

KDWA 2024 AGM – Annual Report

This year has been a transitional one as we have had fluctuations in the committee, but it has been successful in Council communications and taking stock of our purpose and mission as an organisation. January saw Dr Peter McIntosh step down as President, and I agreed to fill that place – ably supported by the rest of the committee – until we could find another President. Also in January we gained Deborah Fleming OAM as Vice President. The time came for Georgia Clark to resign from the committee midyear, and we are very grateful for her years of involvement including service as a past President.

In April we made a submission to Council's Tracks & Trails Strategic Action Plan for 2024-2034. I then met with Mayor Paula Wriedt for the first time in May, and agreed to aim for six-monthly meetings in the future. Paula continues to be supportive and a source of practical advice, and we are maintaining up-to-date contacts at Council.

Committee members met with the Media & Communications Advisor for Kingborough Council, Sam Adams, as part of community consultation in August about

- a) the basketball (Jack Jumpers) training centre going into Kingston View Drive and
- b) unconfirmed potential for establishment of the AFL High Performance Centre in the vicinity of the Twin Ovals.

The AFL centre could impact the greyhound and dog exercise areas if it were to proceed, and possibly the Southern Obedience Club would have to be relocated. We supplied Sam with a wish list for alternative dog exercise areas and features if current areas are impacted.

KDWA received a generous member bequest of \$5,000 from Roger Biggs, which adds to our financial security and prompted us to re-evaluate bank account setup.

Vice President, Deborah Fleming has been working tirelessly on the campaign to 'End funding of greyhound racing by 2029' and has made good headway both behind the scenes and in the public space. There have been pro-welfare headlines in Tasmania and ACT, and two high-profile mainstream figures have come aboard as non-political ambassadors for the cause. They are Greg Irons of Bonorong Wildlife Sanctuary, and Home and Away actor Christie Hayes of the very popular 'Christie and Dan' show on Hobart Hit FM.

In a positive direction for our ongoing Renting with Dogs project, legislation was tabled in June which would effectively change the default to 'pets allowed'. Minister for Small Business and Consumer Affairs, Madeleine Ogilvie, said changes to the Residential Tenancy Act 1997 would ensure that Tasmanians do not have to choose between a place to live, and the pet they love.

We followed up on a dog welfare concern from a member of the public as their experience highlighted the efficacy gaps within the Animal Welfare Act and RSPCA structure. Whilst welfare management is outside the scope of KDWA, we were pleased to be recognised as a source of advice as we are actively involved in improving future legislation.

We began a membership drive with the goal to boost numbers and ultimately replenish the committee. This involved a discounted membership, clarified benefits pitch and flyer printing and handouts, with 'outreach' sessions planned for Kingston Beach.

My appreciation goes to our committee, for the consistent teamwork and goodwill towards dog and man!

Jess Adams