

Presidents Report 2016

Good evening and welcome to our 69th Annual General Meeting of the Wangaratta Kennel & Obedience Dog Club Inc. It is with a sense of satisfaction I write this annual report sharing some of the activities and successes of the past year. While I draw attention to these activities I am sure that I shall miss some so please accept my apology for any missing detail however, this doesn't mean anything more than a poor recollection by me!

I would like to start off with thanking all the members who have made this year another successful year. Without the commitment of all our committee and members all working together we could not progress with the continued growth of our club.

2016 was a year great year for the Wangaratta Kennel & Obedience Dog Club Inc. Our club is about giving basic Knowledge on how to promote quality breeding, encourage responsible ownership, educate the public on dog obedience training, conduct Championship dog shows and trials each year and of course provide an opportunity for our members to interact through all our organised events we conduct on our grounds. At the same time those members who gained their Championships and or titles with their dogs during the past 12 months well done to you all. When you look back to our last Newsletter after our Xmas party to see those who have achieved such great results as a club you all should feel proud.

On the Promotional front

We have had our members out there Volunteering once again assisting at the Wangaratta Lions Club Swap meet twice this year with March and November Thanks once again to our fantastic teams. What a great day was had by all at Dr Paws Birthday Celebrations your continued support of your club at these great events within our community is fantastic effort by you all. Once again, this weekend coming the Garry Nash Marathon fun run.

As President, I couldn't be prouder of the great teamwork you all show even when the work load gets tough you all just keep on going. The list could go on but let's keep it short because those of you who have been here know how much you have all put in.

Email

Email correspondence has been very active with contact and queries most weeks throughout the year regarding the basic Beginners course which of course is still doing very well.

As President, it is rewarding to read the positive emails from members, visitors and community groups about our club and its participation within the community of Wangaratta.

On the Financial front

The club I believe has done very well financially this year and I do believe the Treasures report will reflect this, and again all I can say as a club we have had a great committee and members who have supported us throughout this financial year to ensure we run a very successful club.

From an Educational Perspective / Instructors

It would be remiss of me not to draw the attention to the entire Instructors team who have worked tirelessly throughout the year it has been tough at times during the year but you have all continued to provide a great team environment.

Our Instructors have been working on our training structure over the past few months and finally getting some great work.

As a club are very fortunate to have some very knowledgeable Instructors here at Wangaratta and as we all know Carrie Mudge and Brian Maiden joined our team during 2016 as Instructors, what a great team we have Di Costello, Grahame Gossow, Sara Reid, Carrie Mudge, Brian Maiden, Patricia Looker, I know with these extra Instructors and the knowledge they can bring to our club can only set us up to succeed.

Jade Barany has offered to become an Instructor at our club as well and I have chosen Carrie Mudge and Di Costello to work with Jade in the initial Beginners level and hopefully as Jade works her way through to the higher-levels others will take on some mentoring as well to set Jade up for success within the Instructors team.

As Chief Instructor, I must thank you all for your support during the past year I could not have done this without you. I'm very impressed with our progress we are making with our training structure as stated earlier Thank you all.

Achievements

I continue to say year after year what a great committee and members we have running the club. You all continue to ensure the growth and future of our club is nothing short of excellent, With the knowledge and expertise of these members the success of the club is in very good hands.

Also noteworthy are the many great achievements our members have had in the championship show ring and all other sporting disciplines with many of you gaining many titles during the year. Congratulations on all your achievements.

Sponsor's

I along with the Committee would like to thanks all our sponsors for their support. Throughout the year, we have had many donations for our shows, and raffles thanks to all of our sponsors this year. Your Everyday Gourmet Meats, JC Pet Products, Vine Hotel, Inside Living Wangaratta. Pets Domain, Dr Paws.

Shows and Trials

Once again, we held a very successful May trial with a great team of Judges all in all great team effort positive comments from our exhibitors as well. Our June show was another great success with all our Judges all were very complimentary of our club and its hospitality we had a great night out at the Vine Hotel who looked after us for the evening. Finally, the August trial this also another outstanding event as I have said many times we have a very good team of workers to make these events to run and run well with great success so thank you for all your efforts in maintaining the high standard of shows and trials.

Community workers

This past year we have had a few working within our club doing some great maintenance work here and there under the watchful eye of Ben Osmotherley and John Witte ensuring Jobs were getting done. We still have a few projects on the go and we do appreciate the work that has been done. I should mention here back in February of 2016 we had Jarrad White working with us doing community hours with us and he worked to upgrade the Agility, Obedience equipment to the new rules that came into effect in 2016 he completed his hours with great success, and only recently he came to our club to look at the concreting job that was happening outside, just as well he did because the 2 guys who said they could do it turned into a nightmare won't go into detail but thanks to Jarrad White who came to the clubs rescue and has completed the task at no charge to the club except for the cost of materials required and the repairs to the first effort. So, Thanks to Jarrad his boss and the assistance of another young man for assisting us and finishing this task for us. I must say a first-class job has been done. This was made possible by the donation by the President of the Inner wheel organisation Sharon Scalzo also a club member.

Goals

If I'm re-elected here tonight I request this year's new committee to develop a "working together culture" and operate with an "inclusive" attitude. This culture has been very successful and we need lots of members volunteering to assist with activities for the next 12 months.

We will also be asking members to help in the organisation of activities that are of interest to them. Following the election of your new committee we need to look at our club and set ourselves some goals for the next 12 Months. We need to set ourselves some key objectives for the continued growth, performance, productivity of our club. We need to ensure our shows continue to be the best in our region and that Obedience Rally O Agility, jumping discipline of dog sport are the best we can offer to our exhibitors, but most importantly our members who are here every week supporting and training at the club,

It is fair to say that changes and growth are not simple processes, as it is not a one size fits all approach. The strategic direction of our club will be affected at different levels within our club. What is reassuring being the level of consultation within our committee to ensure we have the best team possible to make our club work. We have experience and perspective to see our club prosper beyond 2017.

our goals for 2017 and beyond must be clear and our strategy to achieve these goals must be in place and working. So as the club's improvements are designed and implemented, we must keep focussed on these goals, and deliver to our members, exhibitors the best training and shows and trials possible.

This is my vision for the club but each one of you needs to have your say and help us to improve our club. If you have anything you wish to add or believe we can't achieve change, and then let's hear it. But let's keep a positive approach because negativity is the best way to see us fail, good open communication will keep us all focused on what we need to do.

Thanks

While I am offering thanks for services rendered there are so many of our members and club officials, often doing and running the club in the background, keeping the club functioning, and ensuring our members continue to enjoy training at their various levels. committees organising Championships shows and Trials, this work is not seen, usually this work is done in members' homes and not seen but must be done so we as a club can continue to run well organised shows and trials during the year. Well done to you all this work is crucial to the turning wheels of success for our club, and the work that is done in your homes is very much appreciated.

I would specifically like to thank our Secretary, Show Secretary, Treasurer, Trial Managers, Instructors, Trophy Steward, Canteen Manager and staff and those of you that hold various domestic appointments within the club. The backbone of any club is not just what we see but what we all don't see. Those tasks that are done on a day to day basis behind the scenes, as stated earlier they are the operating task that continue to maintain the smooth running of our club.

In closing once again thank you all for the past year and thanks to the outgoing Committee because your contribution to our club has been very important to us. We do appreciate everyone that has taken on the commitment of running this club. So, to all those standing for re-election or standing for the first time, this is a full-time commitment so keep this in mind during the election process to follow shortly. I do look forward to working with the new Committee elected here tonight to face all those challenges put before us for the ensuing 12 months.

Regards

Kevin Felmingham

President