



Nose to the Ground

TrackWest Newsletter – April 2013

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President's Report



Welcome to a new tracking season I hope you all enjoy coming out to the forest and learning the amazing things our four legged friends can do and enjoy the time to relax and get away from the hustle and bustle of our busy lives.

Don't be shy – say hello and introduce yourselves to others in your training group and don't ever be afraid to ask questions. Our trainers are only too happy to help with any enquiries you may have and the only silly question is the one you DON'T ask. If your trainer does not know we have a wealth of experience and knowledge in the club and they will find out.

Please try and make the effort to come to the morning tea session as we have morning tea talks which cover a multitude of topics from First Aid to Training tips and Handling clues. Once the trials start in May, training on Saturday and Wednesday will be limited but don't let that stop you from coming, we always need tracklayers, stewards and occasionally Chief Stewards (need to be a member of Dogswest) and it is a great way to learn by following up on tracks and watching others and lets you know what is going on and what you can expect if you ever wish to trial with your dog.

Take time to stop and smell the roses so to speak and if you gain a tracking title consider missing a trial and give back to be tracklayer and/or steward. Our judges are very kind and will explain exactly what you need to do.

Carol has been very busy over the summer break getting the new website up and running and has a lot of information on it so take a few minutes to look around and add it to your *Favourites*. Sue and also been busy doing the training manuals and logs books The log books are a great training tool to note down what your dog did on a track and will give you a way to reflect and see what you need to work on i.e. articles, corners, starts or whatever. Judy has also been slaving over a hot sewing machine to make harnesses and leads. Actually the whole committee is a really great group of people that are always there to help.

On closing I would like to wish our new judges Lauren and Chris all the best for the coming season.

Motto for Training Season 2013:

We are all here to help. You only have to ask.

Gerry

Secretary's Report



Welcome to all the new people to the wonderful world of tracking.

Welcome back to all our members from previous years.

If you have any questions about tracking, check with your instructor, Gerry or Jim (or other Committee member).

If you would like to move to another group/instructor just let us know. Your Committee members are here to make tracking as pleasant as possible. This is a sport/hobby - a place to get exercise and have fun with your dog.

Some members will be gearing up to go into trials; don't be intimidated - you do not have to enter trials to be able to track with your dog. However, you may find you like the exhilaration of working without flags.

All members are required to assist at trials by either following up on tracks and learning various techniques, laying tracks or stewarding.

Two years ago we instituted training on trial days. We will continue to do this, however, instructors will be limited as will areas. Please advise your instructor if you wish to train on trials days and check in with the Chief Steward.

Safety in the bush is very important.
Happy tracking,
Carol

Training Co-ordinator's Report



By the time you read this we will have started our training and the first thing for me to do is to thank Sue for all her work and devotion in producing all the training booklets and brochures. Without dedicated people like Sue, good clubs just become clubs. Sue from one and all thank you.

Our first day probably got off in a bit of turmoil but not to worry as things can't get any worse – I hope. Now, hopefully everybody is in their comfort zone for training and things should roll on smoothly.

The emphasis in tracking training is team work. The smallest and most successful team consists of three. Tracklayer, handler and trainer, (the trainer picks up flags, critiques the handler and tracklayer but most importantly, advises and assists you in the reading of your dog). Each and every one of you will be the trainer at some stage, but whatever you do don't feel daunted by this task, embrace it, give meaningful and honest opinions of what you think was right or wrong and discuss it with the handlers. When it's your turn to be the handler you want to know what you did right or wrong, what the dog was saying to you (that you missed), the interpretation of his/her body language and so on.

I believe the easiest way to learn in tracking, is to assist in the training of others, to criticize them and to accept their criticism. All of the "New Members" now have had a taste of it, know what is required, know what it's like to give criticism, know what it's like to be criticized, know what we mean by the dogs body language and now are all enthusiastic about tracking and can't wait for next Saturday to come around. Now for the "oldies," those working for the T Ch, you know about the teamwork, practice it, preach it teach it and more importantly don't forget to volunteer. For the old oldies going for T & S, if you haven't already formed your teams then get too, quickly.

A reminder of your timetable is:

- **08.30 – 10.30 assisting in the training of all handlers in your group**
- **10.30 – 11.00 go to your selected/designated area and put in "your tracks, using the people training in the area to assist in the starts.**
- **11.00 – 12.00 smoko and lectures**
- **12.00 – work your tracks.**

If we get this up and running smoothly with next to no lumps & bumps, then there is no reason why we can't have Judy & Valeta tearing their hair out because the team work we have generated is of such a high standard that ALL club members will be trialing by year's end.

From the Editor's desk



In this edition please read the important notices and articles about trialing. As well as the interesting letter I received from Beth.

Please feel free to send me what you may think is interesting, informative and even the gossip.

Lynne Jooste
jooste@iinet.net.au

Letter to the Editor

Dear Lynne,

Just in case members don't know, sultanas are deadly for dogs. Yesterday Abby got into the pantry and stole a packet of sultanas she ate 100gms of them. Fortunately I knew that grapes are deadly for dogs so phoned the vet who told me to bring her right down. Poor little thing they put drops in her eyes that made her lose half the sultanas and then thinking that was it they then gave her charcoal, however that was not the end of it. She repaid them with more sultanas. So she then was given more charcoal to settle her stomach down. We now have to watch her consumption of water. The problem is the sultanas a toxic and could cause her kidneys to shut down. Fingers crossed that does not happen. If there is room in the magazine and you have not sent it already perhaps you could remind people of this.

Beth

DISCLAIMER

The information in this publication is of a general nature. The articles contained herein are not intended to provide a complete discussion on each subject and or issues canvassed. TrackWest Magazine does not accept any liability for any statements or any opinion.

Open Day 2013



Thank you all that came to the open day to help out. It was a very successful day and the atmosphere was friendly and welcoming which was just the right one to promote this wonderful sport we do with our dogs

A huge TrackWest warm welcome to the people that came and had a brief outline of our sport and all I heard afterwards was surprise at how well their dogs did and that was just brilliant as this sport is just using the natural abilities of your dog

Thank you all

Gerry



HELP NEEDED

If you go to a Tracking Trial, there can appear to be very few people around. Appearances are deceptive! Holding a tracking Trial requires the involvement of many, many people.

Before the Trial:

The judges need to flag the tracks – as many as six tracks each up to 1.2 km long. This involves carrying heavy bags of flags and up to 10 km of walking!

Help is needed to:

- (1) Carry the bag(s) of flags for the judge.
- (2) Pick up the judge and flag bag carrier from the end of the track and drive them back to their vehicles.
- (3) Be in the area for safety.

Ideally each judge should have three helpers. Tracks are usually flagged on Saturday for the following Wednesday or on Wednesday for the following Saturday but may be done on other days as well. Often judges find that they have to spend two mornings flagging their tracks for one trial.

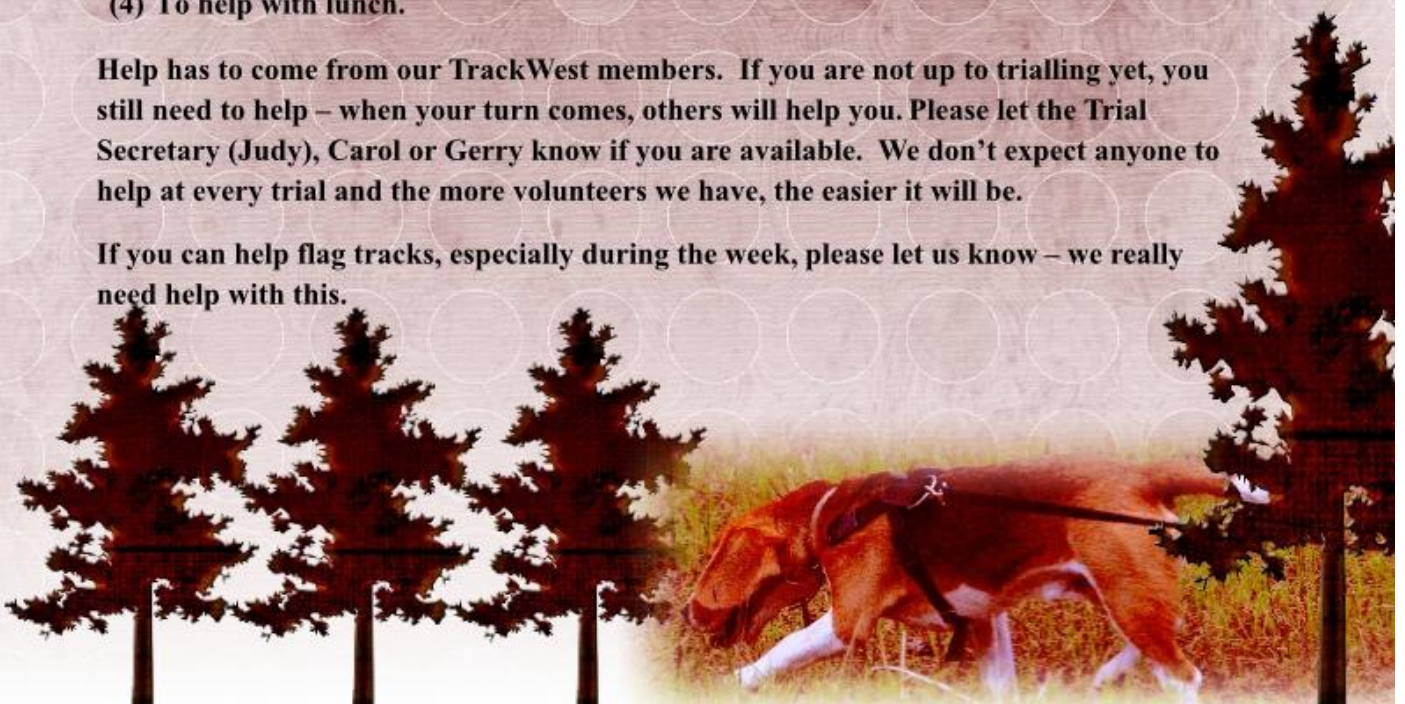
At the Trial:

People are needed:

- (1) As tracklayers (ideally one for each track)
- (2) As stewards to accompany the judge when they judge a track
- (3) To pick up tracklayers and ferry people around
- (4) To help with lunch.

Help has to come from our TrackWest members. If you are not up to trialling yet, you still need to help – when your turn comes, others will help you. Please let the Trial Secretary (Judy), Carol or Gerry know if you are available. We don't expect anyone to help at every trial and the more volunteers we have, the easier it will be.

If you can help flag tracks, especially during the week, please let us know – we really need help with this.



Important notices:

for everyone who is trialling or intends to trial

1. For each title, you **MUST HAVE PASSES UNDER AT LEAST TWO DIFFERENT JUDGES.**

This means that for a TD title your qualifying cards for Tracks 1,2 and 3 must be from at least two different judges. For TDX, your qualifying cards for tracks 4,5 and 6 must be from at least two different judges.

If you already have two cards from the same judge (for example, you are entering for Track 3 and you already have tracks 1 & 2 from the same judge) **PLEASE INCLUDE A NOTE WITH YOUR ENTRY** - eg “not already have two passes”

2. If you gain a title, **YOU CANNOT ENTER FOR THE NEXT TITLE UNTIL YOU HAVE LODGED THE PAPERWORK FOR YOUR TITLE WITH DOGSWEST.**

For example, if you pass your Track 3 you have gained a TD title. Before you can enter for a Track 4, you must lodge your application for the TD title with DogsWest. This means that the paperwork must be given in. If the entries close on the Monday after the trial, you will need to make a trip to DogsWest to either drop all the paperwork (and fee) in the letter box (weekend) or to hand it in at the office (Monday). “Application for a Title” forms are on the DogsWest website.

The same applies if you pass Track 6 and want to enter for Track 7.

This rule can create a problem if you gained your pass for a title on the Wednesday. You will not be eligible to enter the next trial **if your pass is gained after entries close.** On the bright side – there is quite a jump in difficulty from TD 3 to TDX 4 and from TDX 6 to Track 7 so missing a trial and getting some extra practice at the higher level can mean the difference between pass or fail at that higher level.

3. When you arrive at a Trial **please go straight to Base Camp before you let your dog out. Ask the Chief Steward (Carol) or Trial Secretary (Judy or Gerry) where you can exercise your dog so that you don't interfere with tracks.**

TRACKING ETIQUETTE

When entering a Tracking Trial there are many things to consider and do. Here are a few things that may help make things easier for all:

Entry Forms:

- Please ensure these are filled out correctly and in writing that can be easily read. Make sure you say which test you are doing.
- Ensure that you state clearly whether you are available on Wednesday. Depending on numbers, you will probably track on that day but you may be asked to track on Saturday. If you do not say you are available on Wednesday, it will be assumed you can only track on Saturday.
- If you need a known tracklayer (Test 1 & Test 2) please place the name of **your** tracklayer on the entry form. If you possibly can, don't name another competitor – your mother, husband, sister, best friend is much better. You can name a teenager provided they are 14+ years old and can follow instructions
- If you are doing a Test 5 please put down your known cross-track layer. It isn't the Trial Secretary's job to work out who is a known person for your dog.
- If you are going for TD you must have passes under two different judges. Also if you are going for your TDX you must have passes under two different judges (tracks 4, 5 & 6). If you already have two passes with the same judge, please put in a note saying this with your entry. (This makes the trial secretary's job easier. Although the TS keeps a data-base, it is easy to miss)
- If you can supply someone else who can lay tracks please let the trial secretary know with your entry. Remember, you are asked to nominate someone who can lay tracks when you put in your entry. Unless you are doing Test 1 or 2, they will not lay a track for your dog. They will be treated like Royalty, though !

Setting off for trial (night before/morning of):

- Don't forget your dog's harness, lead and your tracklayer or cross-track layer. Also wet weather gear and possibly a change of shoes (in case it ever rains again)
- Ensure you are socked up so that you are ready to lay a track if asked. After all we can't have passes if we don't have tracklayers. You will require 4 socks that are a dark colour (black is good). Put these socks on your body before leaving home.

Dog and tracklayer reward:

- When organizing your dog's reward please ensure you don't overload your tracklayer. Your reward for your dog should be small, pocket size, you can always give your dog more treats back at the car. Ensure that your reward will NOT leak. Dogs like sardines but tracklayers **DON'T**, and the pull ring can often break off.
- Along with the reward it is nice gesture to leave something for your tracklayer, e.g. small chocolate bar or lolly, lotto/scratchie tickets, thank you note, etc.
- Place the dog's rewards and the tracklayer's reward in a zip lock bag. "Glad" zip seal bags are great for this.
- Label your reward with YOUR name, your dog's name and the test you are doing; this helps the stewards and the judges ensure your dog gets the correct reward.

Arriving at trials:

- Travelling with another person who is tracking a dog can get difficult as there is **NO** guarantee that you will be with the same judge and often you are miles away from one another and could even be on at the same time — judges and stewards don't always have room for you and your dog in the car to ferry you around — to try and make things easier please make sure the trial secretary knows this.
- Please ensure you arrive on time to the trial. If running late please ensure you call the trial secretary. There is always a mobile number to contact the trial secretary on during trial days.
- Some tracks go out half an hour before judging commences so please be early as your track might be one of these and your reward may be required.
- Judges often do a talk to all their competitors before judging commences so ensure you are there for this as you will find out the days proceedings.
- Some judges will let you know beforehand when and where you will be required. If your judge has done this, follow their instructions.
- Upon arrival ensure you check in with the Chief Steward ASAP, with your dog if she requires vetting. If you need directions to the start of your track, the Chief Steward has all that information.
- By arriving early if you are the first track on the day you will have time to toilet your dog, relax and have a chat.
- Check with the Chief Steward before you exercise your dog. She will direct you to an area away from any tracks.

After your track and the end of the day:

- At the end of your track, pass or fail please don't forget to thank your tracklayer, judge and steward: without these people you would not have the opportunity to gain a pass (or even track).
- Sometimes tracklayers are dropped off and don't have a car so offer them a ride back to the base camp.
- If your track wasn't reflagged while you were tracking please offer to help re-flag your track if needed.
- Unlike obedience/agility trials, tracking trials don't have many people around, so please stay until after presentation, to help celebrate the passes and enjoy lunch !

Other important information:

- If you are involved in more than one track; ie. Tracking your dog and handling someone else's or tracklaying for others, please be aware that at times, this is a logistical nightmare for the Trial Secretary to co-ordinate. Ideally, you should be involved in only 2 tracks per day (be that handling or tracklaying).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2013

Saturday, March 23	TrackWest Open Day - Whiteman Park
Saturday, April 6	Training starts at Gnangara
Saturday, May 18 and Wednesday May 22	Tracking Trial
Saturday, May 25, Sunday May 26 and Wednesday May 29	Track & Search Trial
Saturday, June 8 and Wednesday June 12	Tracking Trial
Saturday, June 22, Sunday June 23 and Wednesday June 26	Track & Search Trial
Saturday, June 29 and Wednesday July 3	Tracking Trial
Saturday, July 13 and Wednesday July 17	CHRISTMAS IN JULY - Tracking Trial
Saturday, July 20, Sunday July 21 and Wednesday July 24	Track & Search Trial
Saturday, July 27 and Wednesday July 31	Tracking Trial
Saturday, August 10 and Wednesday August 14	Tracking Trial
Saturday, August 17, Sunday August 18 and Wednesday August 21	Track & Search Trial
Saturday, August 31, Sunday September 4	Tracking Trial
Saturday, September 14 and Wednesday September 18	Tracking Trial (last one)
Saturday, 21st September	BREAKFAST IN THE BUSH
Tuesday, 16th October	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday, 26 October	Track & Search Trial - Urban only
Saturday, 9th November	PRESENTATION DINNER

TRACKWEST DOG CLUB (INC)

NEW MEMBERSHIP / RENEWAL FORM - 2013

Please send to:
The Secretary
Carol Freele
27 Aerolite Way
Beldon WA 6027



DATE OF JOINING:/...../.....
(AS RECEIPTED BY THE SECRETARY OR TREASURER)

<i>Memberships for 1st September 2012 - 31st August 2013</i>		<i>Tick</i>
SINGLE (NEW) <i>Including Nomination Fee \$10</i> <i>Payable by new members on joining, or for members rejoining after a lapse in membership.</i>	\$45	
FAMILY (NEW) <i>Including Nomination Fee \$10</i> <i>Payable by new members on joining, or for members rejoining after a lapse in membership.</i>	\$60	
RENEWAL SINGLE	\$35	
RENEWAL FAMILY	\$50	

Membership No: _____

Paid by Cheque/Cash Received by _____
TrackWest Representative

(please print neatly)

NAME _____

Phone (Home) _____

Mobile: _____

Member's CAWA No: (if applicable) _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ P/C _____

E-mail
Address _____

I/We hereby apply for membership and agree to be bound by TrackWest Dog Club (Inc) Rules and Regulations.

_____ **initial**

PTO for adding your Dog/s information and signature.

1.
DOG'S PEDIGREE NAME _____
PET NAME _____
DOG'S REG No _____ BREED _____
DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____ SEX _____
CAWA NUMBER _____ Sterilized? YES NO (circle)

2.
DOG'S PEDIGREE NAME _____
PET NAME _____
DOG'S REG No _____ BREED _____
DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____ SEX _____
CAWA NUMBER _____ Sterilized? YES NO (circle)

DO YOU HOLD A CURRENT FIRST AID CERTIFICATE? YES NO

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS:

Name:

Relationship:

Phone: Mobile:

In case of Emergency do you have any relevant medical issues/allergies? (optional)

=====

I/We hereby apply for membership and agree to be bound by TrackWest Dog Club (Inc) Rules and Regulations.

Applicant's Signature(s).

Date

IMPORTANT

**YOU AND YOUR DOG MUST BE A FINANCIAL MEMBER OF CAWA,
BEFORE YOU ARE PERMITTED, TO ENTER A TRIAL.**