

**NATIONAL GOLDEN RETRIEVER COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the National Golden Retriever Council's Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, 27 November 2002, commencing at 8.30 pm AEST via telephone link.

1. Welcome by the President.

President welcomed all State delegates.

2. Attendance.

In attendance:

*President
Secretary*

*Sandra Patterson (Chair)
Claire Kaspura (Minutes Secretary)*

Delegates:

Queensland
New South Wales
Victoria
Tasmania
South Australia
Western Australia

Jean Stephens
Julie Matthews
Jane Fall
John Wadsley
Barbara Moore
Leonie Maley

3. Confirmation of the Minutes:

It was moved: South Australia: seconded Tasmania: that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28 November 2001 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting. CARRIED

(It was noted that these minutes had been amended to include corrections submitted by the GRC of SA Inc (22 February 2002) and the GRC of Victoria Inc (25 April 2002) – this correspondence had been circulated previously.)

4. Business Arising from the Minutes:

4.1 Breed Standard Extension:

The final draft Breed Standard Extension document had been circulated to all clubs prior to the meeting.

It was moved: NSW: seconded: Tasmania: that the National Golden Retriever Council submit to the ANKC for their approval, the Breed Standard Extension document entitled "The Golden Retriever – Explanation of the Breed Standard" – compiled by the National Golden Retriever Council 2002. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.2 Web Site:

It was moved: Western Australia: seconded South Australia: that the "position statement" circulated with the agenda papers by the Secretary be adopted as the content for the web site. Carried unanimously.

It was noted that the establishment of a web site will provide an important source of information on NGRC affairs for all club members.

The Secretary advised the cost for the establishment and maintenance of a domain name is approximately \$US 99 via the Dog Web site used by Mark Hodges for other clubs. It was suggested that the NGRC budget for this expense and that the possibility of sponsorship be explored.

It was moved Western Australia: seconded South Australia: that the NGRC proceed with the establishment of a web site. Carried unanimously.

4.3 Payment of \$50.00 Travel Levy.

The Secretary sought clarification of the resolution carried at the 2001 AGM, to pay a \$50 travel levy to cover the President's expenses in attending ANKC/National Breed Council Conferences should interstate travel be necessary.

It was agreed that the Secretary proceed to invoice all Clubs for the \$50.00 levy not collected in 2001 together with the 2002 levy and membership fee. Invoices to be distributed as soon as possible.

4.4 GRC of NSW National:

The NSW delegate advised that the National will be held at the RNSW Canine Complex at Erskine Park and that a flier is to be sent to all clubs detailing judges, accommodation etc and other details.

4.5 Register of Dogs Tested for Hereditary Conditions:

Members reported on the status of register in each state as follows:

QLD: Nothing to report
NSW: Register continues to grow – about 480 dogs currently on register.
VIC: Nothing to report or update. Individual breeders doing their own registers and adding onto NSW. Victoria is looking to possibility of including their information with NSW register.
TAS: Getting underway, but slowly. Bit of reluctance on the part of people to submit information.
SA: Gathering information, getting it onto database more of a problem.
WA Continuing as normal with same database they have had for years.

Delegates felt that once the database appeared on the web site, more contributions from the states would be forthcoming.

4.6 Register of Sire/Dams with Titled Progeny:

Members reported on the status of register in each state as follows:

QLD: Nothing to report
NSW: Collected quite a bit of information. Is also proposing that information contained in certificates submitted to the Club to form the basis of the register.
VIC: Collected quite a bit of information - not able to put information together.
TAS: Similar to Victoria.
SA: Similar comments to Victoria and Tasmania
WA: Information is collected and organized.

It was suggested that each club update the form to contain a consent clause for publication of information on the website

4.7 National Tattoo Identifiers Register:

Members reported on the status of register in each state as follows:

QLD Has a register.
NSW Has a register although micro-chipping compulsory in NSW. Noted that Guide Dog Association uses numerical tattoo numbers and had difficulty tracking a rescue dog as we did not know this.
VIC: Not a very popular thing to tattoo. We seem to be more into microchipping than tattooing.
TAS: Similar to Victoria.
SA: Continue to progress. Most breeders are micro-chipping. Use GSD service for tattooing puppies
QLD: Utilises the greyhound association service.

WA: Haven't got very far with this. Cannot add much information to it.

The Chair noted that any additions to State based registers are to be sent to the NGRC Secretary so that the information can be added to the National Register.

5. Correspondence:

No business arising.

It was moved by South Australia: seconded: Victoria: that the incoming and outgoing correspondence as circulated be accepted. Carried.

6. President's Report

A highlight of 2002 was in August when The Golden Retriever Club of Western Australia hosted the 4th Golden Retriever National. What an event it was. Congratulations to the club on staging a truly wonderful few days.

It was a grand effort to organize this event in a space of two years and is testament to what can be done when everybody battens down the hatches and gets to work for the good of a common cause.

To the working party "chief", Leonie, congratulations on leading a great team and to the team, congratulations on the support you gave to Leonie and to each other. This support was more than evident at the Dinner following the show as appreciation flowed for Leonie's leadership.

Not only was the National successful in so far as the show itself was concerned, but it managed to encompass all what we are about and the camaraderie and togetherness that only a love of Golden Retrievers can bring forth.

Next year, as breeding stock born after 1 January 2002, nears breeding age, the new ruling requiring the mandatory hip scoring of all breeding stock will be have an impact on those registering their litters. Whilst hip scoring is a normal practice amongst most of us, it will be interesting to see any reaction forthcoming from the not-so-ethical breeders and what avenues they take to either comply or non comply.

At the ANKC Breed Council Conference, Dr Bruce Robertson addressed the meeting with a proposal for a National Eye Scheme, which was being developed by the ANKC and the Ophthalmologists around Australia. It was great to hear that Breed Councils will have a part to play in the scheme and their advice will be sought in relation to various details pertaining to the particular breed. This will mean that golden owners and breeders will have the opportunity to express their views via their breed club who can in turn express its view to the Breed Council.

The scheme as outlined is a step forward in that testing procedures, the forms used and reports generated would be standardized nationally. The results, pass or fail, will be added to a public database, and ALL results will be correlated.

The idea of the information being publicly available is evidence that professional bodies support a future of open disclosure and it is enlightening to note that the NGRC has already taken proactive steps in this direction with the promotion of its Hereditary Disease Register.

2003 will be a busy year for New South Wales as it works towards its National in May 2004. I am sure all members wish them a smooth journey towards what will certainly be another successful National.

To all those who have assisted me throughout the year – thank you for your support, loyalty and continued belief in the National GRC Breed Council.

Sandra Patterson
President

It was moved NSW: seconded Tasmania: that the President's Report be accepted. Carried.

7. Secretary/Treasurer's Report:

Secretary's Report:

The year 2001-2002 has been relatively quiet albeit with much work going on in the background to finalise the Breed Standard Extension for submission to the ANKC. On behalf of Council members, I would like to recognize the work undertaken by Sandra Patterson, Lyn Mansfield and Julie Matthews in bringing the project to finalisation. Subject to your approval, a clean, bound copy will now be submitted to the ANKC for approval.

In relation to questions concerning the collection of hip score data from Australian Scoring Centres arising from last year's meeting, I have to report that both Graeme Allan and Professor Wyburn have agreed to forward results to the Council subject to the dog owner's consent. I did not receive a response from the AVA, have since tried to contact Dr Roger Lavell without success, but will follow this contact up. I also spoke to Dr Malcolm Willis, who advised me that he still wished to receive Australian data and was hoping to report on Australian progeny results by October/November 2002. As I have not heard from him, I will phone again to see if I can hurry things up. Two points arising from my conversation were one, that he was not willing to forward data to individuals, and two, that he would not supply the Council with data collected without the consent of the dog's owner. It may be that Council members might like to put some thought into how the Council might acquire "historical information". In relation to contacts with the GSDL and Rottweiler Council's, I receive a long response from the GSDC but no response from the Rottweiler Council. I think the GSD missed the point of our questions and it might be worth following up on this.

In terms of establishing a database on the NGRC web site, may I direct members to the National Golden Retriever Council's site in the United Kingdom for an example of what might be possible. That Council publishes eye test results.

The ANKC/NBC Conference was once again a very useful forum. Of interest was Dr Bruce Robertson's discussion of a proposed AVA-ANKC National System for Assessment and Certification of Abnormal Eye Conditions. I will circulate Dr Robertson's paper via email for each member's information.

Finally, I would like to thank all Club Secretaries and Delegates for their cooperation throughout the year. I look forward to working with you again in 2002-2003. I would also like to say that I had a great time in Perth, when many of us had an opportunity to meet for the first time. I hope Christmas and the New Year is safe and happy. We in NSW will be hoping like mad for rain so that we don't have another Christmas spoilt by hot weather and fires.

Treasurer's Report:

I circulated a draft statement via email on Monday. I realize now that the statement is a little misleading in that it lists "unpresented cheques" which relate to the 2000-2001 financial year. I'm not an accountant and should have balanced the numbers by including these expenses in the opening balance. I was late in getting the books to Mrs Vanja Neus for auditing but hope to have a complete audited financial statement for circulation to all members by the end of next week.

In passing I should note that while we have an account balance of \$1,008.98, the Council is not in good shape in terms of being able to meet its basic liabilities over the next twelve months. However, this situation would be improved should you concur with my understanding that members agreed to pay a "travel levy" of \$50.00 per year at last year's meeting. Based on last year's experience this Teleconference is likely to cost around \$400.00, and we will have to contribute to the President's expenses due to her attendance at the ANKC/NBC Conference in Melbourne, 2003. The Web-Site charge of \$200.00 per annum, the teleconference, and the auditor's fee will absorb more than the annual income.

I am happy to respond to any questions.

Claire Kaspura

Secretary

During the ensuing discussion, the Secretary advised that an increase in membership fees was not necessary at this stage. By the time all 2002 fees are paid, the Council should be in a good position for the next 12 months. The position should, however, be monitored and reviewed in 2003. It was recommended that the travel levy go into general revenue. It was noted that a motion already on the books authorized the NGRC to seek payment for specific costs from member clubs.

It was moved: NSW: seconded Western Australia: that the Secretary look into rates for teleconference facilities and/or other options (internet) prior to the next AGM. Carried

It was moved: Tasmania: seconded Victoria: that the Secretary/Treasurer's report be accepted. Carried

8. Other Reports:

8.1 Breed Standard Extension Working Party:

Tonight is rather a milestone for the Working Party in that it is able to submit "*The Golden Retriever*" – *An Explanation of the Breed Standard* to this Annual General Meeting for approval to be on forwarded to the ANKC.

It is hoped that this approval will be forthcoming from all member states and that the final stage ie ANKC approval, can be achieved without fuss and with the true spirit of this document in mind.

This Breed Extension was first discussed by the NGRC in 1996 and it has taken this many years of hard work, effort and belief in the document to be able to be where we are today. I was indeed so fortunate to have members of the Working Party who carried this belief and supported the document every inch of the way. My sincere thanks will always be with them and also with all the people who worked and supported this venture behind the scenes.

To all those golden enthusiasts within the various member clubs who also believed in and supported the document, THANK YOU – we hope that you will be pleased with the final product once it is approved by the ANKC. We also hope that the document fulfils its purpose to help judges, breeders and owners understand our breed and the qualities which set the Golden Retriever apart from others.

It was enlightening to note comments made to me by one involved in the typesetting of the document. Prior to her involvement with the Breed Extension the breed was confusing, however, she now felt a better understanding of the Golden Retriever and had gained valuable knowledge. This is exactly what we all hope will continue to happen with those who read our Breed Extension in the years to follow.

No doubt over time there will be need for revision and updates to this document. I do hope that this occurs with good spirit and that the frustrations and set backs that have occurred remain a thing of the past and are never ever repeated.

Once again, thank you to everybody. We are almost there.

Sandra Patterson
Chair
Breed Standard Extension Working Party

It was moved Western Australia: seconded South Australia: that the report be accepted. Carried.

8.2 Hereditary Disease Working Party

It moved South Australia: seconded Tasmania: that as most of the matters dealt with by the Hereditary Disease Working Party are at the moment covered by the

Secretariat, that this Working Party be disbanded until such a time as it is deemed necessary for it to be re-established. Carried.

8.3 Delegates' Report and Minutes: ANKC/National Breed Councils Conference:

The delegate, Julie Matthews, noted that the minutes had been circulated to all clubs. No questions or comments were forthcoming.

9. Notices of Motion:

9.1 Premature Death in Golden Retrievers:

It was moved NSW: seconded South Australia: that the ANKC, through the Canine Research Foundation, provides grant monies to University researchers to explore the cause of asymptomatic and premature (by age 7-8 years) death in golden retrievers.

For the Motion: QLD, NSW, VIC, SA, WA

Against the Motion: Tasmania: on the ground that the wording of the motion was not specific enough.

CARRIED

During the ensuing discussion it was noted that the Secretary would explore the process for applying for grants, and would seek some advice on specifying the research topic more accurately.

It was moved Victoria: seconded: South Australia: that a similar survey be carried out within breed clubs. Carried.

The GRC of Victoria's delegate agreed to locate a survey conducted by that Club, for review and amendment as appropriate by input from all member clubs.

9.2 Protection of Historically Important Prefixes:

It was moved South Australia: seconded NSW: that the NGRC (Australia) advise the National Golden Retriever Council (United Kingdom) that attempts to protect historically important prefixes/affixes from use by unrelated persons have failed in Australia. Therefore, the NGRC (Australia) suggests that the NGRC (UK) may like to take up this issue with the British Kennel Club. Carried unanimously.

9.3 Registration of Litters Subject to Eye Examinations:

It was moved South Australia, seconded NSW: that in view of the work being undertaken by the Veterinary Ophthalmologists to establish a National Screening Program for inherited eye conditions, and the advice that all breeders now have access to veterinary ophthalmologists, the NGRC requests the ANKC to conduct a survey of golden retriever breeders in order to:

- (a) recognise that the golden retriever breed suffers from inherited conditions in the eyes; and**
- (b) that registration of litters of golden retrievers be restricted to those litters where the sire and dam hold current (within the last twelve months) eye examination certificates issued by a qualified veterinary ophthalmologist. Carried unanimously.**

It was noted that under the proposed scheme all forms would be standardized.

9.4 Scoring Centres for Hip/Elbow Dysplasia:

It was moved South Australia: seconded Tasmania: that in order that the NGRC may commence collection of Hip Dysplasia data from all Australian Scoring Centres, that a legal opinion be sought for the correct wording of a consent clause to be added to the scoring documentation. Further, that upon receipt of this

opinion, the wording is to be forwarded to all scoring centres requesting that it be included on their Hip/Elbow Dysplasia result documentation and that where consent is given, that the data is to be forwarded to NGRC. Carried unanimously.

The Secretary to enquire about wording with GSDL and Rottweiler Councils.

9.5 Hip Dysplasia – Open Register:

It was moved South Australia: seconded NSW: that an open register be established for all hip score results submitted to the NGRC. Further, that this register is to be published on the NGRC Web Site and to contain all data collected as from the date of the passing of this motion. Carried unanimously

9.6 Hip Dysplasia – Retrospectively Collected Data:

It was moved South Australia: seconded NSW: that Hip Score data collected prior to the passing of this motion only be published with the consent of the legal owner of the data. Carried unanimously.

9.7 Hip Dysplasia Open Register:

It was moved South Australia: seconded Western Australia: that sponsorship for the establishment of an open register of Hip Score data, and any future hereditary disease result data, is sought from independent sources. Carried unanimously

9.8 NGRC Web Site:

It was moved South Australia: seconded Tasmania: that the NGRC seek sponsorship for the establishment of a web site. Carried Unanimously.

9.9 ANKC-Canine Research Foundation Research Proposals:

It was moved by South Australia: seconded NSW: that the following items be submitted to the ANKC's Canine Research Foundation's program:

- (a) That research is undertaken in relation to vaccinations, currently recommended as being annual, and the need and advisability for the frequency of these vaccinations.
- (b) That research is undertaken into the establishment of a titre test that can be used in veterinary practices to show levels of immunity instead of an animal being automatically given a vaccination.
- (c) That research is undertaken into cancer and its relationship to annual vaccinations.
- (d) That research is undertaken into the side effects caused by long-term use of heart worm preventative treatment. Carried unanimously.

10. Any Other Business:

10.1 National Show:

The delegate from South Australia sought permission to host a National Show, Obedience Trial and Gundog Working Test in 2008. A ballot paper is to be circulated to all clubs seeking NGRC approval.

10.2 Vote of Thanks:

A vote of thanks to Sandra Patterson and Claire Kaspura for the work done by them in 2002 was supported unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00 pm.