

# NZDJA



**NZ Dog Judges  
Association Inc**

## 2022 Seminar & AGM Overview

by Lavina Diamanti

The 10th Annual General Meeting for the New Zealand Dog Judges Association was held at the Canterbury Kennel Club grounds on McLeans Island in Christchurch on Sunday 22 May and our 3rd Judges Seminar, hosted by the board, preceded it on Saturday at the same venue. The seminar proved again to be a very popular event with many judges attending from other regions, which was heartening.

The seminar kicked off with the subject 'Great Expectations'. This was to have been presented by Lesley Chalmers, but she was unfortunately unable to attend, so yours truly stepped in. I gleaned much of the content from some of my previous articles with a few anecdotes thrown in for effect. The upshot of this presentation was that we are being judged too, and we should strive to be the very best judge we can be. (A copy of my slides for this presentation is on the website under 'Training and Education').

Pam Douglas and Karen McIntyre gave an update on the Judges Breed Observations system. COVID-19 has unfortunately meant a bit of a stilted start to the rollout but this is now part of our judging process, and all clubs and judges must be on board with it.

Karen McIntyre then presented 'An Examiners Expectations for Practical Exams'. With our next round of practicals this month it was well received, especially by those in examination mode. An insight into an examiner's perspective is always of great benefit.

After lunch we were entertained and had our thought processes put under the spotlight by Linda Strongman and her 'Chocolates and Challenges' presentation. This is one she has done before, but it was just as entertaining and thought-provoking second time around.

Meg Hamilton wrapped up the day with her enlightening presentation, 'New Judges Perspective and Expectations'. Meg opened up about her journey onto the championship judges panel and the challenges she faced. She was also quite open about those things that could have been done better and also where she received the most support.

Public speaking isn't something many are comfortable with and kudos to those who firmly stepped out of their comfort zone and presented in front of an engaging audience.

Sunday was AGM day. This is the second year we have taken the AGM away from our traditional spot in Wellington alongside Dogs New Zealand's Annual Conference of Delegates and we were heartened by the support, especially those who had flown in for the day. A couple of years ago, we surveyed our membership and this was what they indicated they wanted. It is pleasing to see that our members are following up on what they indicated as their preference.

Bronwyn Murdoch and Charmaine Hoeben, representing the Online Training Subcommittee, started the day with an update on

the 'JOLT' online training system. Despite a few teething problems, this is now up and running with the first of the new breed Open Book exams online and the next ones almost ready to be sent out. They also outlined their vision for the online training system and its capabilities.

President, Ray Greer, presided over the AGM. His President's report highlighted that we had weathered the COVID-19 storm well albeit with a challenging workload for the Board. He acknowledged the work that had gone into getting the online training system up and running, the large workload for those running the examinations, and the Treasurers efforts in controlling expenditure.

Our Treasurer, Lesley Chalmers, wasn't present but her financial report was tabled. A copy of the financial report and associated documents are available to view on the website under the news tab.

The president announced the results of the recent elections. This is the second year of elections under the new constitution, removing the Regional Chairs and implementing a staggered term of office. Five positions were up for election and there has been a change in Vice President and Treasurer, plus two new Board members elected. The results were: Vice President, Keith Brown; Treasurer, Mark Lawrence; North Island, Bronwyn Murdoch and Ashleigh Donaldson-Rogers; and South Island, Anna Ansell.

Ray Greer thanked outgoing Vice President, Pam Douglas, and Treasurer, Lesley Chalmers, for their valued contribution to the Board. Pam was the first Secretary of the Association and then was elected Vice President in 2019. Lesley was elected to the Treasurer position in 2018. Ray also acknowledged Betty Parker and Charmaine Hoeben who did not seek re-election and thanked them for their valued contributions. Betty has been on the Board since the beginning, in 2013, and Charmaine since 2019.

The meeting re-elected Annette Buxton as our Patroness and elected Brian Harris as our Patron. Betty Parker was also elected as co-Patroness.

2023 AGM is scheduled to be held in Auckland. 🐾

### National Board

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