



News and Views from the Board.

June 2025

Hi all

This is the first of what we intend to be some regular communication with our members.

Firstly, a big welcome to our new board members and a big thank you to our outgoing members - retiring President Nigel Trainor, Secretary Debbie Hull and Caroline Matheson and Charmaine Alcantara. The new board for the 2025/26 year is:

President – Lavina Diamanti

Vice President – Keith Brown

Secretary – Rosemary Weaver

Treasurer – Mark Lawrence

North Island – Bronwyn Murdoch, Sue Chaytor and Sonia Nicholson

South Island – Anna Ancell and Diane Riley

The NZDJA Seminar and AGM was held at McLeans Island, Christchurch over the weekend of 14/15th June. Unfortunately, Nigel was unable to attend the weekend due to COVID visiting his household. Keith stepped up and presided over the events both days.

Saturday started off with our newly elected President stepping in and presenting a session on the NZDJA Code of Conduct. This resulted in plenty of discussion on all 13 Codes and spilled over to Sunday as well with a recommendation for number 10 to be in line with DNZ Show Regulations 4.14. Lavina reminded judges that when we renew our membership we agree to abide by this Code of Conduct and suggested that all members refresh their memory and review the code which can be found on the Judges website as per this link.

<https://nzdogjudge.com/judges-code-of-conduct/>

Our second session of the day was from the Chair of the Disputes Committee outlining our responsibilities as a Judge and a little about how the Committee works, the process when a complaint is received and the penalties that can be imposed. Some good discussion and questioning followed.

Vice-President Keith Brown then outlined some of the intricacies of Practical exams and gave some valuable guidance for candidates.

We then had two great presentations from Dr Kirsten Wylie one on mouths and the second on movement. Her use of diagrams, images and terminology made for a very informative presentation, and we are working on getting this into a format so we can post it on the website for everyone to view. We sincerely thank Dr Kirsten Wylie for her contribution which was much appreciated by those present.

A fabulous lunch was provided in between Kirstens presentations and thank you to Anna and Caroline for arranging this.

The Open forum had some lively and positive discussion.

The AGM commenced on Sunday with a bit of a scramble to ensure we had a quorum but a few who arrived a few minutes late gave us the numbers required. Vice President opened the meeting, and the usual meeting process followed. As part of this he called for a moments silence for those who had passed, including one of our Patrons, ex-president and previously an examiner, Ray Greer and one of our very senior All Breeds judges, who was also previously an examiner, Jean McErlane.

A summary of the AGM is as follows:

- Subscription fees to be increased by CPI 2.5% to \$123 per annum.
- Recommendation to remove all references to the practicing certificate was withdrawn after discussion which gave a clear indication that the members attended felt this was an important part of our requirements and some suggested that it should be compulsory. The board has undertaken to do a review of the practicing certificate.
- Recommendation to amend the requirements for promotion to the Open Show Panel was discussed in detail and didn't receive support for increasing the number of ribbon parades and dogs to be judged. The meeting felt that obtaining ribbon parades appointments was becoming more difficult in light of the current show environment.
- Similarly, recommendation to increase the requirements to judge at open show level was subject to differing views from the meeting and this was withdrawn by the presenter.
- The recommendation to judge your last group attained at least once at championship show level before applying for your next group did receive support from the meeting with some amendments.
- The recommendation to amend the regulations to tidy the promotional requirement dates was supported.
- The recommendation to tidy the Discipline and Settlement of Disputes Regulations was also supported.
- The last item on the agenda before general discussion was two concerns, one around touting for appointments, which is a breach of the Code of Conduct, and the second requesting exhibitors mouth their own dogs. The touting concern had been discussed at the seminar on Saturday, but the board will look to clarify what is considered as 'touting' and communicate this with our members. It may require a COC update. The concerns when mouting dogs while we are judging are primarily around health, especially with parvo, kennel cough etc, but the meeting felt it is up to the individual to make that call.

A number of other points were raised and discussed in general business:

- Age and mobility of some of our judges, adding a clause to our contracts similar to the Australian one and maybe considering adding judging stakes to the GS panel to add value.
- Heating requirements at the exams in Christchurch.(this has been sorted).
- Open book exams for new breeds recognised by DNZ.
- Theory exam styles: open book vs closed book vs individual open book exams by breed.
- Changes to the Dogs NZ governance and where judges fit under that.
- Education for our members.
- Re-registration of the association to comply with the new Incorporated Societies Act.

An action-packed couple of days with many subjects covered.

Other items of interest for our members –

- The spammers are at work and with the changes to the board details being uploaded to the website, there are spam emails being sent out appearing to be from the President or one of our patrons. Please note – if you receive an email or messenger message with wording along the lines of “Are you available today? I have an important task.” Please delete. Our President will not send you emails like this.
- The new board will hold its first face to face meeting at the end of August. There will be a lot of items from the AGM on that meeting agenda, so please be patient with us. Prior to that we are concentrating on the practical exams and our new secretary getting up to speed with her role.
- Thank you to our Christchurch members who have entered the exam shows. Auckland is still a bit thin in some groups, Working Dogs in particular, but also Terriers, Hounds and Non-Sporting. If you haven’t done so already, please support your fellow judges with their exams. See the schedule on Page 38 of the May Dog World. We are aware that exam day can be challenging but we are incredibly grateful to all those who turn up with their dogs, sometimes being judged by multiple candidates, for without dogs to judge the exams cannot proceed.
- The treasurer is currently reviewing outstanding membership fees, and there are a few of them. If you have not paid your annual fee your name will be removed from the judging panel very soon.
- Finally, you will notice some updates on the website. Initially we just want to focus on getting this up to date but a full review will be undertaken in due course.

Did you know.... The Xoloitzcuintle, which we now have one in New Zealand being exhibited, is one of the ‘primitive’ breeds. The absence of hair is genetically linked to the absence of teeth, so missing teeth is not a fault in the hairless breeds.

A reminder – The secretary’s email address secretarynzdja@gmail.com is now with Rosemary so you can continue to communicate with the board via this email. Queries around financial matters go to the Treasurer at treasurerNzdja@gmail.com.

Lavina and the Judges board.