**Australian Flyball Association Inc.**

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**‘The Flying Times’**

AFA Homepage: [www.apex.net.au/flyball](http://www.apex.net.au/flyball)

No. 13 - 18 September 1998

# President’s Report

Over the last year there were nine sanctioned Flyball competitions held in the ACT, NSW and Victoria. These have proven to be the catalyst for the growth of the sport of Flyball Racing in Australia. To all those clubs and in the case of the Canberra Royal Karen Swan and Nerida Winters, your contribution to the sport of Flyball Racing in this country will prove historically invaluable.

Without the foresight shown by those who made these competitions happen, Flyball Racing would not enjoy the growth it has to date.

Many members would be aware of the World Rankings on the Internet. The AFA committee has made a policy decision that Australia’s fastest time on those World Rankings should be verified by electronic timing and video evidence. This requirement is only for those teams wishing to break the record, all other times will be recorded at sanctioned competitions with or without electronic timing will be posted to the World Rankings. This action was taken to give the Australian Record the status and recognition it deserves.

During the second year of operation, membership has increased 350% over the previous year, a direct result of the hard work and dedication shown by all AFA members Australia wide. In many areas demonstrations and competitions are taken to the public, this has attracted significant numbers of people never before interested in organised dog activities. The benefits to flow from this activity will result in the promotion of responsible dog ownership, increased membership for canine control bodies and the enhancement of many canine lives.

#### ANKC Report

The focus of the AFA to date has been to develop the sport of Flyball Racing into a recruitment tool for organised dog activities. For this reason the AFA allows any dog to participate. The main requirement of our permission to use the internationally accepted rules developed by the North American Flyball Association is that we allow any dog to participate.

***Newsflash Newsflash Newsflash***

**National Australian Flyball Championships (NAFC)**

The Australian Flyball Association will be holding the first “National Australian Flyball Championships (NAFC)” in 1999. That’s not too far away! The date is to be decided - but we will let you know as soon as it is finalised.

***Newsflash Newsflash Newsflash***

The ANKC has decided to develop its own rules to govern the sport of Flyball Racing whilst the AFA has not given up all hope of some form of joint approach to Flyball Racing with the ANKC. It has proved very difficult to encourage some state controlling bodies to enter into any discussion at all, to ensure everyone in Australia participates using the same rules and interpretation of those rules, which I believe is necessary to allow Flyball Racing to reach its full potential in this country.

The reason the ANKC is unable to use NAFA rules is NAFA’s insistence that any dog be allowed to participate. To my knowledge the West Australian Canine Association is the only Australian state that allows any dog to participate.

I must at this point thank the Canberra Kennel Association for their assistance and support of our objective to encourage as many people as possible to get their dogs out of their backyards and into the world of organised dog activities. We also thank the RNSWCC for publishing temporary approval for their members to participate in AFA events.

We also thank Rodney Gooch (VIC) and John Gaylor (SA) for taking on the position of regional representatives. Their commitment to the establishment of the sport in their respective states is to be applauded and is an invaluable contribution to the long term success of Flyball Racing in Australia.

With the enthusiasm of all AFA members, we look forward to the future enhancement of many more canine lives around Australia through this amazing sport.

*At this time I would like to pass on a huge vote of thanks to Steve Pitt, President, and AFA for the drive and initiative he has shown heading up the AFA.*

*Steve really is the lifeblood of the Association and his work often goes unrecognised and unpaid. As members, we should all be proud to have Steve at the helm as his best interests are really in the sport of Flyball and its members and what Flyball can do for dogs in our community. Thanks Steve from all the AFA members.*

*I would also like to say thanks to Vicki Kennelly, Treasurer, AFA as she has been doing most of the paperwork and data entry of keeping the membership up to date, creating the Steward’s Pack and the Introduction Pack, just to name a few*

*- and that is besides being the Treasurer. Thanks Vicki, from all of us.*

*Ed.*

# AFA Mission Statement

To develop the sport of Flyball Racing in Australia promoting organised dog activities and responsible dog ownership.

# AFA Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Flyball Association was held on Friday 28 August 1998 at the Kangaroos Rugby League Football Club, Queanbeyan.

It was great to see so many people there, especially from interstate. Thanks to all those who made the long trip to Canberra, especially from Melbourne, to be at the AGM. We would also like to thank John Allen, CKA for his kind words to us. He expressed that he will continue to support the Australian Flyball Association and will be pushing at the next ANKC meeting to have the AFA titles recognised by the ANKC. John believes that Flyball deserves recognition as it is truly a sport for the dogs! We thank John for his support.

Following the AGM there was a bit of a party with a fantastic band by the name of “Miriad” (contactable on 02 6299 7475 for those who are looking for some great entertainment) and lucky door prizes. There were some great two-steppers there!

Thanks are given to Dale Power who kindly donated $20 to the AFA on that night.

There were a couple of issues that were on the agenda under General Business and following is the outcomes:

### Sale of Merchandise

After discussion on what types of merchandise would be marketed (t-shirts, caps, stubby holders, stickers etc) and where it would be sold

(demonstrations, competitions, via the newsletter, etc) a motion was passed that the Committee be given permission to investigate and introduce AFA merchandise.

### New 2000 Point Title

After a ballot of members it was accepted that there be a 2000 point award title and that it be called “Australian Flyball Champion (AFC)” - this was an almost unanimous choice.

### Height Cards

After discussion with those present regarding different ways in which height cards are issued in various clubs/countries etc, the President asked the question if members wanted height cards introduced. The result was a resounding yes. A motion was moved that height cards be introduced and that the new committee investigate the best system by which the cards will run.

### Treasurer’s Report

The balance at bank as at 30 June 1998 was

$1819.33. A copy of the auditor’s report is attached for your information.

### AFA Committee for 1998/99

All committee positions were declared vacant and the 1998/99 committee was voted in. The 1998/99 AFA Committee is as follows:

President: Steve Pitt Vice President: Justine Figg Secretary: Raelene Gibbs

Treasurer: Vicki Kennelly Public Officer: Marc Harris Committee: Nerida Winters

Eric Van Zuyden Scott Mann Jennifer Nipperess Lorelle King Raymond Williams

Regional Reps: Rodney Gooch (Victoria)

John Gaylor (South Aust)

We welcome all those new faces onto the Committee and look forward to an exciting year of promoting Flyball to all in the community.

We would like to sincerely thank two of our active members of the Committee who have unfortunately had other commitments and were not able to stand this year - Alison McCann and Tamara Brown. Thank you both for your real contribution over the past twelve months.

We all wish Tamara Brown the very best for her move to Melbourne. It was mentioned at the meeting that as Tamara is following one of our previous Committee members, Dee Scott, into the same company, we will need to charge a recruitment fee! Well it is all good news for the Melbourne Clubs and sad for Power Paws because Tamara also owns a reliable, speedy Flyball Dog - Claudia.

# Novice Competition

Due to injuries occurring in the Novice Competition, the AFA suggests that Novice be run off-lead with the handlers running beside the dog.

Reasonable control must be able to maintain for the dog to be able to be run off-lead. This will also prevent the lead knocking over jumps on top of dogs. This action is purely for safety reasons for both dogs and handlers.

# The Winter Classic

## - Sponsored by PAL Professional -

Saturday 29 August was an absolutely beautiful day. With the competition situated on the foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin overlooking Parliament Houses (old and new) and watching a group of early morning balloonists taking off - it was magic.

The competition was opened by the local Chief Minister - Kate Carnell and the day started with an unofficial record of 21.05 seconds by the Hoon Squad.

There were a total of 14 teams racing making it a very full and busy competition. As the day whisked away so quickly, there was a change in the running pattern. It was to be a round robin followed by a single elimination, but later in the afternoon the Team Captains were called together and it was agreed to only run the round robin.

The results of the day are as follows:

### Open Division 1

1st - Hoon Squad (BT=21.05sec)

2nd - Power Paws Red (BT=21.78sec) 3rd - Croydon Rockets (BT= 23.19sec) 4th - Eurogliders (BT = 24.41sec)

### Open Division 2

1st - Queanbeyan Border Patrol (BT=25.55sec) 2nd - Flying Dog Squad (BT=27.58sec)

3rd - Tug-O-Wars (BT=31.74sec)

4th - Power Paws Minis (BT=35.40sec)

### Novice

1st - Hot Dogs

2nd - Scamperin ScallyWags 3rd - Power Paws Lightning

There was a sausage sizzle, raffle tickets, and an RSPCA donation dog present on the day. All proceeds were donated to the RSPCA for all those unlucky dogs who don't live like ours. It was a very successful day with approximately $750 being donated to the RSPCA.

Sincere thanks to PAL Professional for their support for this event.

The AFA would also like to thank Scott Mann and Nicole Beasley for their donation of $40 from the sale of their fantastic new Flyball T-Shirts.

Sporting a humorous Flyball print and the caption “Flyball - it takes a lot of Balls”, they were a hit on the day. If you would like to purchase one of these shirts or find out more about them please contact Scott Mann on 03 9541 8982 (ah).

# Lonnie Olson Registration

The Lonnie Olson Clinics still have some places available. Please remember that there are only 40 places for people with dogs at each of the Canberra and Melbourne Camps. Fence sitters are unlimited.

If you have not already sent in your registration, please do so quickly as we will soon be opening up the places to non-AFA members and the local dog clubs - DON’T MISS OUT!

# Out and About

### RNSWCC Companion Animal Day

On Saturday 5 September 1998 a group of dedicated Flyballers made the trip to Centennial Park in Sydney to do some demonstrations at the Royal NSW Canine Council Companion Animal Day - to support and inform about the new Companion Animal Act in force in New South Wales.

Apart from the rather drizzly weather (it must have been a disappointment for the organisers), it was a good day with spirits remaining high throughout. A shame that the weather drove off a lot of the spectators however the opportunity to speak to Wes Stacey of the RNSWCC was not to be missed and was very informative. There were also some interesting stalls, breed information and demonstrations.

# Verifying Times

To post an Australian record time from an AFA Sanctioned Competition it is necessary to have electronic timing and supply a video of the event with the steward showing the time sheet which shows which heat is about to race and a view of

the time at the completion of the race from the electronic timing gear. It is necessary to have all the dogs racing in picture at all times and all cross- overs must be visible. There must be the time and date displayed on the video.

# Advertise Your Next Event

TBA Canberra Royal Flyball Competition

### April

TBA Farm Sunday

Sydney Royal Easter Show

### May

TBA ACT Companion Dog Club Flyball Competition Narrabundah, ACT

Do you have an upcoming Flyball event happening? It can be in the near future or further down the track. Well the AFA would love to hear what is happening in your area and to add it to our calendar. We are aiming to have a complete calendar of Flyball Competitions and Demonstrations for the whole year (and the following year). This will allow people to allocate their time for your event and in the case of interstate travellers - put in for their holidays from work.

Please forward your information to the Editor, The Flying Times at the AFA .

Editor: Raelene Gibbs Ph: 02 6236 3033 (ah)

Email: raelene.gibbs@fapm.com.au

# Calendar of Events 1998

### October

3 The 1998 PAL Victorian Flyball Challenge Keilor Dog Obedience Training Centre

AJ Davis Reserve, Fullarton Rd, Niddrie Contact: Rodney Gooch 0411 486649

AFA Sanctioned Event

25 Bendigo Show Flyball Competition Bendigo Showgrounds Dog Area Contact: June Hunter 03 9366 3364

AFA Sanctioned Event

30 Lonnie Olson Camp Canberra (Day 1of2) Flyball Master Trainer Extraordinaire Contact: Raelene Gibbs 02 6236 3033

### November

1 Lonnie Olson Camp Canberra (Day 2of2) Flyball Master Trainer Extraordinaire Contact: Raelene Gibbs 02 6236 3033

7&8 Lonnie Olson Camp Melbourne Flyball Master Trainer Extraordinaire

Contact: Rodney Gooch 0411 486649

**November 98 (contd)**

14 Queanbeyan Flyball Competition Queanbeyan Showground Contact: Steve Pitt 02 6299 4908

AFA Sanctioned Event

### June

12/13 Border Challenge Flyball Competition Albury Dog Club Grounds

Contact: June Hunter 03 9366 3364

AFA Sanctioned Event

### Competition Dates TBA

TBA Mooroolbark Festival

TBA National Australian Flyball Championships (NAFC)

Please note that all competitors at an AFA Sanctioned event must be financial members of the AFA Inc.

### The 1998 PAL Victorian Flyball Challenge

Once again Keilor are providing their magnificent hospitality when hosting the AFA sanctioned 1998 PAL Victorian Flyball Challenge on Saturday **3 October 1998** — an especially good weekend for interstate teams as it is a long weekend.

The competition will be held at AJ Davis Reserve on Fullarton Road, Niddrie. Open Division 1, Open Division 2 and Novice division will feature on the day.

For more information or an entry form, please **contact Rodney Gooch** on 0411 486649 or by email on rkgooch@ozemail.com.au.

### Bendigo Agricultural Society Inaugural “PAL” Flyball Spectacular - Oct 25

Keilor are busy out promoting the wonderful sport of Flyball and have announced their 2nd competition for the year ... **Bendigo Agricultural Society Inaugural “PAL” Flyball Spectacular** - an AFA Sanctioned event.

The event will take place on Sunday **25 October**

1998 at the Bendigo Showgrounds Dog Area.

There are two divisions being run - Novice and Open. Check in will commence at 11.00 am with Racing to start at 12 noon.

Proudly sponsored by the Bendigo Agricultural Society and Uncle Ben’s of Australia - PAL.

### 1999

**February**

If you would like to know more about the Bendigo event or require an **entry form** please contact **June Hunter** on 03 9366 3364.

# Queanbeyan Flyball Competition - 14 November 1998

*The* ***Queanbeyan Flyball Competition*** *will be held at the Queanbeyan Show on Saturday* ***14 November 1998****.*

*There will be three divisions - Open 1, Open 2 and Novice. This is sure to be a great, fun day. Get your teams together and start preparing!*

*For an* ***entry form*** *or more information about this competition please* ***contact Steve Pitt*** *on 02 6299 4908.*

## The Border Challenge 1999

Albury will be the home of the Border Challenge to take place on the Queen’s Birthday long weekend in June 1999 (12 and 13 June). A great venue for interstate teams to meet “half-way” and a weekend long enough to enjoy a bit of a break as well.

There will be two days of competition (Saturday and Sunday) and there is talk of a bit of a party on the Sunday night. If you are interested in coming along to this event it is suggested that you book early (like nowish) as although there is a lot of dog friendly accommodation in Albury, there will also be the “Winery Walkabout” on that weekend (I know what we can all do on Monday! But who has to drive?)

All enquiries should be directed to June Hunter on 03 9366 3364 (ah).

# Pedigree Names on Titles

If you wish for your dog’s title certificate to bear his/her Pedigree Prefix, please ensure that when you complete the Title Redemption Form that you write your dog’s complete name into the space provided.

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It is asked that you write clearly on the form as it is from this that your dog’s name is taken for his/her award.

## Thanks Reg

The AFA would like to sincerely thank Reg Dwyer for looking after the Flyball Homepage and the Flyball Mailing List. He has spent a lot of time promoting the great sport of Flyball.

Your interest and support has been greatly appreciated.

For subscription to the Internet Australian Flyball mailing list, please contact Reg Dwyer on e-mail address: **r-dwyer@adfa.oz.au**

## Contacts

The postal address for the AFA is PO Box 1442, Queanbeyan NSW 2620.

E-mail via Steve Pitt on e-mail address: KNINECOMFORTS@bigpond.com

If the AFA can be of help, please contact us by mail or phone Steve Pitt, President on 02 6299 4908 or mobile 0414 795 589.

# Flyball Books

#### “Flyball Racing - The Dog Sport for Everyone”

**by Lonnie Olson**

One of the best Flyball books available. This book explains Flyball from equipment and how to make it, through training, preparation and competition.

An easy to read book with loads of explanatory photographs.

Contact Boldacious Books on 02 6299 6330.

***‘Flyball Training from Start to Finish’* by Jaqueline Parkin**

Ms Parkin takes you through all necessary lessons to make your dog a Flyball champion.

***‘Flying High’* by Joan Payne.**

Covers procedures for developing skills, problem solving techniques, equipment selection and lots more. A must for beginners, teachers and competitors alike.

These two books are available from Paws in Print on 03 9795 9158.