**TAUPŌ DOG TRAINING CLUB (INC)**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

I have pleasure in presenting my President’s Report for the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the club.

**Facilities and Maintenance**

There have been some good improvements at the club over the last year.

* The new fence around the training area has been well commented on, especially in providing a safer seating option at a more comfortable height during shows.
* The second enclosed training area has been installed. These two training areas and the recall run have proved to be valuable training assets for the club. Originally indicated as being Puppy training areas, they have been used for all levels of Obedience classes. Installation of lighting for these facilities have enabled them to be used for evening classes throughout the year, rather than just in the period when Daylight Saving is in force.
* Wooden light poles at the grounds have been replaced with concrete poles. These poles will have a far longer life than the wooden ones, which were found to have the same internal rot problem as the one the that blew over in Cyclone Gabriel. The new poles are fitted with cross light brackets, which give greater flexibility on the adjustment of the lights. These, along with two additional LED lights, have resulted in improved illumination of the training area for evening classes.
* A replacement sign has been installed by the main entrance gate to give greater visibility for the club and draw people’s attention to the existence of the club.

**Funding Grants**

Funding Grants from several organisations or trusts have been used to cover most of the costs for the installation of the enclosed training areas and the lighting poles. Unfortunately, applications for funding grants for covering the deck area on the club house were not successful. Only part funding from one source was received and this was returned as the club was unable to cover the balance of the rest of the project. New applications for this project could be submitted next year.

The club house itself needs maintenance that is considered appropriate to be undertaken by a qualified builder rather than on a DIY basis through a working bee. An application for a funding grant for this work resulted in half the cost being met and a second application has been submitted to cover the other half. The outcome of this application should be known within the next month.

Further grant applications to cover repainting of the building should be submitted in the Spring, when the weather is more suitable for exterior painting to be undertaken.

**Obedience Shows**

Two successful Obedience Shows were held during the year, the one in May attracting a large number of entries.

**Training**

CGC training was conducted during the year and a successful CGC Assessment was held with entrants from a wide area.

The club has continued to offer basic Obedience and Agility classes.

Numbers registering for training have been slightly down on numbers for last year. This is considered to be a result of a number of factors:

* The economic climate in NZ, with people unable or unwilling to expend money on dogs (or other pets) when times are hard.
* There being two private dog training businesses newly established in the area (one in Taupō and one in Turangi) that have been promoting their services heavily on local social media. These businesses have the advantage of, amongst other things, being able to offer training on days and at times that suit their customers.
* People not being able to attend classes on the club’s training night. Classes at other days and times have been offered, but with limited success.

Nevertheless, the retention level in the number of people completing Level 1 classes and going on to Level 2 classes has increased over the last two terms.

**Administration**

In continuation of the advances in administration through the online registration and payment systems, the club has made increasing use of a dedicated club email system associated with the club’s website. This results in the club’s business-related emails being more appropriately handled and stored online, rather than an individual’s personal computer or email service.

Additionally, a Google Drive has been set up for the storage and handling of official club correspondence, documents and audio or video recordings. Advantages of this system are that documents and data are accessible from any device with an internet connection. This means that Committee members can view and edit documents from their computers or tablets no matter where they are, thus improving communication among members and enabling the Committee to better manage the activities of the club.

In closing, I would like to thank those members who have provided support to the club over the year through taking classes, organising shows or assessments, and turning out to assist with Working Bees.

****Thanks also to those who have made a positive contribution to the committee over the last year.

**President**

12 August 2024