

Appendix II

Secretary's Report 2019 – 2020

Who would have thought when the club resumed training after the Christmas break in February 2020 that by March our lives would change in an unprecedented way. The closure of the club didn't mean work stopped. Not only did we have to follow the health and safety protocols of the NSW Government but as Affiliates of Dogs NSW their protocols and those of the Centennial Parklands. The submission of the NSW Government Covid-19 Plan for Community Sporting Competitions and Full Training Activities was the first step towards resuming training but not the last. Communication with Ben Gauci the Liaison Officer for Sport and Recreation at the Centennial Parklands was the final obstacle but we were eventually given the go ahead to finally resume training in October, 2020. We started small, initially with only those members who had started but not completed courses for puppies and adult dogs. The club was then opened to existing and new members.

Club membership remained high considering the lockdown from the 22nd March until the 18th October, 2020. Our membership numbers for 2019 – 2020 date from the beginning of July 2019 to our last intake of new members on the 15th March, 2020. There were 628 members comprising of 18 Life Members, 137 Renewals and 473 New Members.

The club holds an annual obedience trial that forms part of the NSW State Titles Weekend on the first Saturday in October. It is a time for club members in Class 4 to enter and compete with their dogs in an obedience ring. There is much organisation undertaken for the day and that started at the end of April when judges were contacted and if they were available contracts were sent to be signed. The trial was a success, thanks to the participants and helpers on the day with a special thanks to Julie Brandon as Trial Secretary and Heather Martyn who organised the stewards.

It has always been the practise to award club trophies, at our end of year Fun Day, to those members who have competed successfully in obedience trials during the year and 2019 was no exception. Trophies were organised and awarded for Rally Obedience to Jennifer Nicolopoulos and Leroy in Rally Novice, Leonie Kelly and Grace in Rally Advanced and Alaina Graham's dog Sophie was the Top Rally Dog of the Year.

After three years as secretary my term has come to an end and I wish the new secretary well in the job.