



**2022 – 2023**

**Agenda**

**Annual Report**

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**AGENDA – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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**7.00pm, Tuesday 29th November 2023**

**Ainslie Football and Social Club**

1. Welcome by current acting Dogs ACT President John Scholtz
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 30<sup>th</sup> August 2022
4. Annual Report – Mr John Scholtz
5. Financial Report – Mrs Kirstin Henderson
6. Election of Office Bearers
7. Dunbar Awards (One Silver & One Bronze)
8. Motions submitted - NIL.
9. Life Membership Nomination – Eric Birkeland
10. Other business
11. Close

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**2022-2023 Office Bearers**

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President:	Mr David Dawes	2022-2023
Senior Vice President:	Mr John Scholz	2019-2023
Junior Vice President:	Mr Eric Birkeland	2022-2023
Treasurer:	Ms Kirstin Henderson	2022-2023
Councillors:	Mrs Linda Stevens	2020-2024
	Mrs Katarina Manna	2021-2023
	Ms Heather Swinbourne	2022-2024
	Ms Meaghan O'Shannassy	2021-2023
	Mrs Cristan McCusker	2021-2023
	Ms Natasha Davies	2021-2023
	Mrs Cathy Stirling	2022-2024
	Mrs Mel Crossley	2022-2024
Administrator:	Ms Vanessa March	
Assistant:	Mrs Linda Buckley	
Bookkeeper:	Hardwickes Accounting	

**Welcome to 2023 Annual General Meeting of Dogs ACT**

**Apologies**

Linda Buckley, Liz Hindley, Jacquie Marshall, Cristan McCusker, Linda Stevens, Natasha Sands

**3. Minutes of the 2021-20233 AGM**

**Dogs ACT, Annual General Meeting, 2021-2022,**

**7.00pm, Tuesday 30 August 2022, Ainslie Club**

The President, Ms Kristy Neiberding, opened the meeting at 7:14pm and welcomed the members present. She announced that Jake Blight would be this year's Returning Officer.

**Apologies:** Debbie Pezzella, Pauline Cobb, Ivan Kirin, Amy Stevens, Angela Mundy, Dee Hyde, Derek Hyde, Denice Greenwood, Gavin Quinlan, Jennifer O'Shannassy, Gillian Montgomery, Hayden Montgomery, John Montgomery.

**Members in attendance:** Islay Andrew, Benjamin Andrews, Gregory Barber, Judith Barlow, John Bink, Eric Birkeland, Kelly Britten, Barbara Brown, Jessica Buckley, Marilyn Burke, Helen Calderwood, Loris Cameron, Margaret Chalmers, Fran Coventry, Melanie Crossley, Julie Cutts, Natasha Davies, David Dawes, Andrew de Plater, Danielle Dodd, Robyn Dodds, Maelyn Draper, Lenora Dyer, Trish Dyer, Janette Fallon, Nicole Fallon, Fiona Fraser, Laraine Frawley, Kylie Gallimore, Charlie Giles, Elizabeth Giles, Barbara Gough, Joanne Hagan, Jeremy Hagan, Angela Hagedorn, Niccola Hardaker, Sharon Hemmings, Kirstin Henderson, Elizabeth Hindley, Karen Hore, Kailene Hutchcraft, Marion Jarvis, Nathan Jennings, Jenny Kenworthy, Damiano Manna, Katrianna Manna, Vanessa March, Cristan McCusker, Michael Morrissey, Rachel Morrissey, Sacha Morrissey, Kristy Neiberding, Kerry Olsson, Meaghan O'Shannassy, Fiona Quinlan, Holly Rieger, Anne Robertson, John Scholz, Kevin Scholz, Lara Sedgmen, Gregory Shirley, Lesley Shirley, Michael Smith, Linda Stevens, Cathy Stirling, Robert Stirling, Clive Styles, Sue Styles, Heather Swinbourn, Elaine-Lee Temby, Cheryl Thompson, Lesley Thompson, Angela Tomic, Paul Tomic, Anne Walkington, Joelene Washington-King, Kat Waterhouse, Harriette Wilson, Tahlia Wilson, Stephanie Windsor, Judith Woolley.  
81 members.

**Proxy Votes** received: 41

Minutes were recorded by Ms Judith Barlow.

**Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9 November 2021 required these amendments: Members also present were Linda Stevens and Anne Robertson.

*Moved that the Minutes of the AGM on 9 November 2021 as amended be accepted.*

Moved: Jenny Kenworthy ..... Seconded: John Bink .....CARRIED

**President's Annual Report – Ms Kristy Neiberding**

The Chair presented the President's Report as outlined in the Agenda.

*Moved that the President's Report be accepted.*

Moved: Kristy Neiberding ..... Seconded: Eric Birkeland .....CARRIED

**Treasurer's Annual Report – Ms Elaine Temby**

Issues raised included:

- \$2 discrepancy – to be referred to the Auditors.
- ANKC expenses doubled due to costs of using the ANKC database and our contribution to the Dogs Australia marketing campaign.
- Bookkeeper has not been responding to contact, needs to submit our B.A.S. – recommend change bookkeeper as he has the only access to the portal for the B.A.S.
- Bookkeeper payment is \$51 per month.
- Dogs ACT pays 1/11<sup>th</sup> of all revenue to the Taxation Office.
- Fees and charges have not been raised, as this would have been hard on affiliates in these times.
- Fines of \$2,442: this is a provision because we have not submitted our B.A.S.;
- Grants: Small Business Support Grants: \$40,000 and \$6,000 for a new lawn mower.
- Grants: without the government grants would Dogs ACT have been profitable? No.
- Increase in the insurance.
- Projected expenses include but are not limited to: ground maintenance, rent, accounting fees, ANKC fees, bank fees, event expenses;
- Vendor fee is \$70 per day (the coffee guy).

*Moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.*

Moved: Elaine Temby ..... Seconded: Clive Styles .....CARRIED

**Other Reports**

Agility Report: question about the functionality of the ANKC Agility Committee: to be raised by the President at the next ANKC meeting.

Breed Sub-Committee Report

Conformation Judges Training Scheme Report

Dances With Dogs and Trick Dogs Report

Lure Coursing Report

Obedience Tracking and Endurance Report

Scent Work Report

*Moved that these Reports be accepted.*

Moved: Jenny Kenworthy ..... Seconded: Kirstin Henderson .....CARRIED

## **4. Annual Reports**

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### **President's Report**

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Dear Members

Another extraordinary year for DogsACT! We have been busy rebuilding a better stronger DogsACT in the wake of the Covid aftermath, we have continued to operate effectively and even welcomed a new Administrator, Vanessa March. Dogs ACT have been working hard to examine the administration process and update them for faster more streamlined processes. We have also made minutes from this council available to members.

Our greatest achievements this year have included the replacement of the Grass and sprinkler system, purchasing our new Semco 54-inch zero turn lawn mower, held the first ever ACT State Scent Titles and reinstating the Junior Handler program, this has been quite an onerous task which has been undertaken by Mel Crossley and Kirstin Henderson. It involved re-establishing this activity from scratch and securing sponsors for the activities for these Juniors. It has been a time-consuming project and hopefully it will prove to be worthwhile. My many thanks to these two ladies for all the effort you have put in to make it a success.

This year we also reintroduced the President and Secretaries meeting after a hiatus of some time to bring our affiliate clubs up to scratch as to the path the council to Dogs ACT intended going. This meeting was well received, and a lot of sound feedback was received from the affiliates for the Council's consideration.

Although there have not been many Conformations Shows held this year, ANKC activities continue to consume a large component of our time. Dogs ACT held State obedience titles, State Agility titles and an endurance test, as well as several other smaller sporting events. Dogs ACT would like to take a minute to thank and appreciate every one of our volunteers for their help in running these events, without you it wouldn't be possible.

DogsACT sadly had to see a small price increase to our members, the first in many years, due to the increase from Dogs Australia levies. That said however, Council will continue to be vigilant and make sound financial management decisions moving forward to hopefully avoid any more increases to our members.

Finally, on behalf of the members, I would like to thank the Council for their commitment and support throughout these trying times. To both the outgoing Councillors and those continuing with their tenure, I wish you all the very best. I wish the record to show my appreciation of the work of Treasurer, Kirstin Henderson for watching over our finances and ensure that we take our time to make the best business decision for Dogs ACT. Our focus going forward is to make the best decisions for Dogs ACT to ensure that we are here in the future.

### **DogsACT Executive**

#### **Dogs ACT**

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### **Dogs ACT Administration**

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With a lot of us all returning to a more normal lifestyle post covid disruptions the office has been operating at normal capacity, and with this it has been a welcome sight to seeing an increase in dog events being held.

In November 2022 saw the appointment of new administrator Vanessa March. Vanessa has worked in administration for over ten years and is a welcome skilled person with many fresh ideas. With the role being vacant for many months at the time there was some catch up to be done with various administration duties – such as filing and membership database updates - and with this we have been able to now process the incoming paperwork in a timelier manner.

We have also seen more solid reinstatement of the Renewal Reminders that are emailed out each month through the database. There are still some gaps with some members having received these reminders while others haven't. We are working through data gap, and this is a reminder that whilst we are working on this that members keep an eye on when their membership is due.

The website has seen some minor updates with more planned in the form of updating forms, and fixing various links that were broken.

We will be continuing to work on ways to improve the membership, events, and formats of submissions for paperwork processes. As much as we would love to go totally paperless, we know that this is a fair way off.

We have been working hard to establish better communication with members by the Facebook page with regular updates. We have also been establishing better communication with EPIC through regular meetings.

We thank you the members and affiliates for the ongoing support and are always happy to assist you with enquires, either by phone, email or in person.

### Dogs ACT YEARLY STATISTICS

Figures from DogsACT for AGM of Yearly Statistics	FY 22/ 23
Judges Licence Renewals – Conformation	18
- Sports	20
Membership Renewals	255
New Memberships	82
Associate Register Applications	23
Transfer between Registers	13
Conformation Stewards Training	6
Conformation Judges Training	4
Title Applications – Conformation & Sports	310
- Supreme or Grand	9
Registrations Litters – Mains Puppies	122
- Limited Puppies	61
Transfer of Ownership - Members	85
- Non-Members	47
Export Pedigree	7
Leases	4
Prefix Applications	1
Prefix Renewals	93
Prefix Transfers	0
Semen Registrations	12
Register Import	12
Duplicate Certificates (Reprint of Certificates)	9
Draft Schedules – Trials/Shows	104
Levies – Conformation - per entry	8271
- Sports – per entry	6156

**Vanessa March**  
**Dogs ACT Administrator**

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## **Treasurer's Report**

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Dear Members,

22-23 FINACIAL YEAR, it is never easy for a new Treasurer to take over, especially after a long-term Treasurer. My priority was to get the BAS and the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the super paid for the 21-22 financial year. During the 22-23 financial year the BAS and Super were paid quarterly.

While DogsACT was lucky that we had no restrictions in terms of holding events due to covid. The new council had to repair the grounds to rectify the issue with the weeds, fix the sprinkler system (that was damaged by the protestors) and lay new turf, this meant we were unable to hold events for several months while the new grass established.

The process for reimbursement was messy and unorganized, so a new form was created for a more streamlined process. With council support, an office card was organized for purchases for events and small office needs like stamps to reduce the financial burden to office members and reduce the number of reimbursements. The security to the bank accounts was updated with a change so that 2 people are required to authorize payments for better security.

To reduce our overhead costs, many personal hours were spent contacting our service providers to negotiate better deals and discounts. I also undertook the ardent task of securing sponsors for many of our events to reduce event costs, allowing us to increase our profits from events. Several raffles were organised of donated goods and prizes to also allow us to raise money for programs like the Junior handlers and the State agility Team.

We held a late-night office hour followed by a few fun rounds of doggy bingo, that was extremely successful and a lot of fun. We will continue to prioritize timely and efficient office services for our members.

2023-2024 financial year our goals are maintaining and growing the organisations cash reserves, replacing the loudspeaker system at DogsACT (for which a grant has already been secured) replacing the bottom shade sails and purchasing ramps. DogsACT already has shows planned for September and January, and State Agility titles planned for late September, early October.

An independent review of the expenses & income ledger and AGM financial report has been carried out by Hardwicks Accounting, I thank them for their time and professionalism.

**Ms Kirstin Henderson**  
**Treasurer**  
**Dogs ACT**

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## **Breed Sub-Committee**

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Dear Members

The National Breed Standards Coordination Group (NBSCG), on which I represent DogsACT has considered several matters during the year:

### **Breed Standards**

After consideration the NBSCG has confirmed changes to the Border Collie Breed Standard and Breed Standard extensions. These changes provide greater clarity to understanding of the Ears, Coat and Colour.

The Rottweiler Breed Standard and the Tenterfield Terrier Breed Standard have also been updated.

These changes can be found on the ANKC Breed Standard website.

## **Ramps**

At the June 2023 ANKC Ltd Special Board Meeting Directors resolved the following:

### ANKC Ltd Regulations Part 5 – Conformation Show, New Clause 2.7

It was RESOLVED that Regulations Part 5 – Conformation Show be amended with the addition of Clause 2.7 to read as follows:

#### 2.7 Use of Ramps/Tables

2.7.1 A current list of table, ramp and ground judged breeds may be found on the Dogs Australia website.

#### 2.7.2 Table Breeds

Designated table breeds must be examined on an examination table. When re-examining them, they must be placed back on the table. Only breeds designated as table breeds may be examined on the table.

#### 2.7.3 Ramp Breeds

A judge requesting the use of a ramp must give notice to the show representative/show manager prior to judging. Dogs Australia/ member body approval is not required. Designated ramp breeds may be examined on the ground (table if applicable) or on a ramp during breed judging at the sole discretion of the judge and not the exhibitor. The entire entry in that breed is to be examined on the ground (table if applicable) or on a ramp. The ramp will be available at the discretion of the judge for all ramp optional breeds through all levels of competition including group and Best in Show judging.

2.7.4 Breeds designated as Table/Ramp optional breeds may be judged on either at the sole discretion of the judge and not the exhibitor. The entire entry in a breed is to be examined in the same manner.

#### 2.7.5 All Other Breeds

Breeds not designated as either table or ramp breeds may only be examined on the ground.

2.7.6 Baby Puppies of any breed Baby puppies may be examined on the ground, table or ramp at the discretion of the Exhibitor and Judge.

2.7.7 Guidelines for Construction of a Judging Ramp Ramps acquired from date of implementation should conform to the following specifications. Construction: Any stable material, including the use of folding legs if required. Surface: non-slip such as; rubber-mat, artificial turf, outdoor carpet. Weight: the weight any ramp shall not exceed 16kg (in accordance with WHS guidelines) except in the case where the ramp is mobile by form of attached wheels (can be pushed rather than carried or lifted). Dimensions Length: 120 cm Width: 60 cm Height: 40 – 60 cm

This amendment to regulations to be effective from 1 January 2024.

## **Challenge Certificates**

There has been discussion as to the practice of providing online challenges. Some judges feel that as these do not carry their signature they feel uncomfortable with the practice.

Others feel that the awarding of the challenge in the showing in the first place was what was required and that in the vast majority of cases judges pre-sign blank certificates or provide their electronic signature for application to certificates.

It appears that Online Certificates will continue to be one of the methods for how Certificates are accessed in the future in the Confirmation Show ring.



## **New Breeder Approvals**

The following DogsACT members have passed the Breeder Exam and have been granted a Breeder's Prefix: Annette Melia; Benjamin Elliott.

### **Linda Stevens – Convenor**

#### **Dogs ACT Breed Sub Committee**

#### **ACT Representative to the ANKC National Breeds Standards Coordination Group**

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## **Agility Report**

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The 2022 DogsACT State Agility Titles event attracted a wonderful entry of 1,475 runs across 3 days held at ACT Companion Dog Club in October 2022.

Two DOTY events were held on the Sunday morning. These events take centre stage and were judged by Cam List (NZ) and Karen Phillips (WA).

- 2022 Agility Dog of the Year Winner – Rachael Fullerton & Zarigueya
- 2022 Jumping Dog of the Year Winner – Leslie Roberts & Duszah Snowy Mountains Bean

The 2023 DogsACT State Agility Titles will again be held at ACT Companion Dog Club from Sat 30 Sept – Monday 02 October. This year we will be offering the ever-popular class of Open Agility and Open Jumping. We had listened to competitor feedback regarding Open classes and hope to receive a similar sized number of entries compared to 2022.

Our judges for 2023 are from NSW – Karen Edwards, Joanna Comber, Darren Johanson, and New Zealand – Sallie Remon. Between these 4 judges we will be offering 4 rounds of agility and jumping, Open Agility, Open Jumping, Strategic Pairs and Gamblers. The prestigious Agility Dog of the Year and Jumping Dog of the Year competition will be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October and be judged by Joanna Comber and Sallie Remon.

DogsACT Agility have secured a handful of sponsors for this event.

- Antinol Rapid (supplements)
- Prime100 (food/treats)
- Accell Therapy (therapeutic solutions)
- EzyDog (collars, leashes)
- KONG (toys, treats)
- Rainbow Dog Tugs (toys)
- Lickimat (feeding enrichment)
- Charlie & Molly (collars, leashes)
- CEN Nutrition (supplements)

DogsACT Agility have also purchased treats as prizes, as we could not secure enough prizes from sponsors.

We are excited to be hosting the Agility State Titles next month and look forward to the support from our community to attend and steward at this event.

Love your dog and run clear,

**Dana Simonsen-Rule**

**DogsACT Agility Convenor**

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### **2021 ANKC Revised Rules for the Conduct of Agility trials and Games – Elite Class.**

The 2021 ANKC Revised Rules for the Conduct of Agility trials and Games took effect from January 2021. These Rules introduced a new class in agility – the Elite class which can lead to a further title. This class is open to dogs which have already obtained their Masters title and is an optional class at any trial. The class has not proved popular in most States and is only offered at some larger trials with the proviso that there must be a minimum number of entrants for the class to operate or else the entries will revert to the Masters class. ACT CDC is the only ACT club that has offered this class at the larger weekend trials when the Open classes are not offered and the number of entrants continues to be small. It is not an option for smaller clubs as it does not generate income and is more onerous for judges to prepare yet another course for a very small number of entrants. As there are still no Judges Guidelines for rates of travel for this class the courses vary considerably.

### **Dogs Australia National Agility Committee**

As reported last year, the National Agility Judges Training Program together with the Agility Judges Guidelines was supposed to be developed and carried forward by an ANKC Sub-Committee but had stalled due to inaction by the National Committee.

This matter has continued to be ignored by the Chair of the National Agility Committee. Despite a phone call to me where the Chair indicated she would phone all representatives to start action on this matter, no action has been taken to progress this matter. Consequently, Australia still has no updated Agility Judges Guidelines (last revised in 2016) and the National Agility Judges Training Guidelines have not been discussed and adopted by the Agility Committee.

There are now a number of international agility judges coming to Australia to judge and teach agility and many European concepts are being introduced to ensure that agility equipment and courses are safe for dogs. Dogs Australia should be recognising these concepts and incorporating them into updated Guidelines for Agility Judges.

Again, as I raised in my report for 2021-2022, the Draft National Guidelines for Training Agility Judges should be ratified and owned by Dogs Australia.

I strongly recommend that Dogs ACT ask Dogs Australia Council why no action has been taken by the National Agility Committee regarding the Draft National Guidelines for Training Agility Judges and the revision of the Agility Judges Guidelines.

### **End of temporary Agility Rule 7.2 Entering and Exiting the Ring.**

During Covid this Rule was modified to have the lead carried on the handler.

The National Agility Committee has now agreed that this temporary rule should now cease and revert to Rule 7.2 as shown in the January 2021 Agility Rules. There were changes made to this rule in the revision of the Agility Rules to allow dogs to be carried to the starting line or leads to be placed in a nearby receptacle or on the ground behind the handler or handed to a steward.

I understand that this has been recommended to Council, but I have not seen the outcome at the time of writing this report.

As this means Clubs shall once again be required to have Lead Stewards at trials, this has not been well received by smaller clubs who find it difficult to find stewards for their trials. The further option of the leads being carried by the handler was never discussed in the original discussion of the 2021 rule changes as it took Covid to demonstrate that this option could be successful.

**Barbara Brown**  
**DogsACT nominee to the National Agility Committee**

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## Marketing & Promotions

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Marketing & Promotions have had a busy year, we chose to not reach out to the community as we felt our community was in recovery from such a long break due to lockdowns and such, so we chose to use this year to reconnect with our members and to build/ rebuild relationships with pet orientated business.

We reached out to a lot of business to rebuild or to establish new relationships, we have been working hard with the administration staff to reestablish getting the renewals sent out in a timely manner and creating better communication with members via the Facebook page. We have been researching options for updating the website and getting information on the website in a timelier manner.

We have been investigating ways to bring back the newsletter, in a cost-effective manner. The Newsletter is planned to be made an email leaflet, with a paper version to be mailed to those who request it. We welcome any contributors so if you have any information you would like to share with others, or like to see your breed promoted, please send it contributions to the office at [treasurer@dogsact.org.au](mailto:treasurer@dogsact.org.au) we do hope to have the first edition out later this year.

Due to the inactivity Dogs ACT App and its lack of traffic and its high expense it was decided to terminate,

As we plan to hold more shows and events in the next financial year, we look forward to connection more with the outside community, and we also hope to welcome more junior handlers.

**Kirstin Henderson**

**Marketing and Promotion**

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## Social Media

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DogsACT currently uses Facebook as the main means of communicating with members. The Facebook page was set up in July 2012 & is used to inform members of events such as shows, dog sports, training sessions, education evenings & more. It has remained professional & not an avenue for random chat nor immature comments, as befits our organization.

It is managed by Vanessa the Administrator and two council members - from the conformation event side & two people from the dog sports environment so that all events can be highlighted to members & make it a place for the vast majority to check for the latest information. It would be classed as a proactive & dynamic place for members to visit. We also maintain a page dealing with the Extravaganza events each July, although this is on hold at present until they recommence. For those interested in statistics, depending on the news, Dogs ACT's posts in FB reach approximately 2,800 people, giving us a wider distribution that Canberra.

The Administrator has been working hard to update the website, the forms and some of the links were broken. The website is where you learn about issues with a wider perspective so includes news from the ANKC & the FCI, keeping everyone abreast of Australian & international news.

Vanessa March and Natasha Davies have been keeping the newly approved event dates on the calendar and changing them as needed.

Due to the lack of traffic on the dogs ACT App, it was decided to cancel this, due to the high cost of maintaining and the fact many members were unaware of the app's existence. We do appreciate the hard work that went into creating the app from Judith Wooley.

Remember, the Members are what drives Dogs ACT & without your assistance we will stagnate. You need to look at the website regularly for updates, check the calendar for past, current & future events; and the Facebook page which will enhance your relationship with your organization. DogsACT has been holding many fun little raffles to reconnect with members, and held a late-night doggy bingo, a fun little initiative of the Treasurer and the Administrator.

I look forward to Members being more connected with their organization as we move into 2024. We are always open to new ideas, feedback, and suggestions of how we can improve DogsACT as an organization.

**Ms Vanessa March**  
**DogsACT Administrator**

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## **Canine Scent Work**

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Scent Work has continued to thrive in the ACT in 2022-23. There has been pleasing and sustained growth in the number of triallers involved in the sport and progressing through the classes. The continued introduction of new people and dogs to the sport and the active uptake of Dogs ACT affiliates in providing classes and opportunities to trial, is providing a strong basis for the future of scent work in the ACT.

In 2022-23, sixteen scent work trials were conducted in the ACT, offering all elements and classes. Trials are being run by Dogs ACT and the four affiliated dog clubs.

The trials have ranged from small evening trials with one or two elements and classes, to large one –two-day trials offering all four classes and elements.

The smaller evening trials usually attract around 40-60 entries, while day trials, including the very successful State Scent Work titles in April 2023, have attracted around 300 entries per day, including from Victoria and New South Wales.

Dogs ACT also worked collaboratively with two affiliates to run a trial each (ie three trials) on the same weekend. These trials were held during the winter months with later starts/earlier finishes to allow for the winter weather conditions.

This approach enabled the contracting of interstate judges and a wider range of elements and classes to be provided across the three venues, making the best use of their facilities. Three of these weekends were offered during 2022-23. They proved to be very popular as a fun and productive weekend for triallers and encouraged a solid interstate entry.

ACT triallers are competing successful at every level, with new triallers appearing at every trial. There are a number of ACT triallers who have now obtained their Scent Work Excellent title and are working towards their Master title, which given the sport has only been actively running for two years is a significant achievement.

Three of the four dog club affiliates of Dogs ACT are now running scent work courses for their members, from introduction to the sport to trialling preparation. These courses are run for a set period of between 4-8 weeks throughout the year.

The affiliates have also offered mock trials and training days for their members and those of other dog clubs.

There has been a growth in the number of private trainers in the ACT offering scent work classes on a commercial basis, providing an alternative to the member-based classes of affiliates.

Dogs ACT has been instrumental in promoting the ongoing development of the sport to its' members through a range of activities.

The ACT currently has four judges judging at ACT trials. They also receive regular invitations to judge interstate.

Two trainees are currently undertaking the Scent Work Judges' training program, with a planned completion date of late 2023. The trainees have received welcome support and assistance from Dogs ACT affiliates.

Dogs ACT has sponsored the following training and courses to its members and affiliates.

- Training – five days of workshops focussing on scent work trialling by interstate presenter, Jo Bates, in August and Sept 2022
  - This was followed up by two affiliates sponsoring a further six days of workshops presented by Jo Bates in March and April 2023 and the provision of private lessons.
- an Annual Stewards' course.
- an Affiliates meeting to discuss matters such as the Scent Work Rules and Regulations (Dogs Australia and Dogs ACT) pertaining to affiliates and trials, future trial dates and common challenges.

Dogs ACT members met in March 2023 to discuss and agree proposals for the upcoming Scent Work Rules Review meeting. Dogs ACT submitted its' final proposal which is now being considered as part of the national submission.

The ACT's ongoing challenges continue to be:

- finding suitable venues at a reasonable cost to provide search area variety and challenges, and to enable the running of larger trials. Element trials with one or two elements and classes continue to be the preferred approach by affiliates.
- Having sufficient numbers of volunteers to efficiently and effectively support the running of trials. There is an increasing trend towards having to rely on triallers to help out around running their own dogs which requires 'juggling'.

**Julie Cutts**

**ACTCA (DOGS ACT) Convenor**

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## **Obedience and Rally**

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Dogs ACT Obedience and Rally Sub-Committee Report 2023

Members: Natasha Davies (Convenor), Charlie Giles (Belconnen Dog Obedience Club representative, Laraine Frawley (ACT Companion Dog Club representative) and John Green.

The past 12 months have been busy for the O&RSC. In November 2022, new rules and regulations were introduced for Rally Judges (Part 9 – Judges, Section 9.14) and applications opened for the inaugural Dogs ACT Rally Judges Course. The Course commenced in March 2023, so the four participants are well on their way to completing their training. Dogs ACT would like to thank our local rally judges, dog training clubs and volunteers who have kindly supported the aspirant rally judges. A special mention goes out to Charlie Giles who has put in tremendous effort to get the rally course off the ground. Rally is a popular dog sport, and with only four local judges, more are desperately needed.

In May 2023, Dogs ACT held their Obedience and Rally State Titles at EPIC. Obedience had 121 entries and Rally 96.

Title Winners, listed below, had to qualify in both AM and PM trials. Title winners were posted on Dogs ACT's Facebook page and results were posted on Dogs ACT's Show and Trial Results webpage. The event, which was last held in 2019, made a small profit. Dogs ACT would like to thank Laraine Frawley for organising the event.

**Utility Dog Excellent** – Karen Hobson with Border Collie, O CH Lifesong Out of the Abyss UDX TKS SWA TD JD AD GD SPD

**Utility Dog** – Not awarded.

**Companion Dog Excellent** – Suzie Greentree with Border Collie, MacCabee Sweet Secret AD JDX SPD SD GD CCD CD WPD (IMP NZL)

**Community Companion Dog** – S Matthews & W Kelly with Papillon, Forsvar Espresso Kisses

**Jill Schmidt Encourage Award** (AM Judge: Jo Washington-King, ACT) – Victor Grzeszkiewicz with German Shepherd, Allinka Versace AZ CDX UD

**Jill Schmidt Encourage Award** (PM Judge: Roel Wittkamp, QLD) – DM Taylor with Border Collie, Neece Shimmer N Shine

**Rally Masters** – Laraine Frawley with Golden Retriever, TRI (Neuter) CH (RO) (OB) Morningmyst Lord of the Isle RAE ORA SWN SPDX JD ADX GD TKN

**Rally Excellent** – Denise Reynolds with Border Collie, OGrCH RCH Glenloy Play with the Devil UDX RM RAE9

**Rally Advanced** – Denise Reynolds with Border Collie, OGrCH RCH Glenloy Play with the Devil UDX RM RAE9

**Rally Novice** – Max Gowen with German Shepherd, Umbrewarra Black Night

**Natasha Davies**  
**O&RSC Convenor**

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## **Lure Coursing and Sprint**

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The last 12 months have seen the ACT run 2 Lure Coursing trials, both with large entries. Entry numbers have increased this year and one trial was closed early when numbers reached 70 entries. Due to the weather conditions which can delay the start time (fog, frost) and shorter days, entries are capped to ensure the trial can be completed before it gets dark

Expressions of interest for a Lure Coursing Judges training course were called for, but there were no nominations, so a Judges training course is not being conducted by Dogs ACT this year.

The Lure Coursing rules have just commenced the Rules Revision process. Meetings of Dogs ACT members were held to co-ordinate the Dogs ACT submission into the current Rules Revision, which was submitted in July.

Dogs ACT are in the process of purchasing a lure coursing machine and other equipment to facilitate the running of Lure Coursing try out days and Sprint Dog events in the ACT.

The ANKC have recently set up a Working Party to start investigating the new dog sport with the working name in Australia of Sprint Dog. These events use a Lure Coursing Machine, but the event is very different to Lure Coursing and will have their own rules which they will be conducted under. As Sprint Dog requires less room, they will be easier to run by clubs than Lure Coursing trials. Work on Sprint Dog will progress in the next year.

**Helen Mossler**  
**Lure Coursing Rep & Sprint Dog Rep**

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## **Dances With Dogs and Trick Dogs**

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### **Dances with Dogs**

Dances with Dogs continues to grow in strength in the Canberra Region, with competitions now regularly attracting more than 30 entries per competition. A good number of new entrants are moving into the sport from Trick Dogs and are demonstrating strong technical skills. Two local affiliate clubs continue to offer classes, workshops, and competitions, with six double competitions offered in ACT this year.

### **Trick Dogs**

Trick Dogs continues to attract large entries, with competition caps regularly reached in under an hour after opening online. There have been seven local Trick Dog Tests held in the ACT this year, usually in conjunction with DWD or Rally competitions, to cover the costs of bringing interstate judges in. Our most recent ACT competition, with over 130 entries across the two tests, saw 22 titles awarded across the day.

ACT ran a Trick Dog judges training program during 2023, with two new ACT judges confirmed in July. This has already enabled us to add additional entries at a local competition. Five aspirant judges from NSW regional areas close to the ACT also applied to the ACT program, as they are all actively training and competing with ACT clubs, however they are still awaiting further response from DogsNSW

ACT judges also supported two regional NSW clubs in running their first Trick Dog tests this year. It's really pleasing to see small clubs offering this sport.

The ACT Representative attended the DWD and Trick Dog Rules review meeting in Qld in March, having held voting meetings in the ACT to finalise submissions prior, with many thanks to our local participants. The ACT representative, with thanks to Angela Hagedorn for additional editing, have finalised the revised DWD rules.

**Ms Niccola Hardaker**

**ACTCA (Dogs ACT) DWD Sub Committee**

**ACT Representative to the ANKC Dances With Dogs Committee and Trick Dog Working Party**

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### **Gundog Trialling - Field**

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Dogs ACT and its affiliates have not conducted any Field Trial events in the past 12 months, however several Dogs ACT members competed in an Ability Test for Utility Gundogs in September 2022. It was the second to be ever held in Australia since the rules were enacted in 2009. The five classes of Conformation, Obedience, Retrieving, Trailing and Field were held over two days. Titles include UG and UGX.

One member of Dogs ACT competed in closed season Utility Field Trials in NSW. Training and trialling require considerable travel and commitment. Lara Sedgmen's Vizsla Graebrook Dublin Rogue successfully competed in both events and is the first Dogs ACT dog to achieve the UG title and a Field Trial Championship point in over a decade.

Field Trials for Utility Gundogs, All Pointing Breeds and Pointer & Setter rules are under review, with the national R.A.F.T. meeting held in July 2023. As the ACT has not conducted trials for more than five years, we were not eligible to vote however were represented at the meeting.

**Judith Barlow,**

**Retrieving & Field Trial**

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### **Endurance**

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Dogs ACT were able to conduct an Endurance Test this year for the first time in several years. COVID caused several closures to areas within EPIC which made it impossible to conduct the ET over the last few years. The new route we had to use this year, as approved by EPIC, was a little repetitive, but all participants passed.

Expressions of interest for a Judges Training Course resulted in only 1 applicant. The Judges training is still underway but will be completed by the end of 2023.

The Rules Revision meeting of State/Territory Reps was held via a Zoom Meeting in May. The minutes are yet to be ratified by ANKC.

**Helen Mossler**

**Endurance Sub-Committee/Representative**

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### **Conformation Stewards Training**

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One Stewards Course was conducted during the year. The Practical testing of aspirants affected by Covid was also addressed, allowing six stewards to be added to the Panel.

The necessity for a refresher course for Stewards with the emergence of the 'tablet' being used at Shows was identified with a workshop offered in February 2023. The course was advertised on the Dogs ACT Calendar. The attendees found it most helpful and came away feeling confident in their ability to use the tablet at shows. The

number of attendees was disappointing given the comments with regards the use of 'tablets' at Shows. Our thanks are expressed to Ross Stirton for his efforts in facilitating this workshop.

A course will be conducted later in 2023, advertised on the Council's calendar.

**Jenny Kenworthy**  
**DogsACT Steward Coordinator**

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## **Government Liaison**

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The Sub-Committee met with the ACT Government's Domestic Animal Services (DAS) in October 2022. We had a very cooperative discussion about a range of issues:

- Reduced fees for Dogs ACT members
- Sexually Entire Animal Permits (SEAP) rules
- Breeder licences
- Permits to keep 4 or more dogs
- Differences between government legislation and that of Dogs ACT and Dogs Australia.

They are looking to stay engaged with Dogs ACT and are happy to assist with education and questions. Staff turnover at DAS is quite high, so we need to remain engaged in regular meetings so the information we provided is retained and shared across their staff. DAS wants our members to be compliant with ACT Government rules and are happy to work with individuals to assist with getting up-to-date.

DAS noted that there are some things that are legislated, and they have to abide by (e.g. breeder licences are issued for maximum of 2 years at a time) but there are other standards and guidelines where they have some discretion (e.g. length of SEAPs).

One thing to note is that when applying for a SEAP, you can ask for a longer permit (e.g. 6 years) because the dog is a show/breeding dog. They will want to see a full pedigree and Dogs ACT membership as proof, but then have the discretion to issue a longer permit than the usual 2 years. We have provided DAS with copies of our membership cards and different types of pedigrees for their awareness in being able to process these applications.

DAS fees for permits and licences are quite costly. When we raised this matter, they acknowledged that there had been some previous discussions about reduced fees for members, but they had not progressed. Dogs ACT have now written (early Aug) to DAS specifically seeking a reduction in fees for Dogs ACT members. Our letter has been acknowledged and we are waiting on a response.

The Sub-Committee is happy to answer questions or take questions to DAS on behalf of members. We will also be preparing educational material (approved by DAS) to provide to members. We will arrange another meeting with them shortly.

**Mel Crossley & Cristan McCusker**  
**Government Liaison Sub-Committee**

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## **Government Liaison**

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Mel attended the Dogs Australia Health & Wellbeing Committee meeting in March 2023. Many issues were discussed which are then put to the Dogs Australia Board meetings for approval.

Mel organised two breed screening heart clinics throughout the year – 26–28 January and 16–18 August. Over the clinics, Veterinary Cardiologist, Dr Geoff Nicolson, tested 166 dogs by auscultation or echocardiogram (breed breakdown below). This is a valuable service that Dogs ACT supports and helps improve the health of our dogs. The testing is open to all Dogs ACT members and is advertised on social media and the website. If you have interest in being notified of future clinics, please reach out to the Dogs ACT office to pass on your details.



Breed Breakdown

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Cavalier King Charles Spaniel | 65         |
| Whippet                       | 32         |
| Irish Wolfhound               | 11         |
| Dobermann                     | 8          |
| Saluki                        | 6          |
| Affenpinscher                 | 6          |
| Rhodesian Ridgeback           | 5          |
| Deerhound                     | 5          |
| Havanese                      | 4          |
| Borzoi                        | 3          |
| Bull Terrier (Miniature)      | 3          |
| Bull Terrier                  | 2          |
| Field Spaniel                 | 2          |
| Schnauzer (Giant)             | 2          |
| Brittany                      | 2          |
| Golden Retriever              | 2          |
| Spanish Water Dog             | 1          |
| Bearded Collie                | 1          |
| Hungarian Vizsla (Wirehaired) | 1          |
| Papillion                     | 1          |
| Dachshund (Mini Smooth)       | 1          |
| Dachshund (Standard Smooth)   | 1          |
| Dalmatian                     | 1          |
| Afghan Hound                  | 1          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>166</b> |

**Mel Crossley**  
**Health Sub-Committee**

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**Conformation Judges Training Scheme**

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NIL Report submitted.

**Ms Linda Buckley**  
**ACTCA (DOGS ACT) Convenor**  
**Judges Training Sub-Committee**

**ELECTION FOR 2023 - 2025**

The order in which the names appear on this list were drawn by the Returning Officer, in the presence of the ACTCA (Dogs ACT) Administrative Assistant.

|                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The number in the brackets, indicate the number of positions vacated by past Council member/s and subject to election this year. | These candidates are standing for the following positions:                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                    |
| <b>Position</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>Candidate/s</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Period of Office</b>                                            |
| President                                                                                                                        | Judith Wolley<br>Elektra Oshyer<br>Eric Birkeland                                                                                                                                                                      | Two (2) years. The next election for the President will be in 2025 |
| Senior Vice President                                                                                                            | John Scholz<br>Clive Styles                                                                                                                                                                                            | Two (2) years. The next election for the President will be in 2025 |
| Council Member                                                                                                                   | Katarina Manna<br>Gregory Barber<br>Ayla Douglas<br>Cristan McCusker<br>Meaghan O'Shannassy<br>Natasha Sands<br>Elektra Oshyer<br>Clive Styles<br><i>Fran Coventry - withdrawn</i><br><i>Suzana Styles - withdrawn</i> | Three (3) to be elected for a two (2) year period                  |

**VOTING EXPLANATION**

**Important**

Three (3) nominations have been received for position of President  
Two (2) nominations for position of Senior Vice President  
Eight (8) nominations have been received for the three (3) positions of Councillor.

Three (3) x Council members will be elected for a two (2) year period.  
A ballot will be held for these positions and will run as follows:

- **President is the pink piece of paper** – select only ONE (1) candidate ONLY – Mark clearly the box corresponding to your preferred candidate with a tick, cross or circle the name. Mark one box only; marking two or more will render your vote invalid.
- **Senior Vice President is the blue piece of paper** - select only ONE (1) candidate ONLY – Mark clearly the box corresponding to your preferred candidate with a tick, cross or circle the name. Mark one box only; marking two or more will render your vote invalid.
- **Councillor is the yellow piece of paper** – select up to THREE (3) candidates only - Mark clearly three boxes corresponding to your preferred candidates with a tick or a cross. Mark three boxes only; marking four or more will render your vote invalid.

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## **2023 DUNBAR AWARDS**

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The Dunbar Awards recognise dogs (and their handlers) that have achieved both obedience trialling titles and conformation championship titles. The Awards are administered by Dogs ACT and funded by the ACT Companion Dog Club.

The awards were established by the ACT Companion Dog Club in 1973 in honour of Colonel Redvers Dunbar (1900-1985), an obedience and tracking judge and conformation judge of the Gundog and Terrier groups. Colonel Dunbar strongly believed that “dogs with the requisite breeding background benefitted from exposure to the two broad paths of canine development: betterment of the breed through competition in the show ring and obedience work”. He practiced what he preached and achieved great success with his Labradors in conformation, obedience, tracking and retrieving.

Colonel Dunbar was an Honorary Life Member of Dogs ACT and the ACT Companion Dog Club.

Congratulations to the 2023 Award winners:

### **SILVER MEDALLION AWARD**

DUAL CH (RO) LLANDWYN CRESCENT MOON (AI) CDX RAE JD GD SPD FSA HTMI TKN SWN JC

OWNED BY N Hardaker.

### **BRONZE MEDALLION AWARDS**

CH KOBIDAN THE WHOLE SHEBANG CD RA JC OWNED

Owned BY J Hagan

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## LIFE MEMBER NOMINATION 2023

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### Eric Birkeland

Life Membership is the highest Award available to recognise the exceptional contribution of individuals to the DogsACT community, it is an acknowledgement of a member's continual contribution to DogsACT. It is therefore only to be awarded in exceptional circumstances. This year the council was unanimous in voting Eric Birkeland as a recipient of Life membership in 2023.

**Eric Birkeland** got his first Stafford in 1986 was named "Mickey", which started a lifelong love of the breed. Since then, Eric has been passionate about Stafford's and got his first well-bred Stafford in 1995 named "Nitro" which Eric did obedience and conformation.

Eric married the love of his life Linda in 1982, and together they have 3 children, one boy and two girls. Together Linda and Eric created the "Jamelkur" prefix in 1998 with the first litter born in 2000.

Eric has been a long time Stafford and DogsACT member, during his many years on council he has contributed a great deal to the DogsACT community and the Stafford community. Some of his many contributions include

- Council member/ Junior Vice President for on and off for the last 20 years
- Senior Vice President - 2008-2011
- President of the ACT Stafford club 22 years (which Eric helped establish in 2001)
- President of Staffordshire Bull Terrier National Breed Council
- Dogs ACT Grounds keeper and assistant for many years
- Played a major role in the acquiring and installation of the Air Conditioning for the office – he did this installation at no charge to Dogs ACT.
- In 2023 he stepped up and is currently co acting as president for Dog ACT after the sudden resignation of the president.
- Held the position in the Canberra and District Sporting Terrier Club of vice president

DogsACT thanks Eric for his commitment and passion to DogsACT and is pleased to be able to recognize his commitment with a life membership.