

## Annual Conference Review

NZ Dog Judges Assn held its Annual General Meeting in Wellington in June and followed with a conference for members.

The AGM commenced with the Minutes of the 2018 meeting being ratified and the financial statement and budget being presented. The Association posted a net profit for the year of \$2486 and the 2019/20 budget is showing a projected profit of \$900. There was quite a bit of discussion regarding the financials and in particular, the cost of holding the AGM and Conference at the current venue. The Board had recognised this and questioned the meeting on the appetite for moving to a more cost-effective venue or alternatively moving it around the country to encourage better attendance. The meeting attendees indicated that the location and timing of the AGM (i.e. Wellington on the Sunday following ACOD) was preferred, however it was agreed that the Board should look at cheaper options as a venue.

Ray Greer presented his Presidents report and in this he acknowledged the work of the board and their efforts throughout the year. He also thanked the two retiring board members, Vice President Kaye Finlayson and region 5 chairperson Mark Lawrence who had decided not to seek re-election. Ray announced the results of the elections for their replacements and the contested Region 2 & 5 positions and congratulated new Vice President Pam Douglas, Region 2 Chairperson Bruce Anderson and Region 5 Chairperson Charmaine Hoeben. He thanked Linda Strongman for her "sterling, no nonsense approach" during her term as Region 2 Chairperson.

One notice of motion (remit) and three recommendations were put to the AGM. These were all presented by the board as were as follows:-

1. Remit to make changes to the constitution. The proposed document had been circulated prior to the AGM and the main change was to remove the Regional Committees and replace these with Regional Representatives who would sit on the Board. Discussion followed which resulted in an amendment to the remit to remove the demarcation lines and have 3 representatives from the North Island and 2 from the South Island. This amendment was passed along with the remit. It will require changes to the voting processes and the Board will bring a remit to the 2020 AGM that will address this.
2. A recommendation to move the requirement to complete 10 stewarding appointments from the aspiring panel criteria to the ribbon parade criteria. This was passed.
3. Minor changes to the wording in reference to credit points was passed.
4. Recommendation to include the requirement for a mentor to observe all judges at their first championship show appointments was lost by a slim margin. The concept of mentors was received favourably however it was felt that this would be more beneficial at an earlier stage in the judge's career.

General Business included discussion on whether we could do a NZ version of the Australian Judges Guide. The board had obtained quotes for this and it was felt the cost outweighed its use and shelf life.

At the conclusion of the formal part of the day the Conference then moved to a series of presentations. Ray Greer commenced with the topic of Social Media and the effect on judges. Dogs NZ also has social media high on the radar, and it evoked a lot of discussion. Whilst it is generally felt that this is a subject that is difficult to put regulations around there was some interesting thoughts about ways in which we could combat it. Essentially it was felt that the control is with the individual judge and their response to facebook requests prior to judging appointments and being tagged in

photos. Judges are reminded that their integrity is important and ignoring attempts to solicit favourable responses is deemed to be the best action.

Karen McIntyre presented an update of the Canine Health and Welfare Committee progress and how it relates to Judges. This has become an increasingly hot topic and it was acknowledged that more needs to be done in this area and a closer working relationship between key parties, including NZDJA, is required.

The conference then welcomed Martyn Slade (Martyn Dobermanns) and Anne-Marie Reid (Moya Rottweilers) who separately presented on the subject of Judging Traditionally Docked Dogs. Both presentations included photo examples of their breed with tails and they also gave the conference members some good direction on what is considered correct tail carriage for their respective breeds. We were also given some insight into what changes we can expect to see in these breeds as the next generation of puppies hit the show ring.

For more information on the reports and presentations visit the website [www.nzdogjudge.com](http://www.nzdogjudge.com)