

Royal New South Wales Canine Council Ltd



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

Wednesday 5 November 2014

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members held Wednesday 5 November 2014 at 7.30pm in the Amenities Building, The Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs, 44 Luddenham Road, Orchard Hills.

1. PRESENT	Mrs E Gunter	Director
	Mr T Couchman	Director
	Ms C Mann	Director
	Mr M Arthur	Director
	Mr L Wheeler	Director
	Mr F Hession	Director
	Mrs N Keck	Director
	Mrs M Parker	Director
	Mr R Britten	Director
	Mr W Burton	Director
	Mr G Spagnolo	Director
	Mr G Dryburgh	Director
	Mrs V Etherington OAM	Director (Outgoing)
	Mrs M Wheeler	Director-elect (Incoming)
	Ms V Gagan-Wilson	Chief Executive Officer
	Mr D Kuchta	Auditor, Kelly & Partners

A total of 30 Members present, a list of whom appears in the Minute Book and which includes the above Directors.

2. APOLOGIES	Ms J Lee (Director)
	Ms J Seary (Director)
	Mr S Oliver (2100065535)
	Mrs B Hession
	Ms J Hession
	Mr K Keck

MOVED D Crofts
SECONDED M Boyd
THAT the apologies be accepted.

CARRIED

The President called for one minute silence in recognition of the loss of a number of valuable members and C Davis (ex-CEO) over the last 12 months.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

MOVED Mr Ross Hunter
SECONDED Ms Jan Baker
THAT the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members held 6 November 2013, as published in the January 2014 Gazette, be confirmed.

CARRIED

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President reported to the meeting that our Constitution calls upon the Board of Directors to report on the activities of the Company during the last preceding financial year and on behalf of the Board I have pleasure in submitting that report for Members' consideration:-

Financial Results

Our 2013/2014 Profit was \$181,564, which is up from \$106,673 in the prior year. This result was a very satisfactory outcome in terms of our budget expectations, and is very pleasing in terms of our planning efforts. It is also pleasing to see an increase in income in a number of areas, and a reduction in expenditure in others. It is not an easy task to maintain profit to budgeted levels given the many variables that effect final results.

Although membership income remained stable, registration, Complex, and Committee & Region income increased. Unfortunately there was again a decrease in advertising income, however with the very competitive advertising rates we now offer, thanks to the new Journal arrangements, it is hoped this decline will be reversed, and the Journal Expenditure figure significantly reduced in the 2014/2015 year.

The Board of Directors and our Finance Committee will continue to examine strategies in an endeavour to supplement our income and reduce our expenditure into the future. The first result of this strategy is our decision to bring the Journal "in house" for the first time in over a decade. The preparation of the magazine will be done solely by our Staff, and we have an Australian printer. The Board looks forward to the significant cost saving this decision will make for the Company.

Once more our total revenue exceeded three million dollars entrenching the organisation as a significant corporation.

I thank both our past and present CEOs for their very great personal contribution to maintenance of the profit level above budget throughout the year, and also thank those who supported our CEOs so strongly, the Board, the Finance Committee and our Staff.

Dogs NSW Staff and Committees

The CEO and the staff are the Company's most valuable asset, and they deserve the grateful thanks of the Membership for their efforts over the past year. It has not been an easy year for our Office personnel with the unexpected resignation of our CEO Christine Davis, due to her very serious illness. Christine has been our respected CEO since 2007 and our thoughts and prayers are with her as she continues to battle her illness. Christine has been presented with a Distinguished Service Award for her outstanding contribution to the Company.

Virginia Gagan-Wilson and the senior staff shouldered a great deal of extra work over a number of months, and the Board and I are most grateful for their efforts during a difficult time for all of them.

In May Virginia was formally appointed CEO by the Board, we congratulate her, and wish her well in her new role. She is now very ably assisted by her new PA, Anne Reynolds, who we welcomed to the Staff in August.

To Virginia and the following 21 staff members, I extend the thanks of the Board and the membership for your outstanding contributions and devotion to duty throughout the past year.

Anne Reynolds, PA to the CEO, Belinda Tutill, Secretariat Assistant; Kerry Christofi, Marketing & Public Relations, assisted by Cathy Lupton; Michelle Schembri, Accounts Manager, assisted by Ilinka Donn-Patterson; Linda Bonney, Website Manager/IT Co-ordinator; Judy Miller, Show Administration Officer; Shona Hofmeier, Processing Supervisor/Software Development, assisted by Data Processors Lisa Hadley and Leah Blattman. Belinda Tutill is also the Customer Service Supervisor assisted by Customer Service Officers Dianne Troutman, Stephanie Lynch, Kristy Torrisi (currently on maternity leave), Melissa Rangi and Simone Sturges. Animal Welfare & Community Liaison Officer Deirdre Crofts, and Ground Staff Supervisor, Steve Hadfield, assisted by Ground Staff members Larry Purvis, Matthew Tyne and Barry Kroon.

The Board of Directors relies heavily on the activities of a number of Committees and Working Parties to carry out delegated responsibilities to ease the workload which would otherwise choke the monthly Board agenda.

To the Chairpersons and members of all our Committees & WP's, I extend the very sincere thanks of both the Board and the membership.

Board of Directors

In this report it is customary to farewell retiring Directors and this year we say farewell and thank you to Vicki Etherington OAM who leaves us after 18 years of service to the membership as a Director. Vicki has been a very active contributor to the debate at Board Meetings and has strongly and conscientiously served the Obedience disciplines as Chairperson of the Obedience & Tracking Committee and the Obedience & Tracking Judges Committee. Thank you Vicki for your wonderful service to the Membership, and in particular to the Obedience disciplines.

Vicki will be succeeded by Maria Wheeler, who will be welcomed to the Board at the conclusion of this meeting. We wish Maria a successful tenure and look forward to her contribution.

The Bill Spilstead Complex

Although our lease arrangements over the Complex take us through to 2038, we continue to take any opportunity of getting the message across to the State Government that we are very anxious to discuss a much longer term arrangement, and to this end continue to involve our Politicians in our events and activities.

Health and Welfare

The Board of Directors is very pleased with the very high level of compliance by the Membership to the measures introduced in the last couple of years to address health and welfare issues.

There is clear evidence that these measures have been greatly welcomed by the Government and social commentators interested in animal welfare matters.

The work of our Animal Welfare & Community Liaison Officer has also been crucial to our profile and to ensure compliance by our members. Deirdre has carried out a number of property inspections over the year.

Our new requirements to obtain a Breeders Prefix have also been welcomed. It is no longer possible to simply be entitled to a prefix after passing an Open Book Exam. A term of membership and an inspection of their premises are now essential if a person wishes to become a registered breeder with Dogs NSW.

Government & Industry Relations and the Media

We welcomed Ministers Don Page and Katrina Hodgkinson to our Complex during the year to present the Governments response to the recommendations of the Companion Animals Taskforce.

Unfortunately our concerns were not totally allayed in their presentation; however, we were heartened by the Government's decision to establish an Advisory Group to work further on some of the main recommendations which could affect our Members, and also by their invitation to Dogs NSW to be part of that Group. Dr Karen Hedberg, BVSc, one of Dogs NSW Honorary Veterinarians was appointed by the Board as our representative to that Group, and at this time we are still awaiting their first report.

To ensure we maintain the profile developed through the work of the membership for our response to the Companion Animal Taskforce, the Board convened a Media & Government Legislation Committee which is chaired by Brian Crump. This Committee continues to keep a watchful eye for any need to respond to any media attack on our dog world or any proposed legislation which could affect us.

Their Committee Members manned our first and very successful Dogs NSW stand at the 2014 RSPCA Million Paws walk, and I would like to personally thank this Committee for their ongoing work on behalf of all the membership.

Events

Every year we have a number of wonderful highlights in the promotion and celebration of Dogs NSW. First off after the last AGM was our annual party, the Christmas Show, which was its usual great success with the new team of elves from "Stardust Kids" keeping the children entertained for hours. This was followed by our Library & Archives Committee shows, the Dog, Puppy, & Neuter of the Year event, and the Complex Fundraising Committee shows. Once again all of these events were highly successful.

At Easter each year we are part of the Sydney Royal Show with our Dogs NSW Promotion Stand and my sincere thanks go to our Staff members Kerry and Cathy, who together with their band of volunteers, man this successful promotion every year. "Dogs On Show" 2014 was again a successful presentation of Dogs NSW to the public with its Championship Show, Breed Club stands and demonstrations. And once again the PR work of Kerry and Cathy was outstanding. We were very pleased to again welcome our very proactive local MP Tanya Davies to open the show as we continue our efforts to liaise closely with the Government.

The Festival of Agility was also a great success, with an entry of almost 1700.

The culmination of the year's events was the once more highly successful Dogs NSW Royal Canin Spring Fair Dog Show which featured 11 Specialty Shows and events in multiple disciplines.

I congratulate all the organising Committees of these very successful events. Each one is a great achievement and a showcase for Dogs NSW.

Into the Future

We are now into the second year of our association with our major sponsor Royal Canin. Their product sponsorship for our events is extraordinary, and very welcome. On behalf of the Board, the membership and the exhibitors, I thank them most sincerely for their support for Dogs NSW.

As my first year as Chairman of this wonderful organisation concludes, I would like to record my very sincere thanks to the Directors who have supported me in this role since my election in 2013, the Executive, whose counsel I value greatly, and the past and present CEOs, Christine Davis and Virginia Gagan-Wilson, who have been of great assistance with my day to day responsibilities

I wish all members happy showing, trialing and breeding in the next twelve months, and most of all continued enjoyment of the companionship that our wonderful dogs provide.

My commitment is to continue to serve you, the membership, and to ensuring that Dogs NSW progresses its standing as the body which represents the pure bred dog in this State, and with the support of the Directors, I will be afforded a further term as your Chairman to pursue these goals.

The President's report, as published in the in the 2014 RNSWCC Ltd Annual Report, was considered.

MOVED D Croft

SECONDED S Donaldson

THAT the President's Report, be received.

CARRIED

5. CONSIDERATION OF SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's Report, as published in the 2014 RNSWCC Ltd Annual Report, was considered by the meeting.

Australian National Kennel Council Ltd

The RNSWCC Representative at the Annual General Meeting held on 19 October 2013 was Mr T Couchman and the two Directors appointed by RNSWCC were Mr T Couchman and Mrs E Gunter. Both attended the only Board Meeting which was held on 19 and 20 October 2013 and were Directors for the whole of the year July 2013 to June 2014.

New Affiliates

The following Clubs were granted affiliation during the year:

- Finnish Lapphund Club of NSW Inc
- The Pointer Club of NSW
- Lagotto Romagnolo Club of NSW Inc
- Great Lakes Sporting & Companion Dog Club
- Good Dog Agility & Training Club Inc
- Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of NSW Inc

Inquiries, Investigations and Appeals

During the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014, the RNSWCC received 47 new complaints which proceeded to the Chair of the Dogs NSW Disputes Assessment Panel, with the following outcomes:

- 5 declined
- 35 proceeded to Inquiry
- 4 appeals
- 1 still under investigation
- 2 proceeded to mediation

Judges Training Scheme

Judges Training Schemes were conducted/are in progress for the following disciplines:

- Agility
- Dances With Dogs
- Conformation
- Earthdogs
- Obedience & Tracking
- RAFT
- Herding

Other Courses/Schemes

Stewards Course

- Metropolitan
- Northern Region (Inland)

Life Membership & Distinguished Service Awards

In November 2013, the following members were recognised for their achievements in, and contribution to, the RNSWCC and its activities:

Distinguished Service Awards

- Mrs Margaret Haerse
- Mr Barry Scott
- Mr Ron Probert

In May 2014, the following member was recognised for her achievements in, and contribution to, the RNSWCC and its activities as Chief Executive Officer:

Distinguished Service Award

- Ms Christine Davis

Company Secretary

The names, qualifications and experience of each person who has occupied the position of Secretary of the company during the year are:

- Ms Christine Davis (1 July 2013 – 15 April 2014): Chief Executive Officer of RNSWCC (trading as DOGS NSW) since January 2007. Previous experience in administrative positions with Local Government, Office Manager and Administrator of the Canine Association of WA Inc. ANKC All Breeds Judge.

- Mrs Virginia Gagan-Wilson (22 January 2014 - 30 June 2014): Acting Chief Executive Officer RNSWCC (trading as DOGS NSW). Previous experience in Secretarial/PA & Executive Assistant positions with State & Local Governments.

The Secretary's Report as published in the 2014 RNSWCC Ltd Annual Report, was considered by the meeting.

MOVED M Boyd

SECONDED B Burrows

THAT the Secretaries Report, be received.

CARRIED

6. CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTORS' REPORTS

The Directors' Reports, as published in the 2014 RNSWCC Ltd Annual Report, were considered by the meeting.

MOVED K Griffin

SECONDED D Crofts

THAT the Directors' Report, be received.

CARRIED

7. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL REPORT – FOR THE YEAR-END 30 JUNE 2013

The President welcomed the Auditor, Mr Daniel Kuchta, and sought questions from the floor.

The Financial Report for the year end 30 June 2014, as published in the 2014 RNSWCC Ltd Annual Report, was considered by the meeting.

MOVED D Crofts

SECONDED M Gunter

THAT the Financial Report, be received.

CARRIED

8. NOTICES OF MOTION - NIL

9. MEETING CLOSED @ 7.52pm
