

President's AGM Report

I would like to welcome you all to our 2017 Annual General Meeting, and thank you for attending.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Committee for their valued help and support during the last 12 months

To the instructors who week after week make themselves available no matter what the weather conditions to assist the club members being responsible dog owners and developing their skills so they can continue their development during the week.

The members who assist the club in a number of different ways e.g. cooking the BBQ, putting up and pulling down the rings on club Fun days or assisting on the day of the clubs trial. Your effort is invaluable at the club

The club held its annual Obedience and Rally Trial in October attracting a total of 184 entries for the day. This was an increase of 14 entries for the day from the previous year, 3 in Obedience and 11 in Rally. Although there was only a small increase in entry numbers, we could turn a loss in 2015 into a profit for 2016. Leap PetCare also sponsored the fixture and has come on board again for our 2017 trial

Our last day of training, the committee continued the format for the day that was adopted on previous year

The club's presentation night was held one week later where we recognised 8 special awards and 37 titles gained by the members during the year

We also conducted 3 Fun days throughout the year with 87 entries in May (20 less than May 2016), 97 entries in July (Not held in 2016) and 98 in August (same as August 2016).

This year the Weerama festival was conducted on one day and in one general location and not various locations as in 2016. The club participated in the march down Watton St on the Sunday and was well represented by a number of members of the club. We also had a stand the Werribee Pet and Animal expo and conducted two demonstrations on the day. Both demonstrations had large numbers of spectators watching. Again we had a number of members assist the club on the day

At last year's AGM I reported how the members had been impacted throughout the year due to the council permitting various festivals at Presidents Park throughout the year. More events were held later in 2016 with one occurring on the day of our trial. I held various meetings with the council re the disruption to our members. Since those meetings there has only been one event held at Presidents, however we were only informed of the event the week of it occurring. This has been raised with council and two council members who represent the ward for President Park. They were also scathing of the way the event was conducted with parking etc and are raising it at a council meeting to conduct a review on how events are conducted at Presidents Park. Some of the things they would like reviewed are OH&S, Car parking, how an event is to be cancelled if required etc. If anyone would like more details on this please come and discuss with me

This year we have again seen experienced trialling people from other clubs joining the club. Feedback is that we have strong training principles out on the ground along with trialling member's knowledge and pro-activeness. Some of these new members are traveling up to 3 hours on their return trip. Again, we are seeing more and more members coming into the club rooms and socializing with other members each week

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I have continued to hold meetings with the council for maintenance to be conducted on the building and ground. This year I have not been as successful as previous years and have sometimes found this very frustrating not being able to get some simple task completed such as Power Points installed or padlocks replaced due to their contracting staff not replacing them on the gate when they leave. However, I have been able to get them to trim various trees damaged over time or trimmed back that were overhanging walkway etc. We have also had the lighting in the car park upgraded to LED's at no cost to the club. Around February 2018 we will be having some more major maintenance carried out on the skylights and the veranda of the clubrooms. At this stage, I do not believe it will have any impact on training days

I have been invited by the council to work with them on the Domestic Animal Act along various Vet's and other animal businesses for their draft of 2017 – 2021 of the act. Part of the Act is the registration of animals with the council

I reported last year that 2015 / 2016 financial year the club had a drop off in new members. During the 2016 / 2017 it has stabilised to be much the same as the previous year. The committee has a number of short term plans to be implemented but unfortunately, we are not able to carry those out at this stage. This will be discussed at item 6 of tonight's agenda

We operate in a dynamic and changing environment and are aware of the demands that today's society places on our Club and members. This requires us to constantly try and improve in what we do. Whilst it is great that we have a core number of people filling committee positions, helping out on fun days etc, it is also important that new people stand up and fill vacant positions that exist on committee. New members lead to new ideas and often improvements to the club. It can sometimes be easier to sit back and leave things to a small few, remember it's your club too.

You will see by the agenda there are vacant positions, therefore, it's important that you don't sit back and complain or express concern about the decisions being made about the way the club is being run, you need to put your hand up and join in the decision-making process and help things change.

To the new committee it is a challenge that you can grab and move forward in a positive manner for Werribee Obedience Dog Club

Ray Ashman
President