



MINUTES of a meeting of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS held on Wednesday 13 May 2026 commencing at 2.00pm.

PARTICIPATION:

R Sinclair	S McFadden (by Zoom)
C Rafton	J Bryson (by Zoom)
N Curwen (by Zoom)	S Hannigan
K Charnock	A Moy (by Zoom)
L Brand (by Zoom)	V Harris
K Hedberg BVSc	T Hofman
A McIlrath (by Zoom)	P Brown

IN ATTENDANCE:

- V Gagan-Wilson (Company Secretary)
- L Hadley (Committee Secretary/Examinations Administrator)
- A Khamis (Operations Manager)

IN CAMERA

1. Opening & Procedural Matters

The President opened the meeting and explained the concept of the new Consent Agenda, the purpose of which is to modernising Board meetings. A key outcome is to ensure the Board has sufficient time to undertake their strategic responsibilities to guide the organisation forward.

- **Welcome and Apologies**

- Apologies
 - G Vernon
 - D Crofts (Animal Welfare & Community Liaison Officer)

MOVED K Hedberg BVSc
THAT the apologies be **received**.

SECONDED T Hofman

CARRIED

- **Recording of Board Meeting**

MOVED K Hedberg BVSc
THAT Directors **note** that, in accordance with the resolution of the Board at Item 5.1 of the Board of Directors meeting held on 8 December 2021, **this Board meeting is being recorded** for the purposes of confirmation of the Minutes and once confirmed at a future Meeting the recording will then be deleted.

SECONDED V Harris

CARRIED

- **Declarations of Conflicts of Interest - NIL**

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- **Receive all Reports on the Agenda**

MOVED T Hofman

SECONDED K Hedberg BVSc

THAT the Board receive all Reports on the Agenda.

CARRIED

2. **President's Report**

- **Decision Support for the Board**

- **Critical Data Points**

The President, Ross, led discussions on demographic data from the Membership and Registration Data Analysis which showed 68% of members are over 50 and emphasised the Board's role as custodians of the organisation along with the need for youth engagement initiatives including member forums and youth forums.

- **Stakeholder Engagement**

- **Calendar of Events**

The President congratulated the Grounds Staff for their outstanding work on the Earthdog area, with special thanks to the Grounds Supervisor, Chris Gedzyk.

Director N Curwen advised the meeting of the Western Region show scheduled for 22-24 May 2026, noting that while Cowra Kennel Club will be assisting more support was needed.

Director J Bryson noted the Calendar of Events was showing a "PR Event" it should read Dogs On Show. Many and various forms of advertising/promotion was in place and Director Bryson invited the Public Relations Committee to man the DOGS NSW Stand along with welcoming all other Directors to attend.

Director K Charnock reminded the meeting of the Labrador Retriever National on 30 & 31 May 2026 and invited the Directors to attend the Presentation Dinner on Sunday night as well as participate and giving a presentation. Director T Hofman confirmed she was already attending this event.

- **Board Attendance – Patterns**

The President presented a Board Attendance List dating back to January 2024 which showed a significant decline in meeting attendance by Directors since November 2025, emphasising the importance of consistent attendance to meet our fiduciary responsibilities.

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- **Accountability**
 - **Company Emails**

The Operations Manager addressed the implementation of company email addresses for Directors, explaining the security benefits and requesting Directors to contact him for setup.

Directors also discussed a potential transition to Microsoft Teams for better data sharing and collaboration.
 - **Consent Agenda**

Director T Hofman, along with the President, explained the Consent Agenda and its purpose, which is to free up time spent on operational/administrative issues to enable the Board to talk about the future and what we need to do differently. Directors will be required to do homework before coming to meetings and Committees will be able to make more decisions noting that modernised regulations will help reduce the amount of information requiring Board approval.
 - **Action List**

The President will distribute to Directors by time period a review of Board Minutes over the past few years to identify action items and assign responsibilities to ensure we are covering off decisions.
- **Strategic Resourcing**
 - **Expressions of Interest – Knowledge Tree & Volunteer Framework**

The President will review EOIs from members and provide to Directors. This register will assist the organisation to deliver projects, strategy and assist with organisation events.
- **Member Engagement**
 - **Town Halls renamed to Member Forums**

The meeting agreed that the membership did not necessarily relate to the wording of “Town Halls” which was renamed to Member Forums.
 - **Strategic Forum Launch – Discuss Future Forums**

The meeting discussed the success of the Strategic Forum Launch noting the positive feedback and with numerous offers from members to help to achieve the goals contained within. Future forums will be arranged and a roster of Directors present to meet the members. This will be in a Q&A style forum with questions received prior to the forum to ensure they are all answered for members. Members will be able to respond accordingly at the forums.

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- **Future Monthly Discussion Points**
 - **Mentoring Work**
 - **Youth Forum**
 - **State Dog Sports Plan**
 - **Meetings with Committee Chairs**
 - **Resume Presidents and Secretaries meetings**

- 3. **Emerging Issues (Risk, Culture, & Updates) - NIL**

- 4. **Judicial Matters**
 - **Judicial Co-ordinator's Report:** Review of the Inquiry Table

 - **Disputes Assessment Panel Report – 24/4/2026**

- 5. **General Business - In Camera**
 - **DOGS NSW Draft Submission-POCTA Amendments (Enforcement and Operational Powers) Bill 2026**

The President congratulated the members of the Media & Government Legislation Committee for all the work they put in over the weekend to finalise this very important submission to the Government.

The Board noted that the Office is currently working on a Special Notice to distribute to members tomorrow.

OPEN MEETING

- 6. **Consent Agenda**
 - **Previous Minutes**
 - Face to Face Meeting – 15/4/2026
 - Electronic Motion – Appointment of Judicial Panel Members – 22/4/2026

 - **Directors' Updates**

A Moy left the meeting @ 4.07pm
Meeting recessed @ 4.09pm
Meeting resumed @ 4.27pm

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MOVED T Hofman

SECONDED P Brown

THAT all reports and documents in the Consent Agenda be **approved**.

CARRIED

- **Committee Reports - For Noting and/or Consideration**

- **OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT**
- **COMPANY SECRETARY'S REPORT – NIL**
- **ANIMAL WELFARE & COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT**
- **SERIOUS ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE – 5/5/2026**
- **FINANCE COMMITTEE – 23/4/2026**

- **Recommendation 1 – Item 8: Financial Statements**

THAT the Financial Statements as @ 31 March 2026 be approved by the Board of Directors.

- **Recommendation 3 – Item 10.1.2: Plant Equipment Acquisition – Bobcat (Multi-Purpose)**

THAT the Board **APPROVE** the immediate purchase of a Bobcat S590 Skid Steer Loader with appropriate attachments, based on the quotations obtained, as a cost-effective and operationally necessary investment that will reduce ongoing hire expenditure.

- **Recommendation 4 – Item 10.1.3: Implementation of Electronic Banking (Cessation of Cheques)**

THAT the Finance Committee **reconfirm** its 2018 decision for DOGS NSW to transition to electronic banking (no cheques), and approve implementation for both Affiliate Clubs and Members from 1 July 2027.

- **Recommendation 6 – Item 10.1.6: Sporting Titles & Sash Revenue Opportunity**

THAT the Board approve the Office to proceed with the production of **individual title sashes** for the SprintDog™ and Scent Work disciplines as listed above, and any other disciplines, eg, Trick Dog and Rally, to capitalise on increased participation and maximise revenue potential.

- **AGILITY COMMITTEE – 20/4/2026**
- **GROUNDS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 23/4/2026**
- **JUDGES COMMITTEE – 30/4/2026**

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- **LIBRARY & ARCHIVES COMMITTEE – 4/5/2026**

- **OBEDIENCE, TRACKING & PERFORMANCE DISCIPLINES JUDGES COMMITTEE**
 - **Meeting 13/4/2026**

Recommendation 1 – Judges Training – Theory Examination Results
THAT the following Candidates be advised they have successfully passed their relevant Theory Examinations and may now progress to the Practical component of their training:-

Gabriele Loft	CCD		Pass
Peter Read	UD		Pass
Karen Wyers	Rules & Regulations		Pass
Carolyn Jensen	Rally	Rules and Regulations	Pass
Christiane Diebler	Rally	Rules and Regulations	Pass
Julie Hunter	Rally	Rules and Regulations	Pass
Deborah Varney	Trick Dog	Rules and Regulations	Pass
Gunilla Haydon	Trick Dog		Pass
Krys Townsend	Trick Dog	Rules and Regulations	Pass
Maria Priori	Trick Dog	Rules and Regulations	Pass

- **Meeting 16/4/2026**

Recommendation 1 – Item 7.10: Proposed Changes to Regulations
THAT DOGS NSW Regulations Part VI: Judges Performance Disciplines, Section 2, Clause 2.1.8, sub-Clause 4, be amended as follows:-

Currently reads:

2.1.8 A Candidate for Rally Judges Examination must (10/23):
4 apply in writing and submit to the Board of Directors with the application, a written certificate that he/she has been a Ring Steward/Trial Official at not less than three (3) official trials prior to the date of the practical examination.

Be amended to read:

2.1.8 A Candidate for Rally Judges Examination must (10/23):
4 apply in writing and submit to the Board of Directors with the application, a written certificate **/or appropriate form duly signed, stating** that he/she has been a **Rally** Ring Steward/Trial Official at not less than three (3) official trials **prior to the date of the practical examination in the past twelve (12) months.**

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- **RETRIEVING & FIELD TRIALS COMMITTEE – 16/4/2026**
Recommendation 1 – Item 8.4: Judges Training Scheme – Current Status
THAT the DOGS NSW Board appoint the following persons to the relevant Retrieving Trials for Gundogs Judges Panels and the National Business System (ie, the Database) and Dogs Australia Judges List be updated accordingly:-

All Age Stake

Sandra Hodges Winkelman

Novice Stake

Una Russell

Therese Berriman

Angelika Goehring

David Mills

- **RNSWCC HEALTH & WELFARE CHARITY – 13/4/2026**

- **SHOW COMMITTEE – 29/4/2026**

Recommendation 1 – Item 6.3.5.4: New England Ladies Kennel Club

THAT the Tamworth Kennel Club and New England Ladies Kennel Club be informed they will be required to hold their shows at the Gunnedah complex, as Manilla grounds are unavailable for their weekend.

- **SPORTING COMMITTEE – 21/4/2026**

Recommendation 1 – Item 8.1: Draft Working Party – Amendment to Eligibility Criteria – Rules for the Conduct of Draft Test

THAT the Rules for the Conduct of Draft Test (Effective 1 January 2022) – Eligibility Criteria, be amended to include all dogs on a Dogs Australia Register as follows:-

Currently Reads:

ELIGIBILITY, CONDUCT AND EQUIPMENT

Section 1. Entry Requirements

B. Eligible Dogs

1. *Draft Tests are open to main register breeds, limited register breeds and associate register dogs.*

Be amended to read

ELIGIBILITY, CONDUCT AND EQUIPMENT

Section 1. Entry Requirements

B. Eligible Dogs

1. **Draft Tests are open to ~~main register breeds, limited register breeds and associate~~ all Dogs Australia register dogs.**

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- **CONFORMATION JUDGES EXAMINATIONS COMMITTEE – 6/5/2026**
- **MEDIA & GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – 29/4/2026**
Recommendation 1 – Item 4.1: Natalie Zelinsky Email re Companion Animals/Legislative Changes
THAT the Board receives the attached letter from the Media & Government Legislation Committee to the Board.

Recommendation 2 – Item 4.2: Request for Feedback on First Stage of Amendments to the Breeding Code
THAT the Board receives the attached report regarding ‘Teams’ Meeting with DPIRD on 28 April 2026.

Recommendation 3 – Item 4.3: Proposed Rezoning/Orchard Hills
THAT the Board receives the attached advice in relation to the Proposed Zoning/ Orchard Hills.
- **OBEDIENCE, TRACKING & PERFORMANCE DISCIPLINES COMMITTEE – 21/4/2026**
- **AGILITY JUDGES COMMITTEE – 5/5/2026**

The following Committee’s DID NOT MEET:-

- Breed Standards Committee
 - Conformation Judges Training Committee
 - Government Framework Working Party
 - PR Events Committee
 - Public Relations Committee
 - Regional Committees Working Party
 - Spring Fair Dog Show Committee
- **Dogs Australia Matters**
Director K Hedberg BVSc requested a Motion to be submitted to the next Dogs Australia Annual General Meeting, ie, October 2026, to include in the ANKC Ltd Constitution/Objects an additional clause “*to improve the health and welfare of dogs*”.
 - **FCI Matters**

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- **Miscellaneous Matters**
 - Breed Assessor List

For the Office: To check the Breed Assessor List to confirm it is correct and obtain a Temperament Testers List.

- Sign Off of Financial Accounts
The Board confirmed that the signing off of the finance transactions at each Board meeting was an operational requirement and has been reviewed through the Finance Committee process.
- Return of Sheep to Orchard Hills

For the Operations Manager: To provide Directors with an update on the return of sheep to Orchard Hills.

7. Strategic Reporting & Decisions

- **Strategic Plan 2026-2030** – Go through plan with Directors for the 2026 items and establish sponsorship commitment by each member and support from the organisation governance frame and subject matter experts and strategic partners.
- **Operational Plan** – 2026 items flesh out and create communication and action plans.
- **Assurance Program**
- **Amateur Program** – Separate membership from other memberships.
- **Open Shows – Championships and Point Scores**
Director P Brown gave a briefing in relation to a proposal to promote and think about Point Scores to support participation at Open Shows.

The meeting noted that the Conformation Judges Training Committee is currently looking at Mentor Shows similar to that which was held by Dogs Queensland but modifying to accommodate the number of our Trainees.

The President advised the meeting that the Fast N Furious Committee was looking at running Open Shows in NSW. The process would be improved if these shows were held between double shows at lunch time to improve support from dogs entered in the morning show that were waiting to compete in the afternoon show. This format would see free Judges (Trainees), free Stewards (Trainees) and free dog entries using the catalogue entries from the morning shows.

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8. General Business

• **Motions on Notice**

○ **Outstanding Affiliates Annual Reports**

The Board noted the list of outstanding Affiliates Reports as at May 2026.

For the Office: To contact each Affiliate identified in the report to formally remind them of their obligations in accordance with DOGS NSW Regulations Part X: Affiliated Bodies, Section 2, Clause 2.2. Affiliates will be given a clear 30-day window from the date of notification to fulfil all reporting requirements. If any Affiliate does not comply within this timeframe, their scheduled shows will be suspended until they have satisfied all necessary obligations in full.

9. Other Business & Closing

• **Review of newly assigned actions**

• **Confirmation of Next Meeting:** Wednesday 10 June 2026 commencing @ 2.00pm

○ **Apologies for Next Meeting**

- L Brand & S McFadden
- R Sinclair – will be overseas, however, will participate via Zoom Conferencing

• **Meeting Closed @ 5.05pm**

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