weight: 45 - 80 lb (20 - 36 kg)

This racy-looking hound is renowned for its ability to follow a cold trail.

The development of the Bluetick Coonhound began in the early 1900s in America. It is descended from French Hounds such as the Grand Bleu de Gascogne, or Gascony Hounds, that were brought to the Louisiana region in America in the early days of settlement. This already relatively light-boned breed (for a large hound) was crossed with dogs such as the Foxhound (American) and local curs to give it the speed and agility to hunt raccoon and fox. It is also thought that crosses with the Bloodhound were made. This may be the source of the breed's cold-scenting ability, as well as helping to maintain the size necessary to hunt cougars, another of the Bluetick Coonhound's common quarry.

The distinctive blue color of this breed, and the source of its name, is caused by small black spots or "ticks" on the white portion of the coat. Strictly speaking, the Bluetick is a tricolor, with tan on the muzzle, feet, legs and chest, and a white and black body. Bluetick Coonhounds have a streak of white between the eyes that has been described as Indian war-paint, and is said to be an indication of the fearless nature of the breed They are rather ungainly in appearance, with their legs seemingly too long for their height. Like all Hounds, Bluetick Coonhounds have long pendulous ears and a moderate amount of loose skin on the neck; however, they do not have loose skin around the eyes.

The Bluetick Coonhound is a very confident dog. It has been especially bred for tracking and it

performs this task very well indeed. With its keen sense of territory, this dog makes a great watch-dog. The Bluetick Coonhound can be a high-spirited animal but quickly settles down when given a job to do. Although not originally bred to be a companion, it is possible for this Coonhound to get along very well with people. Wise owners will ensure that their Bluetick Coonhound will be well socialized with both other dogs and people while it is still young. This dog should be given plenty of exercise if it is to stay contented.



Border Collie

Height: 20 - 21 in (52 cm) for the dog and 19 - 20 in (50 cm) for the bitch Weight: 50 lb (23 kg)

The Border Collie is world renowned for its intelligence and hard work. It is still used as a working sheep dog in many countries.

The Border Collie originated in the border region at the base of the Cheviot Hills between England and Scotland.

The Border Collie is a medium-sized dog. The head is well-rounded on the dome with a medium-length muzzle and scissor bite. Its back is level with a well-sprung rib cage. The tail is low or level with the back.

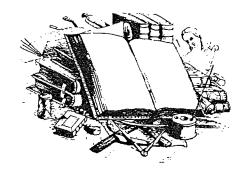
The Border Collie's coat is double with a moderately long, dense, firm topcoat and a short, soft, dense undercoat to provide almost complete weather proofing. The coat color can be black and white, or black with white and tan markings. There is also a reddish-brown with white version of the Border Collie.

As this dog is very attractive to look at and is medium-sized, it is often chosen by people to become

a family dog. In most cases the Border Collie makes an excellent family companion because it is intelligent, energetic, and capable of being very active. However, this dog was especially bred to be a tough working dog. It is brave enough to face down the biggest herd of sheep and boldly move them on with its powerful character. This same strength of character must be properly harnessed by assertively training the dog when it is young.

A Border Collie that becomes too bossy and bored is definitely not a good family pet. This dog loves to be given tasks by its owner, and positively basks in the glory when you praise it. It is a wonderful sight to see these dogs both at work and play. Physically these dogs are very hardy, but their feet should be checked after they have been running over rough country; brambles and debris should be removed from their coat.





CLUB HISTORY

Since its inception Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc has seen many changes and during this year I would like to compile a complete history of the

Club containing as much information as possible. If you have any photographs, articles or literature you feel are part of that history, please bring them to the Office where they can either be scanned or reproduced, then returned to you. Anything from pre 1985 is of particular interest.

TOP TRAINERS USE DOG PSYCHOLOGY

by Gary Somerville – National Dog – December 1991

Psychology is the foundation of dog training.

The owner who does not understand the mind of his animal misses out on the best part of having a dog. Dog psychology is a hifalutin term for something which owners have been cultivating for over 12,000 years.

When you try and explain it to dog obedience classes, people are not interested - they turn off. But the few that do show interest are the future top trainers. And, despite opinions to the contrary, a good instructor should persevere in explaining it to classes. That's one of the main reasons why there are only a few "motivated" dogs in Australia. Not many work eagerly with a willing smile. The way that we are taught to train Fido dampens motivation.

A good trainer that knows how a dog behaves will spot an error immediately and correct it in a friendly, positive way. He knows how his dogs mind functions and how it receives ideas. If you understand the nature of your dog and how you co-operate together it follows you know how to correct a fault in a friendly, confident manner.

This joint effort comes from "reading" Fido correctly and knowing the reason behind everything he does. You must know his personality intimately and be able to get into his furry body to "feel" about the things he does. You must learn to put yourself in his world by understanding his natural culture. You don't set out to change it. You set out to improve what is already there. This often means changing your methods.

Pups receive their basic training from Mum and the littermates. They all gave him plenty of discipline. Then he's free and looking for another authoritative figure to take over. Try to think like your dog. When he comes to you as a pup he is an animal with the primitive brain of a wild pack member looking for another pack leader. If you are patient you will find dogs teach you more than you ever teach them.

Dogs look at life in two ways - restriction and freedom. This is why dogs respond better to training after being confined. All dogs need a holiday from train, train. Continuous training sours an eager pooch and reading his body language alerts you to this. All the time you are with your four-footed friend you are quietly but firmly encouraging and discouraging his individual actions to suit what he must do in obedience trials.

This power to control is based on mutual respect. You use what is inside the dog, the real dog, by training his mind, not his body. It is not wise to pressure Fido into doing an exercise over and over again because his first attempt failed. You are just flogging a dispirited dog and making him associate the exercise with dislike. The "I'll keep at it till he does it right" attitude is a sure sign of lack of dog sense.

Psychology to me means a multitude of exciting things about dogs.

I always watch my fellows very carefully to discover if they are in the mood and concentrating. I never like to train a dog unless he's showing plenty of eagerness and if I haven't got his complete attention I look for an answer.

Top Trainers use dog Psychology

One thing is certain; you must ignite your dog's attention to train it correctly. You have at most about ten minutes - any more will turn him sour towards training. You must concentrate on one another because the moment your concentration wanes your dog will fail in his task.

You "turn a dog on" by your attitude, chemistry and dog sense - by having 'canine fingers'. Experience is characteristic of a good trainer. A person with canine sense is always on good terms with his dogs. He knows an important link is familiarising the animal with his scent. In return, his dogs give him fierce motivation and look on him as their pack leader.

You must always to able to read the behaviour pattern of your dog. Learn how your dog communicates and you can use his positive response in training him. You may notice something deep in his eyes, tail or ear movement. It all adds up and you must identify each and every sign correctly to be successful. You use psychology by "feeling his thoughts" via the check chain and the lead. This is the mark of a good trainer.

The only correction most dogs need is sent down the lead by rattling the links - not by compulsive jerking.

When it comes to dog psychology, young people are most at fault as it is too deep a subject for them to comprehend. Parents must explain its function and why it is important. Children don't understand that dogs are complex creatures that don't learn like a human being.

It has been said that training is nothing more than developing a language between you both for better understanding. That's true. The person with heaps of dog knowledge always gets a positive response. Dog psychology is not just studying your dog's behaviour and brain function. It's how you combine it with training and the relationship you have with Fido. It's a personal feeling you have towards one another. It also means studying his instincts, impulses, senses, learning behaviour and loves and hates.

The living truth about your dog doesn't always divide into neat compartments - it is a continuing voyage of discovery.

NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

All advertisements are restricted to half an A4 page with a limit of 12 ads per issue

Rates

12 months - \$75.00

6 months - \$50.00

1 Edition - \$25.00

Half page "Vale notices" and "Title notice" are free

Back-to-Back Agility Trials

Saturday 6 May 2000

Entries close: Monday 17 April 2000

\$8.00 per entry per trial (includes catalogue)

Entries to: Trial Secretary, Janelle Convery, 247 Shannon Avenue, Manifold Heights 3218 Cheques made payable to Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc

Entry details: Please print clearly. Height at shoulder must be shown in millimeters for All Classes. Entries post marked after the closing date will be returned. Enclose a Self Stamped Addressed Envelope for acknowledgment of entry

Check in time - Morning -8.00 am -8.45 am
Afternoon - 12.30 pm - 1.15 pm

Judging commences - Morning - 9.00 am

Afternoon - 1.30 pm

<u>Morning</u>				
Novice	Mr F Neeson			
Open	Mr J Browne			
Masters	Mr F Valastro			
<u>Afternoon</u>				
Novice	Mr J Browne			
Open	Mr F Valastro			
Masters	Mr F Neeson			

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See March 2000 VicDog for further details

Geelong Obedience Dog Club Inc

Free

School Holiday Open Day for Juniors and their dogs

12 April 2000



Breakwater Road Belmont Common

Commencing 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm (approx)

Includes -

Dog Care and Obedience Training

Children under 7 years to be accompanied by an adult

Walk for Geelong Animal



Sunday 16th April 2000

Queens Park (Melways Ref: 227 D2)
All proceeds to the Geelong Animal Welfare (Lost Dogs Home)

TICKETS

Adults \$8.00

Children \$2.00

Family Ticket \$20.00

THE WALKS

Long Walk—7 kms along the Barwon River (1-2 hrs) Short Walk—30 mins for puppies and aged pooches

FREE

* Give-aways for each dog

* Veterinary check-up and weigh-in

* Grooming demonstrations and advice

** \$1.00 discount on adult tickets and \$2.00 discount on family tickets for early bird purchases! (purchased before 9/4/00) **

Breeds Brain Teaser

In the six sections below, choose one adjective from the three opposite each dog which is most suited to the characteristics of that breed.

Breed							
Afghan Hound	Dumpy	Toxic	Aloof			7	
Finnish Spitz	Alert	Pious	Timid				
Lakeland Terrier	Idle	Bold	Wary		(36.5 nz) 27.7 (5.5 27.4 (5.5		
Bullmastiff	Artistic	Faithful	Unstable				
Swedish Vallhund	Spiteful	Dyslexic	Friendly				
Coton De Tulear	Gargantuar	Boisterous	Restrained				E STATE OF THE STA
Now rearrange the		n the shade (11 letters/		make and	other bree	d	The state of the s
Answers will be included in the next newsletter.							

Answer to last months wordsearch: Bloodhound

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GENERAL MEETING

Meeting opened: 8.05 pm

Apologies: J Convery, A Pape, A Trueman, S Noblett, R Rogers, K Ciezarek Acc: C Davies Seconded: M McNair Carried

L Kelleher informed the meeting of the recent changes to the Executive positions. L Kelleher to President, A Thorogood to 1st Vice President. L Kelleher to be Public Officer. Nominations were then called to fill the vacant 2nd Vice President's position. A Thorogood nominated Barbara Mackey. Seconded: C Shields. As there were no further nominations, B Mackey duly elected.

Minutes from the previous General Meeting as distributed in the Newsletter, taken as read Acc: J Brophy Seconded: C Shields Carried

Business arising from the Minutes

- 1. P Convery said she had spoken to Victor Douglas who was unable to help with the purchase of a new phone for the Office, so it had been purchased from Dick Smith's as previously stated.
- 2. In the absence of A Trueman, M McNair said she had been approached and was prepared to purchase the camera when she visits N Z in March
- 3. Letter to Council and replies in Correspondence In and Out

Correspondence Out – Sandra Jennings, Uncle Ben's, Stuart Fox and all Councilors, Peter Joynson.

Correspondence In – Walk for Animal Welfare, City of Greater Geelong Neil Savery, Cr Crutchfield, Cr Brazier, Cr Jarvis, Werribee O D C, Warrnambool D T S, Geelong Radio, Elenor Wiltink Acc: D Dickeson Seconded: L Gaylard Carried

Business arising from Correspondence

- 1. After discussion, M McNair moved 'that we accept the City of Greater Geelong Lease proposal'. Seconded: W Bartels Carried
- 2. After discussion members agreed not to take part in Geelong Radio sponsorship

Treasurer's Report

J Ball presented written report and asked that all accounts be passed for payment Acc: F Lehrmann Seconded: B Mackey Carried

Other Reports

Bar Manager – L Kelleher explained the reasons for the replacing of one bar fridge, which had broken down at the end of 1999.

Canteen Manager – In the absence of K Ciezarek, P Convery read written report. Report attached to the Minutes Book

Ground/Equipment Manager – F Lehrmann said the Council had cut the grass prior to training resuming. The motor mower has also been repaired.

1 February 2000

GENERAL MEETING

Trial Secretary – Motion read by P Convery 'that we increase the entry fee to our Trials to \$9.00 effective from the Obedience Trial 17 September. This will cover the increase in VCA surcharge fees' Seconded: F Lehrmann Carried by majority

Training Supervisor/Display Team Leader – D Dickeson read written report. Report attached to Minutes Book.

Sub-Committee Reports

Nil

Acc: M McNair

Seconded: P Pope

Carried

General Business

- 1. D Dickeson asked if we could write to Geelong Animal Welfare and ask what criteria they had for placing dogs with new owners as there had been several episodes of mismatching. We could also offer our assistance. After general discussion, members agreed.
- 2. C Davies said that Anton Pape was in the Birdsey Wing of Geelong Hospital.
- 3. M McNair reported that changes were to be made to the dogs on the beaches at Torquay, but this would not come into effect until next season when new signs would be available.

As there was no further business

Meeting closed at: 9.00 pm

"Rites of Passage"

Author Unknown - Taken from the Golden Digest on the Internet

Some of the most poignant moments I spend as a Veterinarian are those spent with my clients assisting the transition of my animal patients from this world to the next. When living becomes a burden, whether from pain or loss of normal functions, I can help a family by ensuring that their beloved pet has an easy passing. Making this final decision is painful, and I have often felt powerless to comfort the grieving owners. That was before I met Shane.

I had been called to examine a ten-year-old blue heeler named Belker who had developed a serious health problem. The dog's owners - Ron, his wife, Lisa, and their little boy, Shane - were all very attached to Belker and were hoping for a miracle. I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family there were no miracles left for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home. As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for the four-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt Shane could learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal's lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me - I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. He said, "Everybody is born so that they can learn how to live a good life - like loving everybody and being nice, right?" The four-year-old continued, "Well, animals already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

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	Registered Name: Rabies Tag Number: Nickname: Master's Name: License Number: Kennel Address:	
Filing Status	Show Dog Yard Dog Shelter Dog Guard Dog Family Dog Stray Dog Rescue/Foster Dog Seeing-E	
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icoste ≯	Dog Shows (Include all awards, troonies, ribbons, etc.) Stud Fees Puppy Sales Compensation for Watching, Herding, Hunting for just being good) Rewards for Special Tricks Stolen Food (Hams, turkeys, steaks, reast meats) Hoter You MUST becare steen food items. All statements are confidential. Interest in Deposits fincluding those of other dogs! Capital Gains: Ba Appreciation of Dog House Bb Appreciation of Family Jewels. Re Appreciation of Buried Treasures Re Appreciation of Other Canine's Assets	2 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8
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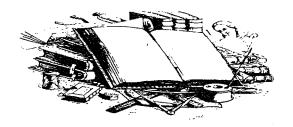
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Library News

Sylvia Noblett

Library Hours Sunday mornings – 10.00 am to 11.00 am or by previous appointment

The Library will not be open on Promotion Days,
Public Holiday weekends or the last day of training
in December

The Library will also open on the 2nd Wednesday of each month commencing on the 10th May from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

Club Calendar

<u>April</u>		
Sunday	2 April	Puppy and Class One Intake – for fully vaccinated puppies & dogs
Tuesday	4 April	General Meeting – 7.30 pm – Guest speaker, Helen Read
Thursday	6 April	Puppy Kinder – for puppies approx 8 -16 weeks
Sunday	9 April	Promotion Day
Saturday	15 April	Newsletter closes for all articles, reports and Trial results. Spirit of the West Challenge
Sunday	16 April	Puppy Intake – for fully vaccinated puppies under 6 months Walk for Animal Welfare
Monday	17 April	Instructor's Meeting – 8.00 pm. Agility Trial entries close
Friday	21 April	Good Friday BBQ – Details to be announced
Sunday	23 April	EASTER SUNDAY - NO TRAINING
Tuesday	25 April	Anzac Day
Saturday	29 April	Agility Trial working bee – 9.00 am start
Sunday	30 April	April Newsletter available
May		
Thursday	4 May	Puppy Kinder – for puppies approx. 8 - 16 weeks
Friday	5 May	Agility Trial working bee – 6.00 pm start
Saturday	6 May	OPEN AGILITY TRIAL
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Editor's Note

A complete New Member's List will be published in the next Newsletter