

**MINUTES** of the RNSWCC Annual General Meeting of Members held Wednesday 6 November 2024 at 7.31pm in the Amenities Building, The Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs, 44 Luddenham Road, Orchard Hills.

**1. PRESENT**

<b>Directors:</b>	L Brand	President
	S Oliver	Senior Vice President
	A McIlrath	Vice President
	S McFadden	Vice President
	R Privett	Vice President
	L Brown	Director
	C Rafton	Director
	K Hedberg BVSc	Director
	G Spagnolo	Director
	K Charnock	Director
	S Mills	Director <b>(by Zoom)</b>
	J Bryson	Director
	S Hannigan	Director
	N Curwin	Director Elect
	V Harris	Director Elect
<b>Staff:</b>	A Khamis	Operations Manager
	V Gagan-Wilson	Company Secretary
	L Hadley	Committee Secretary/Examinations Administrator
<b>Members:</b>	M McDonald	M Wheeler
	J Jackson	L Wheeler
	K Reidy	T Mangan
	J Morris	Borealis Kennels
	M MacLeod-Woodhouse	J Nicolopoulos
	S Donaldson	M Kawecki
	K Speed	M McKenzie
	D Smith	M Keast
	H Gent OAM	

**2. APOLOGIES**

<b>Directors</b>	G Vernon
	A Moy
<b>Members:</b>	R Sinclair (Chair/Finance Committee)
	K Cannon
	J Gatford
	G Cruse

MOVED D Smith  
**THAT** the apologies be **accepted**.

SECONDED J Ross

**CARRIED**

### 3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Confirmation of.

MOVED D Smith

SECONDED M Wheeler

**THAT** the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Members held 1 November 2023 and published in the April 2024 Gazette be confirmed.

### 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.

The years from 2021 to 2024 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.
- **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, our organisation has achieved positive financial results, concluding the 2023/2024 financial year with a strong performance. The operational management of DOGS NSW has resulted in a substantial financial surplus, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Finance Committee, particularly the Chairman, Ross Sinclair, Operations Manager, Anthony Khamis, and Financial Accountant, Kenny Liu.

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.

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 D Smith

SECONDED M Wheeler

**THAT** the report of the Chairman, as published in the 2023/2024 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 2023 were Mrs L Brown and Mrs C Rafton.

The Directors appointed by RNSWCC who attended the Board Meeting held on 15 October 2023 were Mrs L Brown and Mrs C Rafton.

The Directors appointed by RNSWCC who attended the Special Board Meetings held via Zoom Conferencing on 10 February 2024 and 15 June 2024 were Mrs L Brand and Mr S Oliver.

Mrs L Brown was a Director from July 2023 to November 2023. Mrs C Rafton was a Director from July 2022 to November 2023.

Mrs L Brand was a Director from November 2023 to June 2024. Mr S Oliver was a Director from November 2023 to June 2024.

### **New Affiliates**

There were 7 new Affiliates approved for the year ended 30 June 2024 as follows:-

- Bathurst All Breeds & Dog Sports Club NSW - December 2023
- The Tibetan Breeds Club of NSW - January 2024
- Dubbo & Central West Dog Sports Inc - January 2024
- Eurobodalla District Show Society - February 2024
- German Breeds Club of NSW - February 2024
- Nowra District Kennel Club Inc - March 2024
- Crookwell & District Ladies Dog Sports Club Inc provisionally approved September 2023–final approval June 2024

### **Inquiries, Investigations and Appeals**

During the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, the RNSWCC received 37 new complaints which proceeded to the Chair of the DOGS NSW Disputes Assessment Panel, with the following outcomes:-

- 10 Declined
- 19 Proceeded to Inquiry
- 3 Appeal
- 4 Still Under Investigation
- NIL Proceed to Mediation
- 3 Withdrawn
- 5 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 2023/2024 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 J Jackson

**THAT** the report of the Company Secretary, as published in the 2023/2024 RNSWCC Ltd Annual Report, be received.

**CARRIED**

## **6. CONSIDERATION OF DIRECTORS' REPORTS**

MOVED T Mangan

SECONDED J Morris

**THAT** the reports of the Directors, as published in the 2023/2024 RNSWCC Ltd Annual Report, be received.

**CARRIED**

## **7. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL REPORT – FOR THE YEAR-END 30 JUNE 2024**

The President advised that Mr Ross Sinclair, Chair of the Finance Committee, is currently overseas and, therefore, was unable to speak to the Financial Report. Notwithstanding that, he had previously indicated that we have a clean set of accounts and congratulated the Financial Accountant and the Management Team for their efforts.

The President invited Director Christina Rafton to speak to the Financial Statements in Mr Sinclair's absence.

- Revenue results increased marginally at 0.32% without the interest income.
- A favourable cash rate saw positive interest results.
- Expenses for the year were down slightly by 2% with a major reduction to postage and journal expenses.
- Working capital remains stable.
- Expenses for the organisation will continue to rise in line with the CPI pressures and increased pressures from utilities and business expenses.
- Continued focus on revenue streams and strategic directions will continue to manage the fiscal environment.

The President thanked Director Rafton for her report.

The Financial Report for the year end 30 June 2024, as published in the 2023/2024 RNSWCC Ltd Annual Report, was considered by the meeting.

As no questions on the 2023/2024 Audited Report were received by the due date, Auditors, Morris and Batzloff, were not in attendance.

MOVED D Smith

SECONDED H Gent OAM

**THAT** the report from Director Christina Rafton, on behalf of the Chair of the Finance Committee, on the Financial Report for 2023/2024 be received.

**CARRIED**

## 8. NOTICES OF MOTION

### 8.1 A Khamis 2100041311 to move by Special Resolution

MOVED A Khamis

SECONDED D Smith

**THAT** the RNSWCC Articles of Association, Part III-The Board of Directors: Voting & Decisions, Clause 50(b)(v) which read as follows:-

50. *Decisions of the Board of Directors relating to:*  
*(b) expenditure of RNSWCC's funds in excess of:*  
*(i) the investment of RNSWCC's fund;*

*shall only be effective and may only be acted on if confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors held no sooner than 14 days from the date of the earlier meeting.*

**Be amended to read:-**

50. *Decisions of the Board of Directors relating to:*  
*(b) expenditure of RNSWCC's funds in excess of:*  
*(i) the investment of RNSWCC's fund, with the exception of reinvestment of term deposits;*

*shall only be effective and may only be acted on if confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the Board of Directors held no sooner than 14 days from the date of the earlier meeting.*

#### **AMENDMENT**

MOVED A Khamis

SECONDED C Rafton

**THAT** the word “fund” be amended to read “funds”

**CARRIED**

### 8.2 C Rafton 2000121100 to move by Special Resolution

MOVED C Rafton

SECONDED T Mangan

**THAT** the RNSWCC Articles of Association, Part I-Preliminary: Interpretation, Article 1(58)(ii), which reads as follows:-

(58) “specialist club” means a club or society or other association of persons  
(SGM 01/09) recognised as such by the RNSWCC which admits to membership breeders and supporters of a specified breed and varieties of that breed of dog and which conducts exhibitions:-

- (i) not being trials, at which only dogs of that breed and varieties of that breed are eligible for exhibition and
- (ii) being trials, where dogs from the same breed or breed group, as recognised by the ANKC Ltd from time to time, are eligible for exhibition.

**Be amended to read:-**

(58) “specialist club” means a club or society or other association of persons  
(SGM 01/09) recognised as such by the RNSWCC which admits to membership breeders and supporters of a specified breed and varieties of that breed of dog and which conducts exhibitions:-

- (i) not being trials, at which only dogs of that breed and varieties of that breed are eligible for exhibition and
- (ii) being trials **and events**, where ~~dogs from the same breed or breed group, as recognised by the ANKC Ltd from time to time, are eligible for exhibition.~~ Affiliated breed clubs are permitted to open their trials and events, other than Championship Shows, to any Groups and/or breeds at their discretion.

**CARRIED**

**9. MEETING CLOSED @ 7.52pm**

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