

THE AUSTRALIAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION INC.  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> August 2023

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year has seen a slight decrease in new members, but a slight increase in member renewals. The flow on impacts of COVID cannot be overstated, particularly on the flyball community. The past year has seen a slow, but promising post COVID growth in the form of new, up and coming dogs in training. We look forward to seeing these new dogs in the racing lanes in the coming years with anticipation and optimism.

This year has seen a significant change in committee members, particularly in the executive committee. As a result, a portion of the year has been focused on the changeover and associated components.

In relation to the committee changeover, I would like to take a moment to specifically thank Patricia Byrne and Brian Lindsay for their time served as dedicated members of the AFA committee.

Pat served as a member of the AFA committee as both the AFA Treasurer and a key member of the Web team. Joining the committee in 2007, Pat held the position of treasurer for approximately 15 years. Pat has been instrumental in the development of the AFA web portal and database, as well as managing, maintaining and modernising the AFA financial systems.

Brian served as a member of the AFA committee in the Secretarial position. Joining the committee in 2007, Brian has also held the position of secretary for approximately 15 years. For anyone that's unaware, the secretarial role on any committee is by far the most time consuming and critical role to any association's success, Brian was at the core of all the progress that the AFA achieved during his tenure as secretary.

Pat and Brian have been instrumental in shaping the AFA into the association that it is today, and both they, the current committee, and the broader member base, should be proud of all they've achieved during their tenure as committee members. On behalf of the committee and member base, I thank Pat and Brian for their service.

## Highlights of the year

### Nationals

The 2022 Nationals saw 40 teams travel to the Hawkesbury Showgrounds for the annual event. Thankfully it was an indoor event as the weather gods weren't in our favour! Congratulations to Norwest for running a successful event. The call to host the 2023 nationals unfortunately went unanswered, as such, The AFA Committee has taken on the task to ensure the members didn't miss out. It is shaping up to be even bigger than last year with a final entry count of 44 regular teams and 5 open teams. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

### Developments

A tender document has been developed for the development of a new EJS solution. In conjunction with a development partner, the aim of the project is to prepare for the replacement of the aged and now unavailable, signature EJS system that's in use today. We anticipate the project will progress to partner selection and development over the course of the 2023/24 year. We look forward to the progress of this project.

The committee also applied and subsequently qualified for a technology grants program this year.

What does this mean? It means the AFA now has access to free and discounted technology, which we have previously been paying full price for. We are in the process of transitioning some of our current services to take advantage of the benefits, we will also investigate what other benefits that the AFA can take advantage of in the future.

Finally, a project is underway to integrate online payments into the AFA online platform.

As well as being a leap forward in technology, it also simplifies the process of new memberships, renewals, title applications and race meeting fees. It also significantly reduces the administrative overhead of the AFA web team & Treasurer.

## Constitution Refresh

This year, the committee has taken on the mammoth task of reviewing and updating the tired and somewhat obsolete constitution. The purpose of the review is the modernise the constitution, as well as updating components no longer relevant and allowing for growth and flexibility moving forward. Whilst the project is still ongoing, there will be communications sent to the membership about the proposed updates in the upcoming year.

## New Dog Titles

Congratulations to all our dogs and their handlers who have achieved new titles over the year.

Based on points recorded as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, here are the major dog milestones:

CRN	Name	Breed	Points	Title	Club
67F	Izabella	Border Collie	3089	Flyball Dog Grand Champion - Jeddah Award	CDC X Factor
333C	Jackie	Border Jack	2394	Flyball Dog Grand Champion	CDC X Factor
419D	Ivy	Kelpie	2280	Flyball Dog Grand Champion	Norwest Flyball Club Inc
2503B	Rock	Border Collie	2228	Flyball Dog Grand Champion	CDC X Factor
2815A	Bentley	Belgium Kelpie X	2226	Flyball Dog Grand Champion	Sydneysiders
660G	Chase	Border Collie	2204	Flyball Dog Grand Champion	Norwest Flyball Club Inc
535D	Cookie	Koolie x	2177	Flyball Dog Grand Champion	Norwest Flyball Club Inc
2408B	Dakota	Border Collie X	2165	Flyball Dog Grand Champion	Frankston Dog Obedience Club Inc
2174B	Dekota	Kelpie X Malinois	2135	Flyball Dog Grand Champion	Supersonics Flyball Racing Club
1151B	Astro	Border Collie X Jack Russell	2081	Flyball Dog Grand Champion	Dover Gardens Kennel and Obedience club
1273C	Frankie	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	2061	Flyball Dog Grand Champion	Vic Weiners

Well done to all dogs and handlers.

## Appreciation

The 2022/23 Committee members were:

Drew Harrison	AFA President
Josh Ellen	AFA Vice President
Kylie White	AFA Secretary
Jo Slade	AFA Treasurer
Kathryn Royes	Regional Representative; Queensland Web team member.
Belinda Fry	Regional Representative; Victoria. Web team member.
Carmel Nottle	Regional Representative; South Australia.
Michael Ashton	Regional Representative; ACT. Public Officer of the AFA.
Frank Lux	Regional Representative; NSW.
David Strong Paul Newman	Regional Representative; Tasmania. General Committee member.
Theresa Good	General Committee member.
Samantha Brown	General Committee member.
Rosie Milton	General Committee member.
Ben Royes	General Committee member.
Richard Mellon	General Committee member.
Amanda Pennekuik	General Committee member.

The 2022/23 non-Committee office bearers:

Robyn Addie	Supervisory Judge Member of the Rules Subcommittee.
Anne Coleman	Titles & Awards
Julie Pamplin	Points and Seed times
Jodie O'Brien	Chief News Editor

On behalf of the Association, I thank all Committee members and non-Committee office bearers for their contribution and commitment over the year. Our committee members are all volunteers who put in a lot of time and effort to ensure that the Association can run smoothly.

I take this opportunity to say farewell and thanks to Committee members Kylie White, Rosie Milton, Theresa Good, Frank Lux, Sam Brown and Carmel Nottle, who have decided not to stand for the 2023/24 Committee.

I'd also like to welcome new members Louise Stephen, Zac Day and Lauren Monohan who will be confirmed at this meeting. The position of S.A. Regional Representative remains unfilled.

Elections for the 2023/24 committee will be held shortly, all the best to David and Ben, who are facing a vote for the position of Secretary.

In closing, I'd like to wish the new Committee, Officials, flyball members and dogs all the best for the upcoming year.

Regards,  
Drew Harrison

AFA President