Dog Talk News

ISSUE 02/2026 **A well trained dog is a happy dog**

Bayside Companion Dog Training School

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@BCDTS

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Committee:

Committee members 2024:
Marion Bower, Barry Gilbert, Dianne Ishac, Debbie Lack, Terry Lack, Helen Musgrave, Sue Fleming.

Office Bearers:
President: Terry Lack
Vice President: Barry Gilbert
Treasurer: Marion Bower
Secretary: Debbie Lack

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Upcoming Events

BCDTS Doggy Games

Yes, it's on again. We are having our doggie games. There will be a morning of fun activities for you and your pooch.

The games will include the egg and spoon race, waiters' race, obedience exercise with distractions and many more. Our planned date will be **September 12th** and the games will be held in both sessions. If the weather is not great, the event will be rescheduled to another day.

We will also be offering normal training if you would prefer.

BCDTS Photo Competition

How creative can you be? Start taking photos of your doggies so you have a selection to choose from. We will be accepting photos from **September 1st until September 30th**. You can either email your entry to baysidedogs.org.au or you can drop your entry into the entry box at the office.

On your entry please include your name, phone number and doggie's name.

As this is a very popular club event, please submit only one entry per dog.

Newsletter available in colour on our website

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Annual General Meeting Report 2026

The BCDTS Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday March 1st, 2026, at the clubrooms at Hodgson Reserve Higgins Rd Bentleigh.

The meeting opened at 11.45 after training. Twenty members were present with an apology from Gillian Gilbert.

The minutes of the Previous AGM were read and accepted without change.

President's Report
Terry Lack welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the retiring committee for the fantastic work thought out 2025. Terry also thanked all the dedicated instructors, office staff and ground staff, whose continued contribution made our club a wonderful training school. BCDTS continually strives to achieve a balance between training and creating a friendly and positive environment for our members.
Terry reported that we have welcomed both new and returning members this year and our overall membership remains strong. The club has achieved this by offering members participation in extra activities such as the Doggy Games, Photo Competition and special encouragement awards. Our club will continue to support several charities and institutions this year with such a strong membership base.
Terry acknowledged the work of the Pet Therapy group who visit both Calvary Healthcare and Sandringham Hospital, as they bring so much comfort and happiness to the residents, patients and staff.

Vice President's Report
Barry Gilbert also thanked all our volunteer staff in the office who keep the officed running efficiently dealing with all the administrative work as well as the fitting and sales of leads, collars and gentle leaders and black dog collars. Thanks also to our instructors and grounds staff who have worked tirelessly though out 2025. The efforts of all the staff have contributed to making our club friendly and supportive, in the training of our members, puppies and dogs.

The Photo Competition remained a popular event last year. We did have less entries, however this was due to a rule change, but the standard of the photos was high, making it hard for the judges to decide.

Treasurer's Report
Marion Bower tabled copies of the financial reports for 2025 for attendees to review. Marion reported and operating surplus, which will allow us to manage our operations this year and allow us to continue supporting the community charities that need support.
Our donations in 2025 included

- Oakleigh Wildlife Centre
- Calvery Heath Care
- Moorabbin Riding for the Disabled
- Laps for Life
- Community Vets
- Bentleigh Football and Netball Club
- Pets for the Homeless
- PYMT Bentleigh.

Secretary's Report
Debbie Lack thanked the 2025 committee for their work and support last year, along with the trainers and helpers.
Details of the correspondence, In and Out, were tabled and were available to the attendees to review.

Election of Office Bearers
All committee positions were declared vacant. Committee nominations have been received for all Office Bearer positions as well as for general committee positions, enabling positions to be filled and a committee to be elected. (Satisfying the BCDTS rules of association which stratify 4 office bearers and 3 general committee members)
All Committee Bearers and General Committee were elected unopposed and given unanimous support by the show of hands.

The elected committee for 2025 is
Office Bearers
President: Terry Lack
Vice President: Barry Gilbert
Secretary: Marion Bower
Treasurer: Debbie Lack
General Committee
Sue Fleming
Di Ishac
Helen Musgrave

General Business
BCDTS Photo Competition, BCDTS Doggie Games
Donations to Jan Berrand for Laps for Life, Riders for the Disabled, Bentleigh Football/Netball Club and Pets for the Homeless.

Meeting Closed 12.20

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BCDTS Therapy Dogs

In addition to financial supporting local charities and clubs, with specific items that enable them to operate with new equipment or cover specific needs, we also have members and their dogs participating in the Therapy Dogs Program. Our club has been involved in on this program for over 25 years under the guidance of Terry Lack the club's president.

Therapy dogs provide non-judgmental companionship providing emotional support, reducing stress which improves both mental and physical health for people in a variety of settings**.** Their presence can enhance therapy outcomes, improve mood and foster social interaction as the dogs provide a sense of comfort and normalcy

Our dedicated volunteers visit The Sandringham Hospital and the Calvery Bethlehem Integrated Health Care Facility.

Kaylen and Oscar along with Rowena and Scout are regular visitors to the Sandringham Hospital each week visiting the staff and patients in wards. The dogs with their handlers make their way through the wards, nursing stations and staff rooms to happily receive a pat and allow everyone to take a break from their busy day.

Terry, Keith, Anne, Shelly, Jane and their dogs Charlie, Evie, Pebbles, VB, Monkey and Teddy attend Calvery Bethlehem Health Care Facility, most days each week.
Our volunteers and their dogs spend time visiting patients in the wards, staff and residents in the aged care rooms and the retirement village.

Not only do the residents and staff enjoy the dogs visits, but our dogs also enjoy spending time visiting both Sandringham and Bethlehem.
They respond to each person they meet in a positive and gentle way and make a wonderful connection to them.

Upgrades

How do you get an upgrade?
Your instructor will determine when you and your dog are ready to tackle the next level. An upgrade is given to the Handler/Dog team, with clear emphasis on the understanding of the handler. If you feel that you are ready, don't hesitate to ask to be considered for an upgrade at the start of class.

Congratulations to the many members who have progressed through white, yellow, green and beige this year. Keep up the good work.

Special mention to the members who have graduated into the advanced classes of blue, red and gold star.

Blue Class
Congratulations to the following whose graduation from class 3 to 4 was recognized with the awarding of a trophy.

Lucia Smith and Maloo

Red Class
Congratulations to the following whose graduation to red, recognises that they are preparing for Gold Star.

Mark Arniel and Kaiser
Alice Morgan and Barry
Igor and Sasha Goldberg and Oliver.

<u>Dogs & Bones</u>
If a dog shares a household with other dogs or young children, give it bones in the garage. When the bone is finished, ensure that all scraps are disposed of carefully. It is best that the dog can't bury or hide bone scraps to be dug up later. A dog that is possessive of a bone scrap could turn on a young child or another dog
Dogs, bones & kids don't mix!

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Beetroot Salad with Cumin and Orange Dressing.

Ingredients

- 400g pkt baby beetroot
- 2 x 120g pkts Spinach & Rocket
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup (60g) pecans, toasted, chopped
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp orange juice
- 1 tbsp white wine vinegar
- 2 tsp cumin seeds, toasted, lightly crushed
- 1 tsp wholegrain mustard
- 100g marinated fetta, crumbled

Method

- Heat a covered barbecue on medium. (Alternatively, preheat oven to 180C.) Wrap each beetroot in foil. Place in a small roasting dish. Roast in barbecue using indirect heat, or in oven, for 30 mins or until tender. Set aside for 15 mins to cool.
- Peel and cut into wedges
- Combine spinach and rocket, onion, pecan and beetroot in a serving bowl.
- Place oil, orange juice, vinegar, cumin and mustard in a screw-top jar. Shake to combine. Season. Pour over salad. Toss to combine. Sprinkle with fetta.

Terry's Tips

Reward good behavior, correct unwanted behavior.
Use your dog's name to get their attention and follow with a command.
Give commands once only.
Give commands clearly, concisely and with a firm voice.
Patience- is a must when training your dog. Your dog is learning and you need to show them what you want. Keep calm, don't be impatient if they don't understand. If you are becoming frustrated end your training session with something easy and familiar so you can praise your dog.
Come back tomorrow and try again.

Repetition, Repetition, Repetition –
Do I need to repeat exercises I have taught?
Yes, repetition is the key to training, when your dog has accomplished a new task once, praise your dog and keep practicing frequently.

From The Editors:

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this newsletter.

To our members Do you have a question that can be addressed in our newsletter? Leave your questions or suggestions for a topic that could be covered in the future, with the team in the office.

We are always looking for interesting stories and photos. So let us know your ideas.

Club Shop and Library

Our club shop and library are located at the office. Our shop has leads collars and head collars and connectors. We are happy to help you with your purchase and the fitting and adjustment of any of the items.

Our library has a variety of dog related reading, which includes several excellent books on training, in addition there are handouts which include Canine First Aid, introducing a new family member and kids and dogs.