



## Annual Reports 2023/24 Supplementary Information

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# Presidents Report

## Welcome

Good evening everyone, and thank you for being here. It has been another eventful year for Dogs West and among the matters I would like to highlight this evening are the fiscal management of the Association, the contribution by our Volunteers to the Association, and Member engagement.

## Open Day

The Open Day held this year was well attended and demonstrated once again the affection that people have for dogs. Our ability to provide a great atmosphere to the many Visitors who came along was made possible by the dedicated working party and the many Members who volunteered on the day and had stands. After careful consideration by Governing Council, including costs and the most suitable date, the next Open Day will be held in 2026.

## Financial Matters

Dogs West finished last financial year with an operating deficit of \$143,000, following on from a deficit of \$164,000 in the previous budget year.

Interest income from our investment accounts was largely responsible for the reduction in the overall deficit to \$30,000.

Setting a budget for the 2024/2025 operating year was a challenging process for the Finance Committee and Governing Council. Rising costs and falling income sees the Association with another projected deficit this fiscal year, despite the fee increases that were approved. Governing Council did not make the decision lightly regarding fees, and we recognise that this is not sustainable in the long term.

The sponsorship partnership brokered by our Chief Executive Officer with PD Insurance is a good example of income diversity and, in this first year, is enabling the development of a new website which will offer more online services to our Members and Affiliates, providing improved customer service and public engagement, at no cost to the Association. This work is already underway.

The Association acknowledges our ongoing and valued partnerships with our other major sponsor Royal Canin and with Petstock and also acknowledges other sponsors who support our many Affiliates and Working Parties. Your support is appreciated.

Dogs West has outstanding grounds and facilities. These require weekly maintenance as well as scheduled maintenance to our major assets to ensure their integrity and extending their useful life versus the major cost of replacement. These costs can be significant, and it is vital that the Association maintains a solid investment sum to allow this to occur.

I understand and acknowledge the challenges that Members face with the current cost of living pressures. Our many Club Affiliates are facing the same scenario of rising costs and falling income, together with falling participation rates in some disciplines. Falling participation, in turn, has a flow on effect to the Association in terms of revenue.

An analysis of registration statistics from Dogs Australia, shows a steady decline in breed registration numbers over time, with a steep decline post the pandemic breeding boom. This is a complex issue Australia wide affected by Government Legislation, the economic climate, the boom of designer dogs and change in ways of living and housing density. Conversely, all surveys show that Australia remains a nation of dog lovers with high ownership rates.

However, the drop in registration numbers has a financial impact on all State Member Bodies with resulting lower revenue, and Dogs West is no exception. Adding to the complexity of this issue for Members is the number of ANKC registered puppies currently advertised for sale, with very high numbers of litters in some breeds looking for homes.

Clearly Dogs West operating with financial deficits cannot continue at this level and a review of all aspects of operations is a priority for Governing Council and the CEO over the next 12 months.

The challenge is to minimise our costs, and to increase our income in the challenging environment we are all facing whilst at the same time maintaining the high standard of amenities and service that Dogs West provide to its members.

### **Member Community**

In almost every report I have presented to an AGM, and in the President reports published in the Canine News, I have spoken about the Association being a Member Organisation.

Members are the lifeblood of the Association.

Lower participation rates in conformation events particularly, are not unique to our Association, and are being reflected across the country and overseas. Conversely, participation rates in newer disciplines such as Scentwork and Lure Coursing, remain strong and growing.

In a Member community disharmony and intolerance does not foster a pleasant environment.

The Department of Home Affairs has an Australian Value Statement which states, in part, that Australian society “*values the dignity of the individual .....and embraces mutual respect, tolerance, fair play and compassion for those in need*”

We all need to carefully consider our interactions with each other and with visitors to our grounds and events. It costs nothing to be pleasant but brings great reward in creating a welcoming place to be.

Social media has a big part to play here. It can be inclusive, informative and entertaining. Social media posts, at times, do not enhance or promote a positive feeling of Member fellowship. Half-truths, anonymous posts, incorrect advice and posts seeking negative reactions, are not a positive influence.

We all have a responsibility to promote Dogs West and pure bred dogs in the best possible light and I encourage all Members who want our Association to thrive and to continue doing what we do with our beloved dogs, in your discipline of choice, to consider how your actions or comments might be viewed adversely by other Members and potential members. Kindness and tolerance are all talents we should practice.

On a more positive note, my sincere thanks go to any Member who volunteered in any capacity during the year. We must all recognise that without volunteers many events would simply not happen; all volunteers deserve our acknowledgement, appreciation and respect.

My personal thanks go to all the Members of Governing Council, Dogs West Committees and Working Parties for their untiring efforts over the last year. I am often in awe of your commitment and achievements.

### **Land and Asset Matters**

The Association has received a draft proposed development plan for the corner lot on Ranford and Warton Roads for our comment. The development encompasses a mix of showrooms, shops, food outlets and a petrol station, much akin to the development styles seen in the wider district. The Developer, at this stage, does not envisage any works commencing in the next 2 years.

A condition report on the roofing of the Administration Building and undercover area has been received and quotes are being sought for the necessary maintenance works required. This cost will be significant and will be covered from our investment reserve.

### **Government Legislation**

The State Government has announced the outcome of the tender for the Central Registry for dogs and cats (PetsWA) to be developed as an outcome of the passing of the *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Act* in December 2021.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries has stated that the new regulations to enact the Legislation are planned to come into effect on the same day that the PetsWA system commences operating. PetsWA is expected to launch later in 2025.

My recent enquiry to the Department on the status of the development of the Regulations and any feedback on our submission, was that it was noted and that we would be contacted in due course re the outcome. The Regulations will drive our further engagement with State and Local Government.

In closing I wish to thank the CEO, Marzel and all her Team, for a year of outstanding support for our Members and the Association. Governing Council has extended their thanks and best wishes to our Financial Controller Ian who is leaving in early September after 9 years with the Association. I am sure all the Members join me in wishing him well.

Thank you again to all the Members for being here this evening.

Pamela Campbell  
**President**

# CEO Report

## Strategic and Operational Outcomes

I would like to acknowledge the President's Report and highlight the Association's focus over the past two years on attracting different income streams and reducing costs.

The success of the approaches guided by the Finance Committee is visible by reduction in the operating deficit from 2021/2022 to 2023/2024. Despite the successes to date, the goal is still to have our operations at cost-neutral or small profit.

Amongst the challenges in income, is the continual downward trend of puppy registrations and transfers and the slight decrease in overall membership numbers. The main difficulty relating to expenditure continues to be the high increases in services and utilities costs.

The auditors this year recommended seeking alternative revenues such as merchandise at promotional events and to continue to use fundraising events to keep all Dogs West events at cost-neutral at a minimum. The report also continues to encourage the Association to implement cashless services where possible.

## Strategic and Operational Plans for 2024/2025

These recommendations align with the management plans that have either commenced or are to commence in 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 financial years. Of note, the new website will be launched in the coming months with more online service capability including bookings and schedule submissions.

Once the new website and new streamlined office processes have been implemented, office resources will be reviewed for the 2025/2026 Budget. There will also be some savings due to the reduced numbers of printing and postage of the Canine News Journals this year, with further savings in the 2025/2026 as Membership Cards will have a digital wallet option.

Sponsorship diversity will be a key focus this coming year as the Association seeks partners that can provide direct value to its members and the Association. This includes the commencement of negotiations for the renewal of the pet retail and food contracts as well as seeking new partners from other pet categories.

I would like to thank the Dogs West staff for their efforts and commitment and look forward to working with the team, Governing Council and its Committees to deliver the improved outcomes.

## Member Community

Regarding our member community, I support the President's comments, I thank the very many tireless volunteers that are involved in our Committees, Working Parties and sanctioned events. Everyone's lives seem to be getting busier and I am so grateful for every volunteer that helps this Association deliver services to its members.

I also must note the President's tireless support. Many do not see the work our President puts into the items and discussions presented not just at Governing Council but also representing WA and the national agenda at Dogs Australia director meetings. Her insights and contributions have provided Dogs West with the vision and stability this Association needs. Thank you, Pam, for your years of service. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work alongside such an exceptional leader.

I wanted to wrap up on a couple of comments from the President's report regarding some disharmony in parts of the membership. While I believe this is only a small group, I agree social media is allowing rumours the space to breathe and grow. Dogs West's approach moving forward will be to use the communication channels available with the new website to increase the information available to members, improving the FAQs and news sections, addressing questions we see out in our community in a positive and constructive manner. We hope the abundance of information will mean members can refer to a better source of truth than social media commentary.

The President asks our members to consider the impact their actions and comments have on our membership and Association and it reminded me of *The Wolf You Feed* quote which goes like this:

*One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people.*

*He said, "My son, the battle is between two "wolves" inside us all.*

*One is Evil. It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.*

*The other is good. It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."*

*The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?"*

*The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."*

What wolf you feed is up to you, but I think it is worth considering before acting. I hope we can stand more united in the years to come.

Marzel Norton

**Chief Executive Officer**

# Annual Financial Summary Report

## Summary of End of Year Financial Reports 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

1. **Cash at bank** balance as of the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 was **\$2,666,483** and this was **\$129,002 More** than at the same time last year.
2. Dogs West **Net Profit/Loss** as at the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 was a Loss of **-\$30,721** and this was **\$11,178 More than budget** and **\$49,778 Less** than last year.

The over expenditure included the unbudgeted expenditure of 7 new ramps and additional tree pruning services in late 2023.

3. **Total Income to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 was \$1,336,579** and this was **\$46,910 Less** than budget and **\$23,256 More** than the same period last year.

Some of the performing areas were: Facility Hire: up 10% compared to budget and up 65% compared to last year; Administration fees income was up 5% compared to budget; and Membership renewals, while only up 1% compared to budget, it was over \$33,000 higher than last year.

The worst performing areas were: Registrations: down \$48,000 compared to budget, Transfers: down \$22,000 compared to budget and New Membership down 30% or nearly \$11,000 compared to budget.

It should be noted that approximately \$112,000 of income received was in Interest Income from the funds banked. This is an unreliable source of income, subject to interest rates fluctuations and as Dogs West use these funds for capital projects in the years to come, interest income will also reduce.

|                     | Income             |           |                       |           |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
|                     | Compared to Budget |           | Compared to last year |           |
| Admin Fees Income   | +5%                | +\$8,058  | -5%                   | -\$8,220  |
| New Membership      | -30%               | -\$10,882 | -21%                  | -\$6,912  |
| Prefix Income       | -1%                | -\$829    | +5%                   | +\$3,752  |
| Registrations       | -17%               | -\$48,029 | -6%                   | -\$16,195 |
| Membership renewals | +1%                | +\$1,200  | +15%                  | +\$33,728 |
| Transfers           | -11%               | -\$22,168 | -5%                   | -\$8,913  |
| Titles              | -10%               | -\$3,762  | =                     | +\$3      |
| Facility Hire       | +10%               | +\$10,924 | +65%                  | +\$14,966 |

4. **Total Expenses to the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 of \$1,479,730 are \$20,202 less than budget** and **\$1,702 More** than the same period last year and this included:

|                     | Expenses           |           |                       |           |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
|                     | Compared to Budget |           | Compared to last year |           |
| Admin Expenses      | -15%               | -\$54,883 | +4.5%                 | +\$13,190 |
| Employment Expenses | =                  | +\$964    | +5%                   | +\$32,453 |
| Office Expenses     | +14%               | +\$8,089  | +13%                  | +\$7,586  |
| Repairs and Mntnace | =                  | -\$152    | +19%                  | +\$12,785 |
| Services            | -3%                | -\$2,130  | +20%                  | +\$11,706 |

In summary, despite the significant reductions in income, Dogs West acted promptly, reviewing the budget in January/February, and modifying the activities for the remaining months. These actions resulted in the best outcome possible.

I thank the Finance Committee and Governing Council for their commitment to ensuring the Association's financial strategies act to minimise the impact of these difficult times.

| Transaction Totals July to June |              |              |              |              |               |               |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                 | Jul – Jun 19 | Jul – Jun 20 | Jul – Jun 21 | July- Jun 22 | July – Jun 23 | Jul - ,Jun 24 |
| Judges Licence Fee              | 161          | 162          | 165          | 154          | 160           | 169           |
| Trainee Jdgs App Fee            | 49           | 32           | 41           | 50           | 53            | 66            |
| Prefix Applications             | 75           | 68           | 73           | 90           | 65            | 53            |
| Prefix Renewals                 | 952          | 932          | 933          | 962          | 996           | 995           |
| Prefix Transfers                | 9            | 14           | 13           | 10           | 6             | 6             |
| Registrations                   | 5,734        | 5,800        | 6,553        | 6,464        | 5,463         | 4,583         |
| Associate Do!!s                 | 38           | 40           | 27           | 53           | 65            | 42            |
| Export Pedigrees                | 43           | 23           | 25           | 25           | 17            | 19            |
| Re-registrations                | 95           | 44           | 50           | 57           | 66            | 69            |
| Transfers                       | 2,480        | 2,311        | 2,369        | *3,346       | 4,690         | 3,870         |
| Leases                          | 63           | 49           | 78           | 74           | 69            | 63            |
| Titles                          | 794          | 610          | 620          | 834          | 987           | 858           |
| Duplicates/<br>Reprints         | 221          | 158          | 168          | 190          | 223           | 254           |
| Total                           | 10,713       | 10,242       | 11,116       | 10,974       | 12,861        | 11,046        |



## Events Pillar Report

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thankyou to all the chairpersons and dedicated working parties, the list is too long to name everyone, but without your help and dedication our sport would not be what it is. Thank you to the office staff who help the working parties. Along with a shout out to the incredible sponsors who without their support the events would not be the same. It is truly wonderful to see the event run successfully year after year – it's time to pat each other on the back and say, 'well done and thank you'.

In 2023 Western Australia was honoured to conduct three National events – Retrieving, Agility and Junior Handlers.

### Retrieving (National)

It was Western Australia time to conduct the National Retrieving Trial, the event is conducted every 5-7 years and is moved from state to state. The national is the most prestigious retrieving trial of the year. The 52nd National Retrieving Championship for 2023 was held on two beautiful properties in the Katrine area with the kind permission of the owners. The event was conducted over three days. These properties offered the two judges the opportunity to test all the dogs over a variety of terrain and conditions. The dedicated working party ran a super successful National Retrieving trial in September 2023. Congratulations to all who worked tirelessly in the build up to the event, your time and dedication is truly amazing. Hats off to the WA retrieving community, you put on four weekends of incredible retrieving trials, culminating with the Retrieving National.

### Junior Handler (National)

It was Western Australia's time to conduct the National Junior Handler event. Each year the final is conducted in a different state/territory. WA had the privilege of conducting the event, the weather gods had the sun shining and the heat turned up. The decision was made to hold the final undercover for the safety and wellbeing of the junior handlers, judge and dogs. Amy-lee Trainor travelled from New Zealand to judge the National Final. At the start of the event the tiny tot handlers strutted their stuff with their dogs on wheels to the applause of the spectators. Each tiny tot was present a rosette and mystery bag by the judge. The final had representatives from WA, SA, VIC, ACT, TAS, NSW and QLD. Thankyou to the owners of the dogs, without your support of this event, the event would not happen. To all the incredible sponsors, the finalists where overwhelmed with your generosity. The overall winner was SA and runner up was VIC. The overall winner represented Australia at Crufts, England in March 2024.

### Retrieving (State)

The State retrieving trail was held in September 2023 on a beautiful private property in Katrine with the kind permission of the owners. We would like to thank our visiting judges for the challenging runs they put on over the two days. The dogs were tested on land, in water and through water. The event was successful last year and was enjoyed by all who attended. This event is always supported by a small dedicated group of people and their dogs. Hats off to the WA retrieving community, you put on four weekends of incredible retrieving trials, culminating with the Retrieving National.

### Obedience and Rally O (State)

The October weather gods where kind to the exhibitors who participated in the State Obedience and Rally O Trial. The dogs performed with perfection (along with some little areas with room for improvement), which kept the judges on their toes. It was wonderful watching so many dogs and handlers having a great time. Congratulations to the Obedience and Rally O community for your time, training and dedication throughout the year culminating with success at the State trial.

### Agility (State)

The weekend was a successful weekend, with lots of dogs and handlers having a great time. Several the courses challenged the dogs and handlers, with many successful runs being completed. Hats off to the dedicated working party for an amazing weekend.

## **DWD**

The music started and the everyone was ready for the culmination of hours of work to be presented to the DWD fancy. Participants ensuring their costumes and props where ready to tango, dogs were ready ..... Let the event begin. It was a sea of glitz and glammer was on show the dogs wagging their tails all the way. It was lovely to see everyone having a wonderful day. The prizes table was bursting at the seams. dusting off for the working party. The working party just keep doing it better each year. "Dancing is like bank robbery — it takes split-second timing." - Twyla Tharp

## **Tricks (Nov)**

Another successful event for the working party. Following the events in 2022, it was agreed that the Tricks State event would run in conjunction with the State Obedience and Rally O. DWD would run by itself. DWD was held in April 2023 and it was wonderful to see some incredible routines.

## **Measuring**

An essential working party to ensure dogs are participating in the correct height category at performance events. This working party are an essential cog in the wheel (as they say). Thank you for your time and dedication to this behind the scenes essential task.

## **Western Classic**

Once again the 2024 Western Classic was a successful weekend. The weather gods through everything at the event, but everyone soldiered on over the weekend. All the judges (International, Interstate and Local) had a great time, with many wonderful comments. There are many wonderful sponsors who support this event and without their continued support the event would not be what it is. The vendors at this year's Western Classic, were all very happy at the end of the weekend. Thank you to all other sponsors of this weekend, without your support the weekend is just not the same.

## **Canine Fundraisers**

Another successful year for the Canine Fundraisers working party. Canine Fundraisers continue to run successful events whilst raising money for Dogs West.

## **Building and Amenities**

Thank you to all the clubs who conducted Building and Amenities shows during 2023/24. Your dedication to these events helps raise money that can be used to improve our grounds.

## **State Junior Handler Final**

The State Junior Handler final in August was judged by Mr Matthew Smith from SA. Great work by a small, dedicated working party. The ring layout and prizes table was a credit to you all. Thank you to the people who sponsored this event. The junior handlers looked great on the day, all very well presented. Congratulations to juniors who participated in the event. Thank you to Moorholme Pet Transport who have been supporting the junior handler sport throughout Australia. Their support of the juniors is truly amazing.

## **Celebration of the Best**

Congratulations to this working party for an amazing event with continued changes to make it better. The panel of six interstate judges had a great time and loved the event. Everyone who entered the event received a goodies bag, full of wonderful items from the sponsors of the event. Everyone who attended looked like they had a great time. It was great to see some of the sponsors attend the event. Congratulations to all who participated, you should be proud to have qualified for this prestigious event.

Penny Kelly

**Pillar Chair, Events**

# Marketing Pillar Report

With our Members Education we were fortunate to have had 2 education sessions for our members this year in 2023/ 2024 with Fiona and her team from IMDT in our Members Lounge for free.

Both sessions were run by IMDT and Dr Ambre Smith on tips on training in, the show ring, performance and generally how to get better results with your dogs in any environment. This was well received with our last session having 64 members in attendance.

If there is a topic you would like covered we can put that forward to IMDT for this year.

Our 2024 Open day was again a huge success, with us trying new ways to improve our already fantastic day. We had the Performance and Obedience showcase on the main oval with what you can do with your dogs from basic tricks to high level obedience. This was a crowd pleaser and the different disciplines you can do with your dog was amazing. We also had our Dancing with Dogs being showcased in the undercover area.

We had in excess of 3,500 general public enter through our gates with the help from the SES on Parking with a gold coin donation. The general public came to see our grounds and they got a glimpse of some of our fabulous activities that can be done with our dogs and what we do most weekends.

We had our Breed club and Group club displays from our members showcasing their breeds to the public as well as all things you can buy for your 4 legged family member.

PD Insurance were in attendance this year to help our members on questions they may have had on pet insurance as well as the General public with a fantastic giveaway prize from PD Insurance.

We had Fiona from IMDT and her team with talks in the lower meeting room (Meeting Room 1) and this was huge success with people lining up waiting for the next session. As we kept them to 40 minutes and the general public could take in their dogs in.

To all our members who helped make this event a talking point in a positive way for Dogs West I thank you. Now to our Perth Royal show. 2023 we had a stall in the show area for members to get information on what we do at Dogs West and we had volunteers each day to man the stall.

The promotion of Dogs West is easy, but getting volunteers to help sometimes can be challenging as we are all busy, but if we can all help in some small way, then our events to showcase Dogs West to the General Public will always be a success and get more people joining as members.

Heather Jones

**Vice President - Marketing Chair**

# Governance Report

This is my second year as chair of Governance.

Some eight years before my appointment as chair of Governance, a Rules and Regulations Committee commenced the review of the Association's Rules and Regulations.

It was never going to be an easy task to review the overall Rules and Regulations of our Association. Instead of starting the process again it was agreed that the same committee recommence and continue the process of review, unfortunately Covid slowed the progress.

At our June 2024 Governing Council meeting the Committee gave an update on the progress of the reviews and the good news is they are nearing the finishing post.

I would personally thank the Rules and Regulations Committee for their dedication and many hours spent reviewing our Rules and Regulations.

The review was long overdue, many rules and regulations were either outdated or conflicted with each other, causing confusion with members. Also, some rules clashed with Dogs Australia or could be deleted due to being covered by Dogs Australia regulations.

Also, part of the process was to review the wording in certain areas to ensure that they were in layman's terms. Changing Rules and Regulations are considered carefully to ensure changes improve the problem it is trying to address and that it does not clash with other Rules and regulations.

Under Governance we have the following committees

Investigations; Protests and Disputes; Appeals; Temperament Testing; Honours board; Judges Board and of course Rules and Regulations go hand in hand with most of these committees.

I would personally like to thank every member that gives up their time to be part of these committees.

Theirs is a thankless role but essential to our Association. Over the last couple of years, changes have been made to ensure we adapt to the challenges that confront our Association and members.

Our membership and hobby are being affected by a small minority group of people who go out of their way to upset or bully other members, these actions are affecting new memberships.

We also have members who have no regard to our code of ethics and then wonder why are having to appear before these committees.

Actions of these members and penalties handed down are never taken lightly.

Our members who break our Code of Ethics or any rules or regulations that put our association at risk, must also be prepared to accept the consequences of their actions.

If any member wants to look at being on any of the Governance committees, please contact the Dogs West office.

Thank you

Peter Primrose

**Chair of Governance**

# Additional Reports from Performance Working Parties

## Agility Working Party Report

### Events

The Agility Working Party ran a number of fundraising trials and also the State Agility Trial 1 / 2 June 2024 during the year. The Working Party also fundraised and gained permission to contract two interstate Judges for the State Agility Trial, this was well received by members and the fundraising was supported by the agility fraternity. Bringing interstate Judges over to judge the State Trial was a first for WA but is common for other states, the Working Party plan this to be ongoing for future State Trials.

### Agility Rule's Review

A review of the Rules relating to Agility is conducted every five years with submissions prepared by each state / territory and submitted to Dogs Australia for collation and distribution to each member body in preparation for a meeting of agility delegates to discuss.

The Working Party have a Facebook page dedicated for Agility Judges and competitors only to allow them to put forward suggestion for changes and to discuss and understand everyone's views.

On 11 September 2023 the timetable for the review, an outline of the process and a call for discussions to commence was posted to the page with discussion occurring. From these discussions an agenda was developed for a meeting of members to vote on proposals to allow the development of the Dogs West submission to the rule change.

A meeting of members was subsequently held on Monday 22 April where the proposals were discussed and voted on. Subsequently the WA submission was prepared and sent to Dogs Australia by the closing date for submissions.

### Agility Judges' Training

Six agility competitors applied to do the Agility Judges' training course, their applications were reviewed, and they all passed the entrance exam. The course is ongoing with programming impacted by the availability of trainees with many travelling to NSW for the 2024 Agility National and the weather conditions raining out some practical sessions.

The training course will finalise later in the year with a final written exam followed by a practical exam for those who pass the written.

Gail Brindley

**Chair – Dogs West Agility Working Party**

## Australian National Retrieving Trial Working Party Report

The ANRTWP once again had a successful year of competition. The committee successfully ran nine stakes (2 Novice, 2 Restricted and 5 All Age) All of these continued to contribute to the working party funds to enable us to run the National Championship.

The 52<sup>nd</sup> National Championship was held here over three days in September 2023 and attracted entries from South Australia, NSW, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania as well as the local contingent.

Held on private properties in and around the town of Toodyay the event was a resounding success both practically and financially. The committee received numerous accolades from competitors, particularly the Eastern Staters who believed that our event was indeed the best organised ever!

I would like to thank most sincerely all of the committee who worked so hard to make this event such a success in particular Catherine Thorburn as Trial Secretary who did an amazing job organising and coordinating for the whole year leading up to and including the event.

I would also like to mention a special word of thanks to Ian in Dogs west Accounts who helped so much with the transition to cashless entries and his general advice.

The committee have continued into 2024 raising funds for our next National in about 5 years' time.

Allan Bartram

**Chair - Australian National Retrieving Trial Working Party**

## **Obedience Working Party Report**

### **State Obedience/Rally & Tricks Trial**

Held 14/15 October 2024

A new committee was formed for the 2023 State Trial consisting of Orlando Dos Santos, Susan Briggs, Jo Meredith, Vicky Long and Maja Pitts being the chair.

The trial was financially supported by a Fundraiser, held on 26/08/23, club donations and entries to the fundraiser and State trial. This resulted in quite a nice amount of money with only half being used for the state trial.

Due to being a daytime trial and the weather was unusually hot for the time of the year, the committee decided to push the trial starting times to an earlier time. Everyone was very supportive of this decision. The Winner of Winner round for Obedience and Rally was held at the end of the Saturday trial.

On Sunday we also asked for an extra Judge to appoint to judge the Advanced Tricks Class. This meant we could get all four classes judged at the same time and all classes finished at about the same time, nobody was left out in the heat of the day!

Overall, despite the heat, the fundraiser trial and State Obedience/Rally & Tricks trial went well and without incidents.

### **Western Classic 2024, DWD, Obedience Rally and Tricks Trial**

The working committee consisted of Maja Pitts, Susan Briggs, Michell Bairstow & Orlando Dos Santos. The performance committee decided to keep the judging panels to WA judges only.

DWD was held on the Friday 1/03/24 on grass at the lower oval. It was nice to see an audience enjoying watching the sport. Thanks to the DWD club of WA who lent the music system.

Obedience and Rally was held on Saturday evening. Unfortunately, we had destructive winds which increased towards the end and was a safety concern for all involved. Thankfully the judges adapted to this, and judging was prompt and without any unnecessary delays. All entries were judged accordingly to their entries. There was an issue with clubhouse air conditioner, as it turned off around 8 pm. It was sweltering hot in the room and made it for a very unpleasant evening due to inside being uncomfortable hot and outside with the destructive wind. The issue thankfully was fixed the next day.

Tricks Test was held on Sunday evening. The storm the day before died down but the trick ring set up was destroyed and bits and pieces of the ring were found all over the oval. The temperature was still very hot and humid in the evening and putting the ring together was not pleasant in this heat. With the help of a handful of people who arrived early we managed to piece the ring together.

The Trick Test started promptly and on time and went without any more incidents.



The committee decided to re-introduce the “Most versatile Dog” at the Western Classic again. The plaque still requires to be mounted to the wall in the club house and we ask kindly to mount it asap for all to enjoy.

Maja Pitts

**Chair – Obedience Working Party**

## Measuring Working Party Report

January 2023 to June 2024

### Members of Working Party:

Ms Di Rose – Coordinator

Mr Simon Innes

Mrs Nadine Neethling

Mrs Anne Lacy-Herbert

Mrs Vicki Nemeth

Mr Mel Rhoden

During this period, a total 113 dogs were measured (including re-measured dogs as per ANKC agility rules). Other measurements included dogs for several other performance disciplines as per rules.

We have also measured quite a few dogs at Albany & Geraldton Trials with the assistance of other Agility Judges.

I have personally also measured (**unofficially**) dogs for conformation (Breeders) as they are keen to maintain Breed Standards and it assists knowing breeding requirements are being met. I am happy to measure at any Conformation show where I am in attendance.

### Financial:

Expenditure {from 2022-2023} was for one measuring stick which is shared by Simon and Nadine. Total cost \$75.91.

No Income for the year. Measuring is done voluntarily by those in the Measuring WP. We will require a supply of Measurement Cards by 2024. To be arranged via DW when the time comes (potential online system pending). Design to be updated with new Dogs West/Dogs Australia logo/Colours.

It is requested that the Measuring Judges please be issued each with a Microchip reader to confirm dog identity at time of Measuring. Dogs SA have had this procedure in place for approx. two years now. 3 microchip readers would be sufficient at this time. (two persons are back-up measuring judges and would not require).

### General:

It is hoped with each rule revision for Agility that the requirement of re-measuring Agility dogs after the age of two years will no longer be required. This rule is difficult and time consuming in the follow-up process. Tracking of delinquent dog owners is unpleasant and the onus on the owners is often ignored.

It is very much hoped that soon the measuring/re-measure process will be improved with the introduction of an online system for Owner preparation and Judge finalisation of the measuring data.

Another side benefit of Data access has recently occurred in the correct breed description of all performance dogs, especially prevention of Associate Dog crossbreed descriptions in catalogues. Online Measuring would be able to track and notify all delinquent dog owners, e.g., result of non-compliance will be non-qualifying results from # date following the 2 year remeasure requirement.

We would like to thank Dogs West staff for the invaluable entering of the measured dog/s data on the Dog Pedigree/Registrations. This is an invaluable source for confirming a dog's measurement.

Di Rose

**Chair - Measuring Working Party**

# DWD and Tricks Working Party Report

## Challenges

As with all State events, the challenge is making the Trophy table worthy of a State event with continued support from our major sponsor Eukanuba, donations from and support from the DWD Club of WA, individual donations and a Donation of Photo Frames from Harvey Norman the trophy table for the the State 2024 DWD competition was amazing.

## Highlights

It was great to have our major sponsor Eukanuba join us in April, the representatives spent the day with all the DWD enthusiasts, great routines and music were on display and six championship scores were awarded from the Advanced class showing real depth in the competition.

## Trick Test State Competition

This is to be held in November and all plans are in hand for this event to be a great success, a smaller committee to run this event but again totally committed to an event to remember, again this event is sponsored by Eukanuba.

## Plans for 2025

The DWD Club of WA again will support the State DWD Competition as the only Dances with Dogs club in WA they are equally committed to seeing this event be a great success.

Harvey Norman has again been approached to donate some prizes to the winners table and have agreed to look at our proposal.

The donation of the Rising Star Award has been secured for 2025.

Our committee is on track for some great events coming up.

Amanda Houston

**Head of DWD and Trick State Events**