

MINUTES of the RNSWCC Annual General Meeting of Members held Wednesday 1 November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Amenities Building, The Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs, 44 Luddenham Road, Orchard Hills.

1. PRESENT

Directors	L Brown	President
	C Rafton	Senior Vice President
	K Charnock	Vice President
	A McIlrath	Vice President
	L Brand	Director
	K Hedberg BVSc	Director
	N Keck	Director
	S Oliver	Director
	S McFadden	Director
	G Vernon	Director (by Zoom)
	R Privett	Director (by Zoom)
	S Mills	Director (by Zoom)
	A Moy	Director Elect
	J Bryson	Director Elect
S Hannigan	Director Elect	
Staff	A Khamis	Operations Manager
	V Gagan-Wilson	Company Secretary
	L Hadley	Committee Secretary/Examinations Administrator
	A Davis	Digital Services/Gazette Officer
Members	J Morris	M McLeod-Woodhouse
	H Gent OAM	L Wheeler
	M Wheeler	Borealis Kennels
	K Keck	D Smith
	T Mangan	R Sinclair
	P Cutler (Mrs)	P Cutler (Mr)
	S Wesselink	M McDonald
	By Zoom	
	C Baker	M Keast
	V Etherington OAM	S Power
	T Scales	D Fenton
K Wright	P Middleton	
N Curwen	D Wright	

2. **APOLOGIES**
- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| G Spagnolo | Vice President |
| J Sheppard | Director |
| R Harbin | Director |
| E Gunter | Member |

MOVED Mrs P Cutler

SECONDED T Mangan

THAT the apologies be received.

CARRIED

3. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

MOVED Mr P Cutler

SECONDED K Charnock

THAT the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members held 2 November 2022 and published in the April 2023 Gazette be confirmed.

CARRIED

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Our Articles call upon the Board of Directors to report on the activities of the Company during the preceding Financial Year and, on behalf of the Board, I have the pleasure of submitting the 2022/2023 Report for your consideration.

[Board of Directors](#)

Congratulations to our re- elected Directors, Lyn Brand and Guy Spagnolo and welcome to new Directors, Sue McFadden and Stephen Oliver. I, also, was returned after a 12 month hiatus and, in that regard, I thank you for your support.

Thank you to the Directors who retired in November 2022: Vicki Etherington OAM, Peter Cutler and Ted Pickering, for your many dedicated years of service to the Company and its members.

[Future Challenges](#)

Of much concern is the dwindling entries at Dog Shows. The issue is a complex one. Much more complex than just DOGS NSW and Dogs Australia promoting pure bred dogs, which was evidenced by enthusiastic public attention at the DOGS NSW "Dogs on Show" and the "Sydney Dog Lovers Show". We must offer more to encourage "new exhibitors" by offering a welcoming environment and further promote and support of our "Dog Sports".

To that end, the Board of Directors began the process of developing a Strategic Plan to deliver a clear path as to the direction the Company should take into the future, addressing such considerations as, diversification, rebranding, future income streams, challenges driven by our aging demographic, changes in society and their expectations and threatening changes to Government Legislation.

[Financial results](#)

The Board and the Finance Committee are committed to ensuring we have sound financial stewardship in place as we continue to build our business opportunities and strategic directions for DOGS NSW.

The 2022/2023 fiscal year saw the annual inflation peak at 7.8%, being over a 30 year high along with the highest CPI of 6.0%, since the introduction of the GST in 2001.

This is the environment in which we were operating in the 2022/2023 fiscal year and is reflected by increased expenditure in reviewing the Financial Statement of 2023 Annual Report.

Further, since the reversing of the puppy buying frenzy that was experienced during COVID, at the conclusion of the lockdowns we experienced a reduction of registrations compared to that of 2021. Favourably indications are that the trend is slowly normalising, which is a positive indicator both for our breeders and the Company.

As a reflection of the increased CPI and record inflation, the Company incurred an increase in expenditure, however, to a degree, this has been offset by the term deposit rate being at a record high. Our cash on hand being at a record level at \$5.04 million. The 2022/2023 financial year generated a surplus of \$92,173.

We are very fortunate to have an extremely professional, experienced and proactive group in our Finance Committee which is chaired by Ross Sinclair with other members being, Christina Rafton, Kyle Charnock, Alan Hunt, Phil Palangas, Anthony Khamis and the Financial Accountant, Kenny Liu, who commenced with DOGS NSW in July 2022, having a diversified 20+ year experience in both financial reporting and management as a qualified Accountant. Kenny has proven to be a valuable asset to the team with his impressive skillsets, dedication and work ethic.

DOGS NSW Initiatives Office

- New computer server installed and cutover.
- Upgraded software systems installed.
- New conferencing system for the Board to reduce travel costs and improve Director participation.
- Co-ordinated improvements on behalf of Dogs Australia to the National Business System (Database).
- Australia Post tracking information for outgoing mail now provided to members after processing.
- Processing of most applications within 1 to 2 business days plus postage.
- 1,169 new members for the period 1/7/2022 to 30/06/2023.

Grounds

- New property boundary fence installed around the property.
- Upgrading of mains water supply plumbing infrastructure.
- External painting of the Administration and Amenities Building and Toilets adjacent to Ring 13.
- Relocation of Herding and Lure Coursing areas.

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- Arrangements with Drone Training companies to use the paddocks during weekdays and weekends when not in use, generating other sources of income.
- Improved night lighting in the car parks and external of buildings.
- Installation of CCTV security system jointly funded by NSW Government Community Grants and DOGS NSW.
- Upgrade of Public Address System in the Main Rings area with additional speakers to Rings 7, 8, 13 & 14.
- Replacement of the lighting on the Main Rings to low energy consumption high efficiency LED lighting.
- Upgrade of the hot water system in the main outdoor bathrooms.
- Procurement of portable 1,000 litre water tank and pump to water the rings using the water from the onsite dam catchment.
- Improved the Wi-Fi coverage throughout the Complex.
- Acquisition of sheep and the re-commencement of the Herding activities after 3 years of poor weather.

Awards

In August 2022, Mary Williams, Ron Williams and Vicki Etherington OAM were recognised for their outstanding contributions to the Dog World in NSW with a Distinguished Service Award. Congratulations and thank you all for your outstanding service.

Health and Welfare

The RSNWCC Health & Welfare Charity Ltd 2022-2023 reported as follows:-

- The Charity had a successful year in promoting its aims to promote better health, care, and welfare of dogs.
- **The Relief of suffering of dogs:** The Charity continued its financial support of AMRRIC (Animal Management in Rural and Remote Indigenous Communities) in its work in managing the tick-borne disease Ehrlichiosis and provided relief for DOGS NSW members who were affected by the severe flooding in 2022.
- **Research:** The Charity awarded its first research grant to a team from the Sydney University who is Investigating Cannabinoid Receptors as a novel therapy target to treat chronic pain in dogs with Osteoarthritis. Two other projects have been approved for funding.
- **Support for Rescue Groups:** During the year, the Charity advertised that it was in a financial position to support Breed Rescue Groups but did not get any applications.

The Bill Spilstead Complex

Remediation works to the GSDL rings are planned for this October involving the supply and spread of top-soil with purpose built top-dresser, 152 tonnes of 80/20 sand soil mix. The levelling works will be undertaken multiple times at intervals until the grounds are deemed level enough. This will ensure the surface of the rings are as flat and level as possible and will encourage the grass to grow, making it safer for the exhibitors and dogs.

Thank you

It is with pleasure that I present this report. I wish to thank our hard working Committees, fellow Board members and the Company Secretary, Virginia Gagan-Wilson, Operations Manager Anthony Khamis, Grounds Team Leader Chris Gedzyk and all their support staff for their commitment to and determination in making this another productive year for the Company. Of

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particular note is that processing of most applications within 1 to 2 business days plus postage remains stable and is the envy of other States. I would like to congratulate the Office staff for this achievement and for their dedication to customer service par excellence!

To the all members, thank you for your ongoing support and positivity. To each and every one of you - may 2024 bring you great success in whatever canine disciplines and activities you enjoy.

MOVED H Gent OAM

SECONDED S Wesselink

THAT the report of the Chairman, as published in the 2022/2023 RNSWCC Ltd Annual Report, be received.

CARRIED

5. CONSIDERATION OF SECRETARY'S REPORT

[Australian National Kennel Council Ltd \(trading as Dogs Australia\)](#)

The RNSWCC Representatives at the Annual General Meeting held on 15 October 2022 were Mrs L Brand and Mrs C Rafton.

The Directors appointed by RNSWCC who attended the Board Meeting held on 15 October 2022 were Mrs L Brand and Mrs C Rafton.

The Director appointed by RNSWCC who attended the Special Board Meeting held via Zoom Conferencing on 11 February 2023 was Mrs C Rafton.

The Directors appointed by RNSWCC who attended the Special Board Meeting held via Zoom Conferencing on 17 June 2023 were Mrs L Brown and Mrs C Rafton.

Mrs L Brand was a Director from July 2022 to April 2023.

Mrs C Rafton was a Director from July 2022 to June 2023.

Mrs L Brown was a Director from April 2023 to June 2023.

[New Affiliates](#)

There were 4 new Affiliates approved for the year ended 30 June 2023 as follows:-

- Glenreagh Dog Sports Inc – February 2023
- Western Sydney Scent Work Club Inc – February 2023
- South Coast Dog Training Club Inc – May 2023
- Orange Dog Sports Club Inc – June 2023

[Inquiries, Investigations and Appeals](#)

During the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, the RNSWCC received 33 new complaints which proceeded to the Chair of the DOGS NSW Disputes Assessment Panel, with the following outcomes:-

- 10 Declined
- 20 Proceeded to Inquiry
- 1 Appeal
- 2 Still Under Investigation

- NIL Proceed to Mediation
- 1 Withdrawn
- 5 Dismissed

Judges Training Schemes

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

- Agility
- Conformation
- Dances With Dogs/Trick Dogs
- Herding
- Lure Coursing
- Obedience & Tracking
- Retrieving & Field Trials
- Scent Work

Company Secretary

The name, qualifications and experience of the person who has occupied the position of Secretary of the Company during the financial year 2022/2023 are as follows:-

- Mrs Virginia Gagan-Wilson: Company Secretary RNSWCC (trading as DOGS NSW). Commenced employment with DOGS NSW in October 2001. Previous experience in high level PA/Executive Assistant and Secretarial positions with State & Local Governments.

MOVED Mr P Cutler

SECONDED D Smith

THAT the report of the Company Secretary, as published in the 2022/2023 RNSWCC Ltd Annual Report, be received.

CARRIED

6. CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTORS' REPORTS

MOVED T Mangan

SECONDED D Smith

THAT the reports of the Directors, as published in the 2022/2023 RNSWCC Ltd Annual Report, be received.

CARRIED

7. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL REPORT – FOR THE YEAR-END 30 JUNE 2023

The President introduced Mr Ross Sinclair, Chair of the Finance Committee, to speak to the Financial Report and advised that regrettably a representative from the Auditors, Morris and Batzloff, was unavailable, however, should any members have questions for the Auditors, they are requested to put those questions in writing and forward them to the Office for onforwarding to and response from the Auditors.

The Financial Report for the year end 30 June 2023, as published in the 2022/2023 RNSWCC Ltd Annual Report, was considered by the meeting.

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Mr Ross Sinclair opened by saying that DOGS NSW should be proud as dog family and community as we have emerged from COVID and have a clean set of accounts for this year. Welcome to Kenny Liu to the team bring with him his vast experience financially and is a strong addition to the Finance Team.

Mr Sinclair referred to the revenue and expenditure being \$3.413M in revenue, with expenditure of \$3.321M in overall expenses which provided the surplus which added to the overall equity for the business of \$92,173.00.

As stated previously the normal operations came back, we got out of the flood periods and COVID and back up and running the business which is a credit to all of our Clubs, Committees and members and the Board who do this as a voluntary piece of work which has left us in a very strong position.

The Balance Sheet remains strong with total assets are at \$6.9M comprising a current asset position of 5.3, non-foreign assets of 1.6. Total liabilities are at \$1.4M so our nett assets at equity are \$5.5M.

In terms of our directions as an organisation and financial prowess, we need to look at improved revenue streams, looking at the cost of living and the cost of running a business in 2023 our real focus needs to be on that as well as diversification and strategic directions. Strategic view if really important as well as our diversification.

The President thanked Ross for his report.

MOVED D Smith

SECONDED J Bryson

THAT the report from the Chair of the Finance Committee, Mr Ross Sinclair, on the Financial Report for 2022/2023 be received.

CARRIED

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1 R Privett 2100065488 to move by Special Resolution

MOVED Mr P Cutler

SECONDED D Smith

THAT the RNSWCC Articles of Association, Part II-Membership: Associate Membership, Clause 8(d) which read as follows:-

8(d) An Associate Member shall pay one half of the amount of the annual subscription from time to time payable by a member.

8.3 V Gagan-Wilson 2008469530 to move by Special Resolution

MOVED V Gagan-Wilson

SECONDED Mrs P Cutler

THAT the RNSWCC Articles of Association, Part III-The Board of Directors: Election of Board of Directors, Clause 30B(c), which reads as follows:-

*30B(c) In the event of a casual vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors where the remaining term of office of the Director who caused the casual vacancy to occur is more than one year, the Board of Directors shall invite nominations to fill the vacancy in accordance with **Article 31** and:-*

(c) the ballot shall be declared by the Secretary immediately upon conclusion of the counting of votes (which shall be 'first past the post'). Votes shall be counted by an electoral roll officer from the State Electoral Office appointed for the purpose by the Board of Directors; and

Be amended to read:-

30B(c) In the event of a casual vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors where the remaining term of office of the Director who caused the casual vacancy to occur is more than one year, the Board of Directors shall invite nominations to fill the vacancy in accordance with **Article 31** and:-

(c) the ballot shall be declared by the Secretary immediately upon conclusion of the counting of votes (which shall be 'first past the post'). Votes shall be counted by ~~an electoral roll officer from the State Electoral Office~~ **a Returning Officer** appointed for the purpose by the Board of Directors; and **(11/23)**

CARRIED

The President thanked the outgoing Directors and welcomed the incoming Directors and presented Director Nancy Keck with a gift thanking her for longevity and dedication as a Director on the DOGS NSW Board for many years.

The President thanked the members for their attendance.

9. MEETING CLOSED 8.10pm