



Pawsitively the best walks!

There's still plenty of summer days to enjoy great walks with our furry friends including a trip to the beach—oh, happy dogs, wagging tails, big smiles! Our new walks schedule is on page 7 and includes walks in Geeveston, Huonville, Copper Alley Bay, Franklin and Randalls Bay. So bring your dog and join our walks—you'll both have fun!

Our Summer Survival Guide for dog owners is now on our website at <https://www.dogwalkingtas.org.au/huon> As well as information about managing your pets during the hot weather there's an updated list of dog-friendly accommodation, cafes and exercise areas in the Huon Valley.

Also in this issue: Garage Sale on 5 April, Greyhound Racing update and a warning about leaving dogs in hot cars.



Willow and Scarlett have the best time at Randalls Bay!

ABOUT THE HVDWA...

The Huon Valley Dog Walking Association Inc. was started in October 2011 by a group of people who perceived the need for improved facilities for dog walking in the Huon Valley. HVDWA is a member of Tasmanian Dog Walking Clubs (www.dogwalkingtas.org.au). Contact details are on the membership form on Page 8 or find us on facebook.

The main aims of the Association are to:

- Help establish and maintain safe dog exercise areas in our towns and monitor access for dogs at local beaches and public walking tracks.
- To have social walks on a regular basis.
- To help improve the image of dogs in general through safe practices, education and training.
- To promote responsible dog ownership.



Updates

Legislation: HVDWA acknowledges MP David O'Byrne's role in the passage of the "Protecting People and their Pets" Bill which successfully passed Parliament and became law in December 2024. This amendment to the Family Violence Act 2004 allows instances of family violence involving pets or other animals to be treated similarly to other conduct amounting to family violence. National not-for-profit organisation Lucy's Project has been a fierce advocate for better supports for people and animals who are experiencing family violence. Their tireless work in highlighting this issue in Tasmania and advocating for reform should be acknowledged.

Kingborough: The Kingborough Dog Walking Association and Southern Obedience Club have been advised that the Kingston View Drive dog exercise areas and Gormley Drive dog training area are to be lost to the AFL. Both organisations are discussing options with Kingborough Council.

Dog Welfare and Management: HVDWA has recently responded to the Tasmanian Dog Welfare Review and Huon Valley Council Dog Management Policy Review.

Introduction to Scent Work course: Places are still available in this course which will involve 2 sessions, small class of between 6-8 participants and cost \$60 per person. For further information contact HVDWA at: huondogwalkers@gmail.com or phone 0424 504 043.

Garage Sale



Loads of Bargains!

10Am - 2pm, Saturday April 5th
Cradoc Hall, Channel Hwy, Cradoc.



No early birds please

Donations welcome!
Please call 0412 535 800 or email to
Huondogwalkers@gmail.com



Greyhound Racing Update

HVDWA has been a long term supporter of the campaign to end government funding of greyhound racing. We know from our discussions with many of you that dog lovers in the Huon Valley are very concerned about the fate of racing greyhounds in Tasmania and other States.

2025 is starting on a high. Everywhere you look, greyhound racing is under pressure and suffering setbacks.

In mid-December 2024 in **NZ**, the conservative government has announced the phase-out of the industry because of unacceptable rates of death and injuries, phasing it out over 20 months.

In **NSW**, Greyhound Racing NSW lost its CEO and an inquiry is unveiling the cruelty and moral corruption at the heart of the industry. The GRNSW partnership with gambling giant Ladbrokes is on "life support".

In **WA**, a petition of 27,000 signatures against greyhound racing was presented to parliament and a parliamentary inquiry is expected.

Greyhound Racing **Victoria** has been forced to make data reporting more transparent and has recently been hit with another live baiting scandal, prompting calls for a widespread inquiry into the sport while the University of **Queensland** has paused its rehoming program that was killing greyhounds.

In **Tasmania**, 38 vets and vet nurses came out against dog racing. A few days later advocates launched a petition against dog racing.

All states recorded major losses in wagering revenue. GRV had to be bailed out with an emergency loan to keep operating.

Every greyhound advocate who raises their voice helps to diminish the lies and power of the racing lobby. Every email to a racing minister, every meeting with an MP helps to convince them of the community's growing anger. Every post or share helps to keep alive the names of the greyhounds that are swept under the carpet.

Thanks to our Kiwi cousins, momentum is with us and the industry is panicking. We must maintain the pressure and take all opportunities to highlight the ongoing plight of our beautiful greyhound friends.

“It is utterly immoral to allow yet more greyhounds to enter this unsustainable morass of exploitation and suffering.”

Dr Alex Brittan, ex-chief vet Greyhound Racing NSW

Greyhound Racing Update—The campaign in Tasmania

Deborah Fleming, Vice President, Kingborough Dog Walking Association

HVDWA is one of 12 community organisations including other dog walking associations, RSPCA and Dogs Homes of Tasmania pushing for an end to taxpayer funding of the 'industry' in Tasmania.

On 2 December 2024, Kingborough Dog Walking Association president, Dr Katrina Ward, alongside eminent veterinary colleagues Dr Tering Stafford and Dr Vibeke Russell, launched a major new initiative involving 24 Tasmanian veterinarians and 14 vet nurses.

In an unusual, indeed unprecedented public stand the vets called out greyhound racing as 'inherently and unavoidably cruel'. At their joint media conference the vets spoke from their own professional experience about the extent of greyhound suffering they see in their clinics.

At the event, there was also a screening of a graphic 60 second video showing traumatic race deaths in Tasmania. It was very hard to watch and it moved many to tears. If you want to really understand why so many people are now so convinced that the industry is irredeemable you need only watch a few seconds of the video to appreciate what is motivating this passionate and growing campaign. News coverage of the vets event was substantial and extensive. It included a front page lead in the Mercury on Dec 1 and second lead story on the state's most watched TV news, 7 Nightly News.

In response the community groups campaigning to end the 'sport' in Tasmania have written an open letter to key Tasmanian politicians. Both Liberal and Labor parties strongly support greyhound racing despite proven overwhelming public opposition (EMRS poll Oct 2023). They have also launched a new e petition to the Tasmanian Parliament. It takes 30 seconds to sign. Here is the link:

<https://lcepetitions.parliament.tas.gov.au/lcepet/Home/PetitionDetails/46?title=Petition%20Details>
The petition **closes on 3 March 2025**.

These latest initiatives were launched in Hobart on 14 December 2024. Speakers included Greg Irons, Bonorong founder (and greyhounds campaign co-ambassador), Andrew Wilkie, Federal Independent MP for Clark and Dogs' Homes of Tasmania CEO Mark Wild. There was extensive media coverage that evening and the following day.

Further information: <https://greyhoundcoalition.com/>

End funding for Tasmanian greyhound racing by 2029



greyhoundcoalition.com/end-greyhound-funding-tasmania

Committee & Meetings

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2024-25

Vacant	President
Rozel Duncan	Vice President & Public Officer
Heather Brown	Secretary, Newsletter Editor
Neala McGregor	Treasurer
Joanne Ward	Walks Coordinator
Val Andrews	Committee Member
Kerry Salmon	Events Coordinator
Karen van der Veen	Committee Member
Margie Murray	Minute Secretary

Next meetings in 2025

22 February

22 March

26 April

24 May

Unless otherwise advised, committee and ordinary meetings are held at 10.00am on the 4th Saturday of each month at the DS Cafe, 12 Main Rd, Huonville.

Contact the HVDWA Secretary by
email: huondogwalkers@gmail.com or phone: 0424 504 043

As a financial member of the Huon Valley Dog Walking Association, your support and input are valued and you're most welcome to join us at monthly committee meetings. However due to venue and time limitations, we ask that you advise the Secretary of your attendance and any topic you want to raise for discussion so that it can be added to the agenda. All members attending the meeting are respectfully requested to keep discussion to within items on the agenda.

2025 membership

As we are in our new financial year, membership renewals are now due. Membership fees are still \$20 for a single or \$25 for a family membership. Please use the form on the final page or pay by EFT.

Your fees, which haven't changed since our inception in 2011, assist us to meet our annual running costs which include Public Liability Insurance, Tasmanian Dog walking Clubs membership, tax, reporting and registration fees, advertising and printing, all of which continue to increase each year.

We recognise that some members do choose to let their membership lapse for many reasons including, for some, no longer owning or walking their dog. Just let us know so that we can amend our records.

There are always new planning and development issues as well as policy and regulatory issues impacting on dog welfare and recreation in the municipality. You, as our members, are well situated to both raise concerns with us or provide input when needed for our work in representing your interests.

We value your contribution and hope to see you continue membership over coming years.

Summer Walks

Don't forget to bring poo bags and water for your dog(s). And please take used poo bags with you! All walks commence at 10.30am unless specified and take around 1 hour.

If the weather looks inclement on walk day, please check our Facebook page or website www.dogwalkingtas.org.au

Saturday 8 February - Heritage Park, Geeveston: Meet at the main car park behind the Town Hall. Walk across Heritage Park to the Platypus Walk then follow the river as far as the steps at the end of the walk. We then ascend the steps to cross the road - take care at the top of the steps as the footpath is narrow. Once across the road, continue the walk along the riverbank and around Memorial Park to the RSL. Pass the RSL and return across the road, down the steps and back along Platypus Walk until we reach the fenced dog exercise area where dogs can go off lead for a run and play. You may even see a platypus!

Tuesday 18 February – Skinners Creek Track, Huonville: Meet on the Esplanade, opposite Huon Jet Boats, then follow the signs for the walk. There are several options for this walk, so depending on the weather on the day we can either do a long walk or a short one.

Saturday 1 March – Copper Alley Bay: Drive into Cygnet and proceed through the town and the roundabout, keeping the Service Station on your left. Go past the Yacht Club and drive for about 4kms when you will come to a bridge. Once over the bridge turn left into Nichols Road and drive down to the water's edge. This is an on-lead walk which is very pretty and popular.

Thursday 20 March - Franklin Foreshore: Meet in the car park below Osteria @ Petty Sessions. Dogs must be on lead until we are past the Caravan Park. They can then go off lead until we reach the Wooden Boat Shed and once again there is the opportunity for a play and a swim before we return the same way.

Sunday 13 April —Randalls Bay: If coming from Huonville, drive south through Cygnet, turn left at the roundabout and drive south along the Channel Highway until you come to the turnoff to Randalls Bay. Drive down the hill and park near the barbecue area. Dogs must be on lead until we are past the barbecue area then they can go off lead to enjoy the beach.

Wednesday 23 April – Castle Forbes Bay: From Huonville drive south to Castle Forbes Bay, past the cool stores on the left. A couple of minutes down the road there is a sign for Crowthers Road; immediately after this sign turn left into the parking area. The walk starts on the path to the right of the parking area, near the highway. Follow the path along to a road which leads down to the foreshore. Dogs should be on lead for the first part of this walk as the road goes quite close to the highway.

Did your human promise you a car ride and take you to the vet?

You may be entitled to compensation.



DO NOT SIT, STAY, AND SETTLE.
PAW US TODAY TO SCHEDULE
YOUR PRO-BONE-O CONSULTATION

EST. 2024
Sniffem, Lickem,
& Stickem
Attorneys at Paw

Auggie, ESQ.
(Founder and Good Boy)

Off lead and under control ?

Several of our walks are 'off-lead' but please be aware that, under the Dog Control Act, it is the owner's responsibility to keep their dog under control and in sight at all times.

We love to see our dogs running free and playing together but sometimes there maybe a distraction or situation where your dog is not responding to you as he/she normally would and needs to go back on the lead. You may need to put your dog on a lead if he or she:

- Has poor recall
- Has a habit of running off out of your sight
- Is aggressive or upsetting other dogs
- Is behaving in a way that endangers itself or others
- Any other situation where you feel that you don't have control of your dog.

In addition to putting a dog on lead for the behaviours outlined, it is an owners prerogative to have their dog on lead during any of the walks if they feel it is in the best interest of the dog.

We hope this information helps you and your dog to have a fun and relaxing walk.

New Members Welcome

If you'd like to become a member, simply fill out this form and send it to the address below or, join us on a walk and deliver it personally!

Membership Application/Renewal form Huon Valley Dog Walking Association (Inc)

To October 2025

Member No (if known).....

Name (s).....

Address

Dog(s) Name(s).....

Phone(s).....

Email (Please print).....

Amount tendered \$..... subscription for

\$20.00 Single Membership OR \$25.00 Family Membership

My Dog(s) vaccination is current (Yes/No).....

You and your dog(s) participate in Huon Valley Dog Walking Association walks and activities at your own risk. The responsibility for your safety and the safety of your dog rests with you as a responsible member of the Association.

Signed: Date: _ / _ / _ _ _

Enquiries to: 14 Pages Road, Grove, Tas. 7109
Ph: 0424 504 043 or email: huondogwalkers@gmail.com

Pay: Huon Valley Dog Walking Association (Inc.)

Cash/Cheque/ EFT BSB – 633000 Account No – 144419819

Reference is your surname: _____ or your membership number if you have one.

**Please forward this form with payment to the above address if paying by post.
A receipt and membership card will be issued for new members.**

TOV