



# **BELCONNEN DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB**

## **Annual General Meeting – President’s Report**

27 October 2021

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I am pleased to report on the activities of the Belconnen Dog Obedience Club for 2020-2021.

### **Committee**

At last year’s AGM, members elected the following committee: Sally Provins (president), Katherine Waterhouse (secretary), Monique Meacham (treasurer), and general members; Catherine Griffin, Cheryl Neal, David Walsh, Dorothy Xu, Heather Swinbourn, and Leesa Jess.

A huge thank you to the committee for their support over the last 12 months. For those who will not be continuing in their roles, thank you for all that you have done, it’s been such a pleasure to have your support. Those who will continue, I look forward to working with you over the next 12 months.

A special thank you to the executive committee, Kat and Monique, who have spent countless hours working alongside me through some challenging situations, supporting me and being my sounding board whilst I learn the ropes as president, I appreciate your continued support.

I would also like to extend a enormous thank you to Chris Bates our former president and Maelyn Draper former secretary, who both have provided support and guidance since stepping down from the committee last year after several year of service.

### **Club Management**

The committee members, with the help of many volunteers have taken on all the roles required to keep the club running smoothly over the past year. These roles include administrative and financial tasks, all the office duties, fundraising and grant writing, maintenance and cleaning of the grounds, and clubhouse and liaison for the dog sports.

### **Digital Transformation**

During the last year you would have seen the start of our digital transformation, with the use of electronic forms and payment. Work is now underway to progress some really exciting work on the development of our new online membership platform. This will bring all our services into one simple to use space with some excellent functionality. I would like to thank Maelyn and Dot on their hard work while taking this on, as well as those who have participated in ensuring our needs will be met.

### **Grants**

This year, the Club registered for the 2021 volunteer grant through Community Grants. We are hopeful to be a recipient of this grant to enable us to continue to support our volunteer instructors with learning and development opportunities, equipment, and other resources to enable them to facilitate their classes. We expect to hear the result of our application in November 2021.

## **Club Activities**

### **Events**

Since early 2020, the social calendar for both club and community activities and events has been limited due to COVID-19. At the end of 2021 we managed to host our 'day to shine' in lieu of our awards night, it was great to see our members awarded for their progress in their respective activities. Many of our activities hosted limited end of year gatherings, to sign off what was a tough year. Hopefully we can do the same this year.

The Club continues to hold a booth at A Pooch Affair, we attended this event in both November 2020 and June 2021. Our Disc, Flyball, Dances with Dogs and Tricks members held demonstrations at both events drawing large crowds. We plan to attend the rescheduled December event restrictions permitting.

### **Agility**

This year was tough on our Agility group. COVID-19 meant many of the planned trials both organised by the Club and elsewhere were unable to go ahead, in combination with a wetter than normal winter prevented many classes to go ahead, meant there was less action for our members. In August this year Agility were able to bring on a new intake of members. Unfortunately, due to the Canberra lock down, our members have not yet resumed. We are looking forward to our resumption of training this month.

There has been some sunshine for the agility group this year. We congratulate Fiona Fraser and Dorothy Xu for obtaining their agility judging licence early this year. They participated in an intensive training program over the last 12 months, and now bring a wealth of knowledge to our instructor group.

We also have Leeanne Holgate and Jacqui Vandebroek who have successfully completed their trainee instructor course who have now commenced instructing classes. It is great to see our member and volunteers taking steps to become more involved within their activities at the Club.

### **Canine Companion**

#### *Enrolments*

Our enrolments for beginner's level remain steady with many of our sessions filling within 24 hours, with a large number expressing interest once enrolments have closed. This is in line with the increase of dog ownership following the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### *Instructors*

We held two successful instructor intakes. These were well attended, and the new instructors are out on the paddock assisting and are doing a great job. I participated in the January course, and I applaud Cheryl, Debbie and Simone for their extremely well-run course and thank those who presented during the course. A huge thank you to all our instructors that filled our roster over the last 12 months, you play such a vital role in our Club and the broader community by helping so many dogs integrate into their household and their community.

## *2021 Syllabus*

I would like to express my deep gratitude to Lyndal Hasselman, Cheryl Neal, Heather Swinbourn, Maelyn Draper, Steve Meyer, David Walsh, Jane Halsey, and Lise Sandenbergh for their tremendous effort in undertaking the review and the delivery of the new syllabus. The committee is working through an implementation plan, and we expect to have the new syllabus in place starting Session 1, 2022. In the lead up to Session 1 we will provide further information on how this change will flow through to your Canine Companion classes.

## **Dances with Dogs and Tricks**

Tricks were straight into it this year. Running 2 double competitions on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of January both with high entries. Both very successfully run competitions.

Tricks were also able to run an additional double trick competition on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July followed by a double dancing with dogs' competition on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Both these competitions attracted a good number of local entrants, given the travel restrictions in place at the time.

Class numbers for both dancing with dogs and ticks continue to be well maintained, with all dogs progressing well.

## **Disc Dog**

It's been a busy year for our Disc members, they hosted the very first pairs competition in Australia in April, followed by a very successful beginners' competition, along with their regular competitions. Our members also participated in the international UpDog Video games. The second of its kind, helping engage the disc community during their respective lockdowns This style of competition allowed members to compete solo on their local ovals or backyards, record their run and submit. Our very own Kylie White and Catherine Griffin took out first place worldwide – such a huge achievement – congratulations!

Justin Allen was successful in obtaining his local judge accreditation and Christine Bates obtained her Advance judge. Being the highest accreditation, this will allow her to train and oversee judging programs.

A huge thankyou to our Disc representative Catherine. Catherine (and her partner dean) over the last 12 months have put in an amazing effort in supporting the Club. From making tugs and snuffle mats for the shop to sell, reigniting some of our key fundraising activities, to supporting me in the set up for the demonstrations for a pooch affair, we appreciated your involvement.

## **Flyball**

Over the last 12 months the bullets managed to run an intake in November and June. Through these intakes 20 new dogs commenced our beginners training Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions and the lockdown in Canberra, we are still progressing these dogs through to our babies and intermediate levels. Our Bullets team were able to compete in three local race meets two being hosted by the bullets. Many opted to not travel to interstate race meets, given the unpredictability of the COVID-19 situation.

Our Belconnen Bullets were set to host the 2021 Australian Flyball Nationals during the October long weekend, here on the Club's grounds. We had expected to host teams from all over Eastern Australia across the 3 days, unfortunately due to COVID-19 we have rescheduled this for the long

weekend in March 2022. The Bullets managed some fantastic work in securing over \$10,000 worth of sponsorship from local Canberra businesses and pet companies. We hope that we are able to proceed with the Nationals in March 2022.

I would also like to congratulate Chris Bates on her promotion to level 1 accredited judge. Chris was able to complete this over a 12-month period, such an achievement.

A big thankyou also goes out to our instructors, Ross Miller, Chris Bates, Justin and Ameila Allen, Charmayne, Kylie White and Marty Gardner, whose time and effort ensure the successful progression of all our junior and senior flyball dogs and handlers.

## **Rally Obedience and Trialling Obedience**

It's been great to see Obedience and Rally continue to grow in popularity at the Club. 2020-21 saw our numbers grow to 21 obedience teams and 40 rally teams. Our Tuesday evening obedience triallers class is almost at capacity, and Sunday morning rally triallers class was very well attended throughout the year. During the 12 months, one intake was run for new obedience and rally teams.

Organising classes can be hard work, so I would like to thank Cheryl Neal, Lise Sandenbergh, Niccola Hardaker, Anne Lewis, and Jenny O'Connor for their tremendous work running and organising classes! Our trialling teams had a great year, with many teams obtaining passes and finishing off titles.

A special congratulations to Karen Hobson and her Border Collies Jazz and Abby who both achieved their Obedience Champion titles, and to Niccola Hardaker and her Welsh Corgi (Cardigan) for achieving their Rally Champion title this year!

Rally was able to run a trial in November 2020 and an obedience trial in April 2021. The obedience trial organised for August was sadly cancelled due to the lockdown in Canberra. A big Thank you to Maelyn Draper for coordinating our rally and obedience trials, to our judges for their efforts, and to all the lovely stewards for their help during the trials.

## **Scent Work**

This year we saw the committee sign off on Scent Work as an official activity provided by the Club. Our volunteers Lise, Cheryl Nic, Heather, Jacqui, Leanne and Elaine have been busy implementing this heavily, supporting judges and steward training whilst also developing and trialling with their own dogs.

The Club's scent work team welcomed ACT's first Qualified ANKC scent work judges John Sam and Julie Cutts to their team. In addition to continually judging at Canberra club trials, Julie also organised and judged the very popular additional mid-week trials held at DOGS ACT. John Sam was equally proactive and took on a 'train the trainer' role to develop our scent work members, in turn being able to instruct beginner Scent Work teams at the Club.

Scent work ran their inaugural trail in May this year, it was an outstanding success. Planning was underway for a second trial, however COVID-19 restrictions necessitated a cancellation. Several Club members have gone on to achieve ANKC Scent Work titles, and beginner Scent Work classes have commenced at the Club this year. A big thankyou to those who have been part of being scent work to the Club.

## **A final thanks**

To all our volunteers, without your continued support and presence on the grounds we would not be able to operate, and to all our members, thank you for choosing BDOC.

The Club has operated as well as it could in the conditions faced over the last 12 months. I have thoroughly enjoyed the personal challenge stepping into the president role, and I very much look forward to seeing some of the work implemented over the next 6-12 months.

Sally Provins  
October 2021