



## **President Christmas Message December 2018**

**To all present, Fellow Executive Committee, Committee, Life Members, Members and families welcome to Wangaratta Kennel & Obedience Dog Clubs Christmas Party.**

**I wish specially to welcome**

- **Life Members Jean Witte Rhonda Monshouwer**

Tonight, is a special occasion with the unveiling of the Ruby Eggleton memorial seat in honour of her tireless selfless work ethics that was a driving force within this club also to thank all those who have contributed throughout the year with the continued growth of our club, and with the volunteers that have contributed to all our functions throughout the year such as the Wangaratta Fun Run our May Trials, June Championship Show, August Trial and the Lions Swap Meet. I want to thank especially those volunteers who work within the Club in various ways and to thank the many other people who work within our organisations.

We are becoming more and more reliant on technology these days to run and organise events ...

I am not suggesting for a minute that we should take out the "human" element of our club because this world is reliant on skilled labour and volunteers... but the foundations of a Club (business) , particularly if growth is a key factor, it has to be based on systems .... this ensures consistency, control and transparency ... Key areas to think about to systemise... \* Delivery of great training \* Financial control \* Recruitment of Instructors \* Sales , ("Some will ask what sales" you need to think we sell our training to the public every month) These are just a few .... we already have systems and processes in place, even if they are in our heads .... start documenting them one at a time ... tweak where needed and then let someone else follow them. I guarantee if you do this well it will change your Club.

Thanks to our many volunteers:

More than 30 people give time and care each year in supporting Functions provided by our club: for training, for office management, for communications, such as facebook Web Page Newsletters our monthly walks etc. Without these members volunteering our club could not function, the teamwork has been absolutely fantastic. Volunteering is often a simple action that matters the most such as our visitation to nursing homes etc. volunteers make weekly visits to their friends in aged care facilities, and the feedback from staff of the facilities, family and the residents is highly positive. It is not possible tonight to mention all our volunteer services or all who volunteer.



But as President I must thank most sincerely all who do voluntary work for our club within the community, quietly and efficiently without expecting any special recognition – all of you who give up your time to enrich the lives of others in our community. It would be inappropriate generally to single out one member, but I am sure you will forgive me if tonight I single out Ron Webb who has been there supporting me and getting things done that, I haven't been able to due to work and health commitments.

Thanks to the executive committee and Instructors of this great Club We are fortunate with all the executive committee and Instructors who often work long hours and always provide a high level of service to our club. Tonight, special thanks go to all of you as your support and tireless hours in running this club cannot go un rewarded and to many of you here know, they are dedicated to providing high quality community services to our club and its members.

#### onclusion

In conclusion may I say that as President I have observed some stressful and a little anxiety in our club at times when things seemed not to be going right, but it all works out in the end when we help one and another, We see some stressed out members of our community as well. In this context the work of volunteers in making people's lives easier and less stressful is especially important. We are very aware of and grateful for the work you all do in promoting great teamwork having fun at training to help those people within our club, to relax and enjoy their time at our club just to train and have fun with their canine friends this helps with the stress of our everyday life issues. The power of your efforts in preventing social isolation is a major factor. This is the key to a healthy and happy community. Thank you for what you do for our club and the general community of Wangaratta. I hope that as a club we can continue to help by listening and responding to the needs of our community.

As you can see we have had some major works during the latter part of this year with the new building trenching works for the power plumbing etc. with members turning out at very short notice to assist to get the job done. As our growth continues, we need to keep in mind any improvements or works on our grounds must not interrupt or change our environment and or problems within our very close waterways.

As 2018 comes to an end, planning is underway for 2019. In February we have the Wangaratta Fun Run once again, in May, our Obedience Rally O Trials followed on with our June Championship Show then August Agility Obedience etc. Remember we have our AGM in February as well, so we look forward to opportunities to strengthen the support and teamwork within our club and for our local community organisations. Please do watch out for more information on this forum in the New Year.

For now, I wish to say thank you to you all for your support during a very tough year for me with some health issues but with all your support it has made my job so much easier. In closing I wish all the hard-working committee, Instructors members and families and indeed our sponsors, a safe, healthy and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.