



**2024 – 2025**

**Agenda**

**Annual Report**

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**AGENDA – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

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**7.00pm, Tuesday 16th September 2025**

**Ainslie Football and Social Club**

1. Welcome by Dogs ACT President Eric Birkeland
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024
4. Annual Report – Mr Eric Birkeland
5. Financial Report – Ms Kirstin Henderson
6. Election of Office Bearers
7. Dunbar Awards (One Silver & Three Bronze)
8. Motions submitted - NIL.
9. Life Membership Nomination –
10. Other business
11. Close

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**2023-2024 Office Bearers**

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President:	Mr Eric Birkeland	2023-2025
Senior Vice President:	Mr John Scholz	2023-2026
Junior Vice President:	Ms Judith Barlow	2024-2026
Treasurer:	Ms Kirstin Henderson	2024-2025
Councillors:	Ms Heather Swinbourn	2024-2026
	Ms Elektra Oshyer	2024-2026
	Ms Denice Greenwood	2024-2026
	Mrs Fran Coventry	2024-2026
	Ms Cristan McCusker	2023-2025
	Ms Katarina Manna	2023-2025
	Ms Natasha Sands	2023-2025
	Mr Clive Styles	2023-2025
Administrator:	Ms Vanessa March	
Assistant:	Mrs Linda Buckley	
Bookkeeper:	Hardwicks Accounting	

## **1. Welcome to 2025 Annual General Meeting of Dogs ACT**

### **2. Apologies**

Julie Cutts, Elizabeth Hindley,

### **3. Minutes of the 2023-2024 AGM**

**Dogs ACT, Annual General Meeting, 2023-2024**

**Refer to Draft 2024 AGM Minutes**

## **4. Annual Reports**

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### **President's Report**

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Good evening Members.

Thank you for attending tonight's meeting. While this year has presented both challenges and successes, Dogs ACT has continued to operate effectively throughout. We have strengthened our relationship with EPIC and addressed issues as they arose, ensuring that no significant disruptions occurred. Dogs ACT remains committed to enhancing our partnership with EPIC for the benefit of our organisation and its members.

The introduction of new disciplines, such as Scent Work and Sprint Dog, has been particularly successful and continues to gain momentum. On a personal note, I recently participated in my first Sprint Dog event at CDC and found it to be an enjoyable experience for both myself and my dog. Recent conformation shows have been organised primarily to generate income for Dogs ACT. Where possible, we should work to promote both Conformation and Dog Sports events to the public, as this may attract new and younger members to our community. In addition to recruiting new members, it is important for all existing members to actively support our affiliates in hosting more shows and events, thereby promoting responsible dog ownership within the ACT.

Lastly I have chosen not to run for President this year due to starting a new job and studying I don't have the time that the position requires. Thank you to all those who supported me during my time as President.

Regards Eric.

**Eric Birkeland**  
**DogsACT President**

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### **Dogs ACT Administration**

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The 2024/2025 has been quite busy on many fronts.

The Renewal Reminder process has seen increase in success with many members responding positively to the reminder process. We still ask that members keep in mind that they also need to know when they are due. We continue to remind members to be send in paperwork with payment to allow us to process things in a timely manner.

We still are asking members to keep their details, including new emails and change of address up to date in the system. Please ensure you let us know if there has been a change.

The website continues to see updates where needed. There have been updates done to links, updating forms, and fixing various broken page links. This will continue to be a priority as the council work on updating policy's.

The Office has also been working hard clearing out old paperwork and preserving historical records, this is an astronomical job as some of the found records go back to the 1950's. All these old documents also need to be destroyed or persevered in a careful manner as membership and personal details are listed.

The Office has continued to work with other States and Territories to bring the Office policies and Procedures up to date, this included helping to introduce a "Deceased Estate Policy".

Whilst 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**

<b>Figures from Dogs ACT for AGM of Yearly Statistics</b>	<b>FY 24/25</b>
Judges Licence Renewals – Conformation	14
- Sports	26
Membership Renewals	289
New Memberships	58
Associate Register Applications	16
Sporting Register Registration	1
Transfer between Registers – Main to Neuter	10
- Main to Limited or Limited to Main	2
Judges Training - Conformation	0
- Sports	21
Title Applications – Conformation (Including Sup, Gr & FCI)	66
- Sports	364
Registrations Litters – Mains Puppies	133
- Limited Puppies	85
Transfer of Ownership - Members	81
- Non-Members	35
Leases	3
Prefix Applications	8
Prefix Applications – Second Prefix	1
Prefix Renewals	90
Prefix Transfers	2
Semen Registrations	21

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AGM Agenda & Annual Reports for 2024-2025

Register Import	3
Duplicate Certificates (Reprint of Certificates)	9
Draft Schedules – Trials/Shows	101
Levies – Conformation - per entry	4,234
- Sports – per entry	8,101

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

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### **Treasurer's Report**

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Dear Members,

24-25 FINACIAL YEAR, Now I know the figures in this years Audit don't look great, having run at a loss, however most of this loss was depreciation of the assets (grass) and the prepayments of the insurance loan for the 23-24 financial year now recorded as an expense.

Our overall revenue for the year is down, having struggled with member retention and loss of levy income from EPIC cancelling events.

Dogs ACT is extremely grateful for the volunteers and members who continue to donate their time and skills to run events, seminars workshops and even to just mowing the grass. Everything no matter how big or small matters.

Vanessa and I have been working hard to keep over heads down as much as we can, the rising cost of living however is influencing everyone and we are feeling the effects.

As a result of events during the year a new financial policy is now in place available on the website, I urge you all to familiarise yourselves with it.

Dogs ACT will continue to explore options for financial diversity, and ways we can save money while continuing to meet our members needs. The goals this year being to save some money.

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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### **NO REPORT RECIVED**

– 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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Report to Dogs ACT AGM 2025 - Dogs Australia National Agility Committee

This year has been primarily spent on the 5 yearly review of the Rules for the conduct of Agility Trials and Games.

The ACT representative initially held two meetings for Dogs ACT agility members – firstly to approve submissions made by ACT members, and subsequently to discuss the many submissions made by other affiliates. The agreed submissions were forwarded by Dogs ACT to Dogs Australia.

Over 240 submissions were received from affiliates which necessitated much discussion both at the two day face to face meeting and subsequent electronic discussions and polls.

Due to the number and complexity of the agreed submissions, the 2026 Agility and Games Rule book has significant alterations which has resulted in a considerable rewrite.

The final 2026 Rule book and meeting documents have been forwarded to Dogs Australia for approval.

**Barbara Brown**

**Dogs ACT representative on Dogs Australia National Agility Committee**

**20 August 2025**

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## **Marketing & Promotions**

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### **NO REPORT RECIVED**

**Fran Coventry**

**Marketing and Promotion**

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## **Grooming**

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This year marks an important milestone for Dogs ACT with the creation of the Grooming Subcommittee – the first of its kind within our branch. Our mission is to promote grooming excellence, provide education and development for members, and run official grooming events under Dogs ACT and Dogs Australia guidelines.

Since starting, the subcommittee has worked hard to build a strong base for future growth.

Achievements:

In our first year, we have:

- Planned and organised the first official Dogs ACT Grooming Competition to be held under Dogs Australia rules for point scoring.
- Arranged grooming seminars with some of Australia's top professionals to help groomers improve their skills for both competition and everyday work.
- Promoted grooming as both a sport and a skill within the wider Dogs ACT community.
- Built strong relationships with judges, sponsors, and industry supporters.

#### Acknowledgements:

We thank:

- Dogs ACT Council for supporting and approving the formation of the subcommittee.
- Our dedicated subcommittee members for their time, energy, and commitment.
- Sponsors and supporters for backing our first competition.
- The grooming community for embracing this new initiative.

#### Looking Ahead:

In the coming year, we will:

- Successfully run our inaugural Dogs ACT Grooming Competition.
- Begin planning and delivering our next grooming competition.
- Host more seminars, workshops, and demonstrations.
- Expand competition classes and offerings.
- Increase community awareness of grooming as a recognised and valued skill.
- Strengthen our network of sponsors and partners.

The Dogs ACT Grooming Subcommittee has achieved a great deal in a short time. With the continued commitment of our members and the support of Dogs ACT, we are confident that grooming will grow into a strong and valued part of the ACT canine community. We look forward to another successful year ahead.

Kind Regards,  
**Elektra Oshyer**

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#### Social Media

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Dogs ACT continues to utilise 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 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.

The Administrator continues to work through updating the website, the forms and some of the broken links. This is a never-ending job as we are constantly trying to streamline and reduce forms. 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 has been keeping the newly approved event dates on the calendar, changing them as needed and adding in affiliates events results that are submitted to the office for uploading.

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.

I look forward to Members being more connected with their organization as we move into 2026. We are always open to new ideas, feedback, and suggestions of how we can improve Dogs ACT as an organization.

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

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## **Canine Scent Work**

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Scent Work has continued to thrive in the ACT in 2024-25. There has been pleasing and sustained growth in the number of trialers 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 training classes and seminars and opportunities to trial, is providing a strong basis for the future of scent work in the ACT.

### **Scent Work Trials**

In 2024-25, twenty-nine scent work trials (offering eighty-six Elements/Classes) were conducted in the ACT, compared to twenty-six trials in 2023-24. Trials are being run by Dogs ACT and six affiliated dog clubs. The ACT continue to be popular with regular participation from local and regional trialers as well as steady participation from Victoria and New South Wales trialers.

The trials have ranged from the very popular evening trials with one or two Elements and Classes, to larger one day and weekend trials offering a range of Classes and Elements.

The evening trials usually attract around 40-60 entries, while the day trials have attracted around 120-150 entries per day.

The Canberra Scent Sports Club hosted three day trials at Queanbeyan show grounds over the Anzac Day long weekend in April 2025 attracting approximately 300 entries each day.

Dogs ACT has continued to work collaboratively with several affiliates to run three weekends of trials during the winter months. This has enabled interstate judges to be contracted with a wider range of Elements and Classes provided across three trial venues. These trials continue to be popular providing a fun and productive weekend for trialers with a solid interstate entry.

ACT trialers are competing successfully in every Class, with new trialers appearing at every trial. Fifty-two titles were awarded in 2024-25:

Title	Nu.
Scent Work Novice	25



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Scent Work Advanced	10
Scent Work Excellent	4
Scent Work Master	1
Scent Work Containers	2
Scent Work Interior	3
Scent Work Exterior	2
Scent Work Vehicles	5
total	52

#### Dogs ACT Scent Work Revenue in 2024-25

Dogs ACT has received \$6691.37 in trial revenue. Dogs ACT has received \$2,493.70 in Scent Work levies from all Clubs.

#### Scent Work Training Classes

Five of the six affiliates of Dogs ACT are running scent work courses and seminars for their members and trialers in the region, from introduction to the sport to trialling preparation.

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

The number of private trainers offering scent work classes in the ACT on a commercial basis has also continued to grow, providing an alternative to the member-based classes of affiliates.

#### Dogs ACT Activities

Dogs ACT has continued to promote the ongoing development of the sport to its' members through a range of activities.

#### Scent Work Judges' Training

The implementation of revised Scent Work Rules from 1 July 2024 resulted in the introduction of a new trialling Class – Ultimate.

In September 2024, five local judges completed assessment and were approved by Dogs ACT Council for elevation to an Ultimate Judges licence.

Three trainee judges commenced their training in early 2025 including two seeking elevation to Novice-Advanced licences and one seeking elevation to an Excellent-Master licence. The ACT has seven judges who contribute regularly to local and interstate trials.

#### Education and Training

Dogs ACT conducted the following activities for its members and affiliates:

- Three separate briefings – Judges, Affiliates and trialers - on the revised Scent Work Rules that came into effect on 1 July 2024.
- 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

## National Scent Work Committee

Following the release of the revised Scent Work Rules (w/e 1 July 2024), Dogs ACT National Scent Work Committee representative provided separate briefings for its' judges, affiliates and trialers.

The ACT representative has participated in several NSWCTC teleconferences including consideration of a new Division for Scent Work. Further pursuit of the matter has been deferred at the current time to allow consolidation and growth of the existing Odour Search Division, and the trials and training required to maintain consistent growth. There has been limited other business for the Committee in 2024-25.

## Challenges

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 needing to rely on trialers to support the efficient and effective running of trials.

**Julie Cutts**

**ACTCA (DOGS ACT) Convenor**

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## Obedience and Rally

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### *Obedience and Rally Rules Review*

In order to remain progressive with modern society activities, there are regular reviews of the National Rules for the conduct of Obedience Trials and the National Rules for the Conduct of Rally Trials. The process, which occurs every 5 years, is long and arduous spanning over a period of approximately 2 years.

The initial phase calls for each State and Territory to make their submissions. Submissions must comply with predefined formatting and cover such things as the Maximum number of point, Description of Exercise, Judges Orders, Deductions (categorised into Minor, Substantial, Zero and Disqualification). For full transparency, where the intention is to replace an exercise that exercise must also be included and appear as a strike through.

State and Territory submissions are submitted to Dogs Australia, approximately 18 months prior to the proposed implementation date. Submissions are consolidated, following the same format as the existing rule books, into a single document. This process spans over a period of approximately 3-4 months. The consolidated document is then circulated to States and Territories where they have approximately 5 months to consider submissions and work together to discuss and agree on how they would like their representative to vote.

A meeting, spanning an entire weekend plus, of the National Representatives is held, typically in March of the year preceeding the introduction of the updated Rule Books. This meeting is to vote on which submissions will be adopted at the National level. Long days with lots of paperwork, lots of reading, lots

of discussion, lots of negotiation, it all moves very fast, you need to be on your game as a decision may have a significant consequential impact elsewhere!

Minutes of the Meeting are subsequently circulated for all members of the committee to agree prior to being submitted to the Dogs Australia Board of Directors for acceptance. Once accepted by The Directors work commences on updating the Rule Books. This is a massive task that requires not only making the agreed changes but also identifying changes that need to occur as a result of decisions made. This process is required to ensure that there are no conflicts in information.

I would like to sincerely thank those dedicated and committed Dogs ACT Obedience and Rally folk who have provided input and support throughout this journey. It takes an army and patience to make change; we didn't get everything we hoped for but progressive change is better than no change. I am sure you will be pleasantly pleased with the outcome which will come into play on 1st January 2026. Until then, there is still considerable work to be undertaken in finalising the rule books and updating and training Judges!

Happy training and trialling all.

**Elaine Temby**  
**Dogs ACT Obedience and Rally Representative**  
**National Obedience, Tracking and Endurance Committee**

#### *Obedience and Rally Reports to Dogs ACT AGM 2025*

Since the Last AGM, Nikki Fallon completed her Community Companion Dog/Companion Dog Obedience Judges Course and was granted a licence to judge those classes. Joanne Hagan also successfully completed a course to upgrade to the Open level and was granted a licence to Judge the Open Class. The fourth aspirant withdrew from the course due to heavy commitments.

In 2025, four aspirant judges commenced the Community Companion Dog/Companion Dog Obedience Judges Course which they should complete in late October/early November this year.

In order to conduct the Obedience judges' training, Course Facilitator, Charlie Giles has received assistance from many members across the Dogs ACT community. On behalf of Dogs ACT and Charlie, I would like to formally thank everyone involved for their generous and ongoing support, including John Green, Sue Howie, Elaine Temby, Julie Cutts and Cheryl Neal. Our thanks also to the Belconnen Dog Obedience Club and ACT Companion Dog Club – for the use of their grounds and equipment. We have also received support with formal feedback sessions and final assessments from a number of NSW resident judges, including Sid Schuck, Jake Blight and Alison McCann.

This year meetings were held to review the Obedience Rules and the Rally Rules. My thanks to Elaine Temby for organising the ACT meetings for these rules, representing Dogs ACT at the ANKC meetings and all her work in reviewing the reviews! The new rules for both Obedience and Rally are expected to be available soon. These rules take effect from 1 January 2026.

My thanks to Sub-Committee members: Charlie Giles, John Green and Sue Howie for their contributions to Dogs ACT over the past year.

**Judith Barlow**  
**Obedience & Rally Sub-Committee Convenor**

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## **Lure Coursing and Sprint**

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### Lure Coursing

No Lure Coursing trials were conducted by any Dogs ACT affiliated clubs this year due to unavailability of equipment. This is in the process for being resolved with Dogs ACT purchasing equipment that is suitable for both Lure Coursing and SprintDog. With many members participating in the sport, it is hoped a club will run Lure Coursing in the future.

Dogs ACT has continued to participate in the Dogs Australia Rules Revision process with the current updated rules coming into effect 1 January 2025. Education of members has been ongoing via social media. There were several items carried over from that rules revision that are still ongoing with the Dogs ACT rep participating in regular Zoom meetings with other state reps. This includes updating the Regulation 3L – Lure Coursing Judges training to a Competency Based Training model.

**Helen Mossler**  
**Dogs ACT LC Convener.**

### SprintDog™

Since the introduction of SprintDog™ by Dogs Australia on 1 July 2024, there have been 10 trials conducted in the ACT, 8 by Dogs ACT SD subcommittee and 2 by BDOC. With no permanent Sprint Track, the ACT CDC and BDOC grounds have been used for trials, and our thanks go to them for your support & use of your grounds. During this first year, Dogs ACT processed 58 SprintDog™ titles (40 N.SPRD, 17 SPRD & 1 SPRD.A).

SprintDog™ has proven very popular with people joining Dogs ACT so they can enter a trial and most trials drawing 2 to 3 times the number of entries they have been capped at. All trials have entries capped to ensure trials are completed within a reasonable timeframe. This has resulted in a high number of people trying to enter when entries open, which has crashed entry platforms and resulting in a high number of complaints. As a result, we have moved to the Ballot System, complaints are still received, but more positive feedback has resulted.

The 2025 Dogs ACT Judges course resulted in 3 successful trainees joining the judges list – Elaine Temby, Maelyn Draper & Kirstin Henderson. The SprintDog™ Lure Operator course is ongoing with training to continue over the next year. Several stewards' courses have been conducted during the year, with many members & local Dogs NSW members completing the training.

Dogs ACT SprintDog™ subcommittee have provided ongoing support to local and interstate clubs with training, information, and mentoring. Successful fundraising has resulted in us being able to purchase a full set of equipment that can be hired out to interested clubs wanting to run events. All official documentation and hire agreements can now be found on the Dogs ACT website.

At a National level, Dogs ACT SD Rep has been participating in the Rule Clarification process that can occur after the initial introduction of a new Dog Sport. The clarifications were passed in February 2025 with an effective date of 1 July 2025. Education of members for these rule changes was conducted via social media. Work on the Judges Training Regulation and Lure Operators Training Competencies are also ongoing.

**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**

ACT held five Dances with Dogs competitions in the past year, with local competitions proving popular and regularly filling. This has resulted in seven Freestyle DWD titles and nine Heelwork to Music titles being awarded this year. Our first DWD Champion was awarded this year, with Claire Weekes and her German Shorthaired Pointer, Ari (Dual CH (HTM) Klausnesh Catch Me If You Can RN SWE TKI FSA) achieving his Heelwork to Music Championship in June 2025. The 2024 DWD judges program also resulted in two successful candidates, with Natasha Sands and Heather Swinbourn completing the requirements and achieving their DWD judges licence. We've also held three successful DWD workshops this year, two with interstate presenters.

### **Trick Dogs**

Trick Dogs tests have remained popular this year, with our numbers continuing to grow in the higher classes and five tests held in the ACT this year. A total of 46 Trick Dog titles were awarded in the ACT this year, including 4 Advanced titles. The ACT 2025 Trick dog judges training is nearing completion, with six excellent candidates and we wish them all well with their exams in September. All three local affiliates now offer Trick Dog training options, which is continuing to develop our competition pool.

At a national level, we have held two online meetings to discuss rules clarifications and to prepare for the next rule review, commencing 2026. Two ACT judges were also successful in our nominations as FCI Dog Dancing judges, with Niccola Hardaker and Cheryl Neal now listed on the FCI database.

### **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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### **Retrieving and Field Reports to Dogs ACT AGM 2025**

The ACT Gundog Society held a Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs (RATG) last September at the Tuggeranong Dog Training Club. An unofficial "Beginners" class encouraged 11 new dogs to have a go at retrieving bumpers!

The rules for Retrieving Trials for Gundogs were updated on 1 January 2025, with amendments effective 1 April 2025. The rules for Field Trials for Spaniels and Retrievers were updated on 1 January 2025.

### **Judith Barlow & Lara Sedgmen,**

#### **Retrieving & Field Trial**

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## **Endurance**

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The 2024 ET judges course resulted in one successful candidate, Kirstin Henderson, fulfilling all requirements of the course and becoming an Endurance Test judge.

The Dogs ACT Endurance committee held two Endurance Tests this past twelve months, with the 2024 ET run late in the year in July and this years ET being held early in May. We thank the German Shepherd Dog Association and Sonza Vet Clinic, for their ongoing support with running these events.

In 2024 an annual award was created, “The Jenny Kenworth Perpetual Trophy”, and was kindly sponsored by Sonza Vets, in memory of Jenny Kenworthy who was the backbone of the Endurance Tests in Canberra. The recipient each year is chosen from the participants of that years Endurance Test and is jointly decided by the Judge, Vet and Trial Manager, being a person who displays the qualities Jenny firmly believed in – hard work, sportsmanship, and commitment to the ET. The 2024 winner was Mara Herba and the 2025 winner was Helen Mossler. The trophy is housed in the Dogs ACT office.

**Helen Mossler**  
**Endurance Sub-Committee/Representative**

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**Conformation Stewards Training**

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**NO REPORT RECIVED**

**Vacant**  
**DogsACT Steward Coordinator**

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**Government Liaison**

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**NO REPORT RECIVED**

**Katarina Manna**  
**Government Liaison Sub-Committee**

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**Health and Welfare**

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**NO REPORT RECIVED**

**Hayden Montgomery**  
**Health and Welfare 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**

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## **Grounds Sub Committee**

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This year the grounds have not needed as much attention as previous years. After the working bee was carried out in January, regular maintenance has only been needed. We are looking at a few improvements around the rings like, a fenced off lead area which we are waiting for a go ahead from EPIC. The issue that we have in the car park behind the office and the market shoppers has been temporarily resolved with temporary fencing. I am in discussion with EPIC regarding making them permanent. As for the Shade covers that were removed by EvoEnergy in the bottom rings, we are hoping to have them replaced soon. With fund raising being carried out and quotes being gathered we will soon be able to go to EvoEnergy to get approval to replace them. EvoEnergy came in and removed the trees that were under the power lines in the bottom rings as they were in breach of their criterion for the power line guidelines. We are still waiting for them to come back and grind the stumps. Lastly I would like to thank Clive Stiles, Nathan Jennings, Judith Barlow and Vannessa March for all that they do around the grounds throughout the year.

Regards Eric

**Eric Birkeland**

**Dogs ACT Grounds Subcommittee**

## ELECTION FOR 2024 - 2027

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:	
Position	Candidate/s	Period of Office
President	Douglas Anderson <del>Kirstin Henderson</del> (withdrawn)	Two (2) years. The next election for the Junior Vice-President will be in 2027
Treasurer	Kirstin Henderson	Two (2) years. The next election for the President will be in 2027
Council Member x 4	Douglas Anderson Eric Birkeland Kirstin Henderson Phillipa Hurst Nathan Jennings Helen Mosslar Natasha Sands Elaine Temby	Four (4) to be elected for a two (2) year period

## VOTING EXPLANATION

### Important

Two (2) nominations have been received for position of President

One (1) nominations for position of Treasurer

Eight (8) nominations have been received for the four (4) positions of Councillor.

Four (4) 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.
- **Treasurer 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 Four (4) candidates only - Mark clearly four boxes corresponding to your preferred candidates with a tick or a cross. Mark four boxes only; marking five or more will render your vote invalid.



## **2025 DUNBAR AWARDS**

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 2025 Award winners:

### **SILVER MEDALLION AWARD**

DUAL. CH. (R) GRAND. CH. INCAVALE SHES GOT THE BOOTY ADO. ADX. AF CH. CDX. GDX. JDM 2. JDO 2.

N.SPRD RAE. RM. SDX. SPDX. SWN TK.I.

(Spanish Water Dog)

Owned by Nicole Fallon

### **BRONZE MEDALLION AWARDS**

NEUT. CH. PTOLOMY SPLASHING SOLO (AI) CCD. CD. RE. SPRD TK.N.

(Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever)

Owned by Maelyn Draper

CH. INCAVALE SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE AD. CD. JC. JD. RAE. RM. SD. SPD. SPRD SWN TK.N.

(Spanish Water Dog)

Owned by Nicole Fallon

CH. DRIFTWAY MIDNIGHT RHAPSODY CD. RA. SWN TK.N.

(Labrador Retriever)

Owned by Anne Walkington

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## **LIFE MEMBER NOMINATION 2025**

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### **To Be Presented at the Meeting**

Life Membership is the highest Award available to recognise the exceptional contribution of individuals to the Dogs ACT community, it is an acknowledgement of a member's continual contribution to Dogs ACT. It is therefore only to be awarded in exceptional circumstances.

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## **OTHER BUSSINESS**

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### **Update of the Rules of Association:**

The new Rules of Association as voted in last AGM were lodged with Access Canberra on the 17th of September 2024. The rules where officially accepted by Access Canberra in February 2025.

The council are slowly working through updating the regulations to reflect these changes.

### **Name Change of Dogs ACT:**

To be presented by Kirstin Henderson.