



MINUTES of the RNSWCC Annual General Meeting of Members held Wednesday 5 November 2025 at 7.30pm in the Amenities Building, The Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs, 44 Luddenham Road, Orchard Hills.

1. PRESENT

Directors:	L Brand	President
	S Hannigan	Vice President
	S McFadden	Vice President
	A McIlrath	Director
	G Spagnolo	Director
	C Rafton	Director
	K Hedberg BVSc	Director
	K Charnock	Director
	G Vernon	Director
	A Moy	Director
	N Curwen	Director
	V Harris	Director
	R Sinclair	Director Elect
	T Hofman	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:	M McDonald	D Fraser
	D Smith	H Gent OAM
	P Hartwell	E Gent
	J Jackson	M Wheeler
	T Mangan	Borealis Kennels
	T Buckley	J Morris
	R Duffy	M MacLeod-Woodhouse
	E Vassallo	V Masterfield
	C Murdoch	K Reidy
	S Frankland	M Keast
	S Patterson	L Patterson

2. APOLOGIES

Directors: J Bryson (Vice President)
L Brown
S Oliver
P Brown (Director Elect)

Members: P Cutler (Mr)
P Cutler (Mrs)



MOVED D Smith

SECONDED T Buckley

THAT the apologies be **accepted**.

CARRIED

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

MOVED D Smith

SECONDED T Buckley

THAT the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members held 6 November 2024 and published in the April 2025 Gazette be **confirmed**.

CARRIED

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I have had the privilege of serving on the Board of DOGS NSW since 2016 and, for the past seven years, I have been part of the Executive Committee. I was first elected President in November 2021, serving until April 2023, and was re-elected to the position in November 2023. Serving two separate terms on the Board.

The years from 2021 to 2025 have presented numerous challenges. Among the most significant were the ongoing threats posed by Government legislation, which cast a shadow over much of the optimism within the dog community. In addition, unprecedented weather conditions disrupted our grounds and the COVID-19 pandemic severely limited our ability to engage in regular weekly activities, which are central to the social and recreational lives of our members and their dogs.

Looking ahead, key areas that must be addressed for the continued success of DOGS NSW include:-

Membership growth and retention: It is crucial to sustain and increase our membership base.

A positive outlook from members.

Strategic planning: We must develop a long-term strategy that considers our location and embraces opportunities for innovation to ensure a positive future for the organisation.

Currently, I serve as the Chair of the Media & Government Legislation Committee. Along with the Committee members, I am actively engaging with prominent members of the NSW Parliament to emphasise that DOGS NSW is the leading authority for responsible dog breeders in New South Wales.

Despite the challenges across the industry, our organisation has achieved a net surplus result for the 2024/2025 financial year. The results in the past few years have been supported by strong interest income results and the Board remains committed to delivering improved operational and financial performance.

Our Office is recognised as one of the most efficient in Australia, particularly in terms of processing registrations, transfers and other administrative tasks. The staff, who handle the wide range of responsibilities within the organisation, deserve full credit for this achievement.



I would also like to extend special recognition to our Company Secretary, Virginia Gagan-Wilson, who manages a wide array of tasks, from member complaints and Committee communications to preparing the extensive monthly Board meeting agenda, and Anthony Khamis for constant upgrading our valuable data and more.

Finally, I would like to express my deep gratitude to the members of the Board, who volunteer their time and expertise for the betterment of our organisation.

MOVED A McIlrath

SECONDED S McFadden

THAT the report of the Chairman, as published in the 2024/2025 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 19 October 2024 were Mr S Oliver and Dr K Hedberg BVSc.

The Directors appointed by RNSWCC who attended the Board Meeting held on 19-20 October 2024 were Mr S Oliver and Dr K Hedberg BVSc.

The Directors appointed by RNSWCC who attended the Special Board Meetings held via Zoom Conferencing on 8 February 2025 and 15 June 2025 were Mrs L Brand and Mr S Oliver.

Mrs L Brand was a Director from October 2024 to June 2025.

Mr S Oliver was a Director from October 2024 to June 2025.

Dr K Hedberg BVSc was an Alternate Director in October 2024.

New Affiliates

There were 7 new Affiliates approved for the year ended 30 June 2025 as follows:-

- Field Spaniel Club of NSW Inc – October 2024
- Inner Sydney Dog Sports Club Inc – July 2024
- Fast Paws Sydney Inc – October 2024
- Berry Agility Dogs Inc – May 2025
- Northern Region Scent Sports Club Inc – May 2025

Inquiries, Investigations and Appeals

During the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, the RNSWCC received 30 new complaints which proceeded to the Chair of the DOGS NSW Disputes Assessment Panel, with the following outcomes:-

- 14 Declined
- 21 Proceeded to Inquiry
- 1 Appeal
- 1 Still Under Investigation
- NIL Proceed to Mediation
- 1 Withdrawn
- 2 Dismissed



Judges Training Schemes

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

- Conformation
- Dances With Dogs/Trick Dogs
- Herding
- 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 2024/2025 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 D Smith

SECONDED V Masterfield

THAT the report of the Company Secretary, as published in the 2024/2025 RNSWCC Ltd Annual Report, be **received**.

CARRIED

6. CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTORS' REPORTS

MOVED D Smith

SECONDED V Masterfield

THAT the reports of the Directors, as published in the 2024/2025 RNSWCC Ltd Annual Report, be **received**.

CARRIED

7. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL REPORT – FOR THE YEAR-END 30 JUNE 2025

Mr Ross Sinclair, Chair of the Finance Committee and Director Elect spoke to the Financial Report.

Thank you to the DOGS NSW Management Team, our wonderful Board and the whole DOGS NSW organisation for your work and significant contributions in 2024/2025.

The 2024/25 accounts presented are a clean set of accounts and I thank the Financial Accountant, Kenny Liu, for your efforts in guiding this work with the organisation. It was a good clean result.

The Financial Statements are presented in pages 27 to 55 of our Annual Report and reflect a year of maintaining our fiscal and balance sheet position. Our working capital and net assets in the Balance Sheet remain in a solid positive position which indicates financial strength in delivering our short-term obligations.

The Board, Management and our governance frame through our peak Committees continue to be focused on improving business and operational performance to continue to drive balance sheet maintenance and improvement.



The 2024/25-year Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive income performance saw:-

In 2024/2025 Revenue including interest was \$3.9m up from \$3.5m, however, we must always not look at revenue in isolation but consider our offsetting Expenses of \$3.6m which was up from \$3.2m from the previous year.

This financial position saw a NET SURPLUS of \$308k up very modestly on last year of \$278k.

If we now normalise the result by taking out the interest income of \$237k in 2024/2025, which was \$278k last year, we have a true operational result for the business of:-

\$70,794 in 2024/2025 up very modestly from \$66,740 in the previous year.

Note interest received fell by \$26k year on year.

One-off business impacts this year were from the Agility National of approximately \$50k one off loss due to bad weather and impacts to the grounds requiring restoration.

All in all, we held the line this year and we will work with the Management, the Board and our Committees and the organisation to ensure we remain financially viable in the face of increasing costs, regulation and key activity changes in the forwards.

The Board of Directors, Management and key organisation members will deliver a Strategic Plan in the coming quarters to provide a roadmap and a runway for innovation, improvement and growth to seek business opportunities, models and solutions. The Board is committed to delivering strategic directions to facilitate this organisation improvement.

I want to call out some positive good news stories achieved by the organisation driven by the Management team. We saw some real productivity and efficiency savings achieved for postage, printing and copier leases and there has been some good negotiation around energy pricing in the forwards.

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

- Current Assets for 2024/2025 were \$6.3m up from \$6.0m from last year (due to cash and cash equivalents)
- Total Assets were \$7.7m for this year up from \$7.4m last year
- Current Liabilities are \$1.4m this year the same as last year
- Net Assets of the Business and Retained Earnings are \$6.1m up from \$5.8m last year.

Statement of Changes in Equity

Retained earnings are at \$6.1m

Statement of Cash Flows

Net increase in cash held was \$471k for this year down from \$537k from last year.

Independent Auditors Report

As mentioned previously, we had an unqualified audit opinion, so great work to Kenny and the Management Team.

Conclusion

In closing, thank you to our hard-working Committees that continue to focus on business and financial improvement, thank you for your work and your service. This is all voluntary work we



undertake so a big shout out and a big thank you to all those who volunteer their time and skills. Let's keep recruiting our army of helpers and volunteers. Thank you to the Management Team for your incredible work in dealing with the operational and statutory complexities of a large business, so well-done team.

As a newly elected Board member, I understand how privileged we are to have a committed, hardworking and professional Management Team and Board team and I am really excited about the strategic opportunities we have as an organisation to deliver sustainability and success moving forward. The fiscal environment remains challenging as the results have indicated and this will require commitment and focus from the Board and all of us. We need to be brave and adopt new ways of working and support innovation and change to foster future growth and success. Thank you.

As no questions on the 2024/2025 Audited Report were received by the due date, Auditors, Morris and Batzloff, were not in attendance.

MOVED R Duffy

SECONDED D Smith

THAT the report from the Chair of the Finance Committee on the Financial Report for 2024/2025 be **received**.

CARRIED

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

8.1 A Khamis 2100041311 to move by Special Resolution

MOVED T Mangan

SECONDED D Smith

THAT permission be granted to the DOGS NSW Marketing & Communications Manager, Kate Davidson, to speak to this Motion.

CARRIED

Building Membership Through Education, Engagement and Community

There is a strong consensus that one of the most effective ways to encourage membership growth and long-term retention is through education and active engagement with the general public.

The challenge we face is that joining DOGS NSW is often not front of mind for many dog owners, particularly those who see their dogs primarily as family companions rather than as participants in organised canine activities.

We believe the key to shifting this mindset lies in education and awareness, achieved through hands-on experiences, accessible opportunities, and visible community involvement.

Expanding Our Reach

To support this, DOGS NSW is widening its offerings in several meaningful ways:-

- The Canine Sports Spectacular – an open event where anyone can bring their dog, watch demonstrations, try canine sports, and discover more about our world.
- Participation in community events – from large-scale shows like Dog Lovers Festival to grassroots initiatives such as Bunnings BBQs and The Blacktown Festival, we're bringing DOGS NSW into everyday community spaces.



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- Engaging, educational online content – creating and sharing trusted, relevant information that appeals to a broader audience and positions DOGS NSW as the authority on all things dogs in NSW.

The Missing Link

While DOGS NSW is increasingly present within the community, what remains missing is a consistent way for the public to connect with us, through ongoing communication, accessible sports, and inclusive community engagement.

Research supports the need for this approach:-

- 45% of Australian dog owners say they are inexperienced (having only recently acquired a dog or owning one for the first time).
- 79% of current pet owners report experiencing some challenges with pet ownership (up from 66% in 2019).
- Among dog owners, 64.3% list increased responsibility as a challenge, while 61.8% cite dog training as a key difficulty.

These figures highlight a clear opportunity for DOGS NSW to provide education, support, and community for new and aspiring dog owners.

Our Vision

DOGS NSW is already doing a great deal to build community presence. There remains a gap between positive engagement and membership conversion.

We believe this is often because the general public may not yet feel ready to compete or commit to formal membership. By introducing a pathway that allows them to be part of the community first: engaging in sports, attending training sessions and accessing resources that we can nurture this interest over time.

Ultimately, this approach will help people transition naturally from community involvement to DOGS NSW membership, whether through beginner obedience, puppy training, or introductory canine sports.

FAQs

Why can't I downgrade to a Community Membership?

Community Membership is designed as an entry point for people who are new to DOGS NSW and are not yet members. Its purpose is to welcome and educate the general public about canine sports and activities. Existing members already have access to greater privileges and opportunities, so this membership type wouldn't be valid or appropriate for current members.

Why does the membership use the word "enter" if members cannot compete?

To participate in any canine sport or activity, a person must enter and provide their details to the organising club for insurance and administration purposes. We understand that the word "enter" may cause confusion and will work to clarify this terminology over time.

Why introduce this membership when existing members pay a higher rate?

This initiative is aimed at encouraging a broader audience to engage with DOGS NSW. We recognise that participation in dog shows and sports has been declining, and we need to create accessible pathways to attract new people into our community.



MOVED A Khamis

SECONDED S McFadden

THAT the RNSWCC Articles of Association, Part II – Membership be amended to include a new clause, after Clause 9: Junior Membership, numbered 9A, to read as follows:-

9A Community Membership

- (a) The Board of Directors may admit as a Community Member a natural person who has attained the age of 16 years and who wishes to participate in canine activities that do not involve conformation showing or dog breeding, including but not limited to obedience, agility, scent work and other ANKC Ltd recognised dog sports.
- (b) A Community Member:-
 - (i) shall not be eligible to hold any office under the Articles or to submit their name as a candidate for appointment as a Judge;
 - (ii) shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting;
 - (iii) shall not be entitled to hold a prefix or register a litter;
 - (iv) shall not be eligible for nomination to, or election as a member of, the Board of Directors and may not vote in any ballot in any such election.
- (c) Subject to the limitations in Clause (b), above, a Community Member shall be entitled to enjoy the privileges of membership including the right to:-
 - (i) enter and participate in ANKC Ltd approved dog sports and activities conducted by or under the licence of RNSWCC;
 - (ii) receive member communications and access relevant resources;
 - (iii) be a member of a sporting or training affiliated club.
- (d) A Community Member shall pay an annual subscription **equal to 40%** of the full membership fee or such other amount as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.
- (e) The application for Community Membership shall be made in the form prescribed by the Board of Directors and shall be subject to approval in the same manner as a standard membership application.

AMENDMENT

MOVED A McIlrath

SECONDED K Charnock

- (a) The Board of Directors may admit as a Community Member a natural person who has attained the age of 16 years and who wishes to participate in canine activities that do not involve conformation showing or dog breeding (**full stop**). ~~They may be included in obedience, agility, scent work and other ANKC Ltd recognised dog sports.~~
- (c) **amendment** – enter and “train”..... (not participate)

LOST



A number of members expressed strong support for measures that lower barriers to entry and convert community engagement into membership. Whilst the “Community Membership” concept was well-received in principle it was defeated due to wording concerns.

8.2 A Khamis 2100041311 to move by Special Resolution

MOVED T Hofman

SECONDED T Mangan

THAT the RNSWCC Articles of Association, Part II-Membership: Cessation of Membership, Clause 10(d) which reads as follows:-

10. *A person shall cease ipso facto to be a member of RNSWCC:*
- (d) *If the annual subscription for the forthcoming membership year payable pursuant to Article 14 has not been paid within 30 days of the end of the previous membership year; (11/17)*

Be amended to read:-

10. *A person shall cease ipso facto to be a member of RNSWCC:*
- (d) *If the annual subscription for the forthcoming membership year payable pursuant to Article 14 has not been paid **by 30 June of each year.** ~~within 30 days of the end of the previous membership year;~~ (11/22)*

CARRIED

L Patterson ABSTAINED

8.3 C Rafton 2000121100 to move by Special Resolution

MOVED H Gent OAM

SECONDED J Jackson

THAT the RNSWCC Articles of Association, Part III-The Board of Directors – Chairman and Deputy Chairmen, Articles 39 to 41, which read as follows:-

39. *At the conclusion of the annual general meeting or as soon thereafter as may be practicable the Board of Directors shall, subject to Article 39, elect from amongst their number:*
- (a) *a Chairman of RNSWCC;*
- (b) *four Deputy Chairmen of RNSWCC, one of whom shall be the Senior Deputy Chairman.*
40. (a) *No person may hold the office of Chairman for more than 3 consecutive years;*
- (b) *a person who has held the office of Chairman for 3 consecutive years is not eligible for further election to that office until the conclusion of the next succeeding annual general meeting.*



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41. *Notwithstanding Article 38, the first Chairman and Vice-Chairman of RNSWCC shall be the persons who immediately prior to the adoption of these Articles held the positions of President and Vice-President of the Association. The persons thereby elected shall hold office until the first annual general meeting of RNSWCC.*

Be amended to read:-

39. At the conclusion of the annual general meeting or as soon thereafter as may be practicable the Board of Directors shall, subject to Article 39, elect from amongst their number:
- (a) a Chairman of RNSWCC;
 - (b) four Deputy Chairmen of RNSWCC, one of whom shall be the Senior Deputy Chairman.
40. (a) No person may **be elected to** hold the office of Chairman ~~for~~ **on** more than 3 consecutive ~~years~~ **elections as referred to in Article 39, above;**
- (b) a person who has ~~held the~~ **been elected to hold** office of Chairman ~~for~~ 3 consecutive years **or part thereof;** is not eligible for further ~~election~~ **nomination** to that office until the conclusion of the next succeeding annual general meeting.
41. Notwithstanding Article 38, the first Chairman and Vice-Chairman of RNSWCC shall be the persons who immediately prior to the adoption of these Articles held the positions of President and Vice-President of the Association. The persons thereby elected shall hold office until the first annual general meeting of RNSWCC.

CARRIED

The President, Mrs Lyn Brand, thanked the members for their participation in the meeting. Additionally, the President congratulated the incoming Directors and thanked the outgoing Directors.

9. MEETING CLOSED 8.27pm
