

Appendix I

President's Report 2019 – 2020

The outbreak of Covid -19 certainly came as a shock. The club prior to our closure on the 22nd March 2020 had run beginner classes for puppies and adult dogs that provided automatic progression to Class 1. Congratulations to all the members who took up the challenge and successfully passed promotion tests to move with their dogs into Classes 2– 4.

As an affiliate of Dogs NSW the club's participation in obedience competition is a high priority. The club ran its Annual Obedience Trial on Saturday 6th October, 2019 at the Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs at Orchard Hills. The trial was part of the State Titles Weekend and a number of members competed gaining passes. Special thanks go to Julie Brandon as Trial Secretary, Heather Martyn as Chief Stewart, the stewards who worked in the rings with the judges, those who checked in competitors, did the catering and the other jobs that made the trial a success. The Interclub Challenge is a yearly event where obedience clubs come together with teams to compete against each other in the various obedience levels. It gives Class 4 members the opportunity to test their skills and those of their dogs but due to Covid 19 the July 2020 Interclub Challenge that was to be hosted by the Hills Obedience Club was cancelled.

We ended 2019 with our traditional Fun Day in December with no knowledge of what was ahead for us in 2020. The dogs though did enjoy themselves in the Fancy Dress competition, trick, cool mint on a stick, sock and scarf and slalom events. Thanks to Sandra Walker for organising the rings and prizes. It was also the time for the awarding of the club trophies to those who had achieved success in the trial ring with their dogs.

A life- saving piece of equipment was purchased by the club. A submission was made by Secretary Lee Davis and the club was able to secure a grant from the NSW Government Office of Sport in March 2020 for the purchase of a defibrillator. The grant of \$1150.00 provided 50% of the purchase cost of the equipment and gives the club the security to provide for the health and safety of our members should a life- threatening medical episode occur on the grounds and before the arrival of medical help.

The lockdown gave the committee time to work on a back to training plan. Hulya Yilmaz worked on the organisation and Lee liaised with Ben Gauci from the Centennial Parklands to ensure we complied with their requirements to be allowed to reopen and Sandra Walker and Lee Davis spent much time on the redesign of the website. Everyone on committee contributed.

I would like to thank the committee members for their contribution to the club and their support over the past year. I would like to thank the instructors, Heather Martyn with the equipment, those who work on the desk and a big thanks to David Givney who drives the van and is involved in the setup at 7am on a Sunday morning.