

ALEXANDRA & DISTRICT DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB INC

PRESIDENT'S REPORT for 2015 – 2016

It gives me much pleasure to present to you the Alexandra & District Dog Obedience Club Inc Annual Report for 2015 -2016. This is a very special year for us, as 2015 – 2016 sees our club celebrating 25 years of providing Obedience classes for the dog owners of Alexandra and the surrounding District.

2015-2016 has also been a year in which ADDOC has continued to make excellent progress. Membership numbers have risen steadily each month and are currently at an all time high. There are now 7 Instructors volunteering their time to conduct classes.

The new Obedience Program, introduced in February 2015, has proven to be very successful. Since its introduction we have had a record number of Puppies and Older Dogs graduate from the Kinder class with a satisfying number of these graduates continuing on to complete the Family Companion Certificate Class. In our Advanced A & B Classes we also have a wonderful group of handlers and dogs enjoying the extra challenges at this higher level.

Rally Obedience and Agility classes are still available on the 4th Sunday of each month and are received with enthusiasm! Tracking classes started off well but have lapsed since our Instructor became unable to continue due to ill health. Thankfully she is on the road to recovery and the possibility of restarting the Tracking Program will be investigated when the time is right.

The club has continued to take every opportunity to showcase the talents of our handlers and their dogs. We always receive terrific support from members when we ask for volunteers for our display teams. Congratulations to all of you as it can be truly nerve wracking to perform in Public!

Public Appearances for 2015 -2016:

- Walk through the town. In August, before the Annual General Meeting, a large number of members and dogs arrived at 10am and went for a very cold and foggy group walk down the main street of Alexandra.
- Yea Community Market. In October, there was an excellent turnout on a beautiful sunny day in Yea which enabled the demonstration to include exercises from all sections of the Training Program, from Kinder right through to Advanced Level.
- Alexandra Show. In November, members from the Advanced A & B Demonstration Team really shone while displaying the talents of their dogs. They looked fantastic and were loudly applauded by the large audience.
- RSPCA Million Paws Walk. The weather was kind and on another beautiful Autumn morning the club put on an Obedience Demonstration with handlers and dogs from Kinder Level through to Advanced Level showing what they could do. Everyone then enjoyed their walk around the Pondage and the sausage sizzle afterwards.
- Visit to the Country Women's Association. In May 2016, 3 members and their dogs attended a CWA meeting where we gave a short talk on how to choose the right dog for your family. We did a very brief obedience demonstration and answered lots of questions.

We finished off our training for 2015 with a rowdy, fun filled Breakup Day on November 29th. Members, with their dogs, family and friends spent the morning competing fiercely for a winning

place in the different games and activities!!!! Winners are grinners! and sometimes enthusiasm was more important than skill!! This was followed by a delicious, very welcome, barbeque lunch. We finished off the day with our World Famous Sausage Race.

Our 2nd Fun Day in May this year was another very enjoyable social occasion for all members of the Club. In spite of the weather, which was miserable, everyone enjoyed themselves. There was much laughter, cheering and again, that competitive spirit was very much in evidence! After the fun and games we were more than ready for a hearty lunch of sausages, onions and coleslaw.

Letting the general public know about our Club and what we do is very important. Once a month we have had very interesting, informative articles in the Alexandra Standard and the Yea Chronicle. We have flyers and business cards available at the Veterinary Clinics in Alexandra, Yea and Kinglake. Our website is also available and the Murrindindi Shire website now has a direct link to our website as well. Club members are kept up to date with a quarterly club newsletter with items of interest and photos.

Sadly, in November, we had to say farewell to a dear friend Greg Tulloch when he lost his long battle with cancer. Greg was a Life Member and Patron of the Club. He and his wife, Betty, have a lifetime of involvement in the dog world both as competitors and as highly respected Obedience Judges. They have been strong supporters of ADDOC and Greg will be greatly missed by the Committee and those members who knew him. Vale Greg.

Betty Tulloch continues to be one of our Club Patrons and the Committee was delighted when Doug Norman, well known, very popular, local vet, accepted an invitation to become our new Patron. Welcome Doug.

I wish to finish this Annual Report by thanking the dedicated and enthusiastic team who have helped make the year so satisfying and rewarding. Once again I must say a BIG thank you to the Club Executive: Vice President – Bronwyn McFadyen; Secretary – Julee Hosking (who always goes above and beyond the call of duty) and Treasurer – Rosey Chester, and to the General Committee Members and Instructors – Lynne Walter, Barb Tanner, Mary Davies, Lyn Sproles and Pam Poole. Nothing is ever too much trouble. Thank you for your laughter and your friendship.

Behind the scenes there is another great support team – they turn up early with a trailer to help load and unload Agility Equipment or gazebos and barbq; weld bits and pieces together and create new equipment; give much needed computer advice or do a fantastic job manning the barbq at special events. Thank you from everyone to – David Roberts; Doug Walter; Chris Chester and Mike Hosking.

Finally, thank you to all our General Members. You are the best! Your achievements and enjoyment are what it's all about. Well done everyone.

Jeanne Roberts

President

