

2023 Annual General Meeting

Held at Oaks Cypress Resort, Pokolbin, NSW and online via Zoom

Date and Time: Friday, 13 October 2023, at 5:30 pm (AEST)

Minutes and Actions Arising

Chair: Louise Ginman

Attendees: In-person

Name	Surname	Member No.
Denise	Bergin	10892
Karin	Bridge	
Sarah	Campbell	1932
Isabel	Cetin	12745
Sophie	Coulter	13174
Petra	Edwards	2376
Mark	Ehrman	2096
Frances	Etheridge	13043
Pauline	Ferguson	925
Louise	Ginman	103
Adriana	Gonzalez	12983
Meg	Hannan	1146
Alysha	Harvey	13121
Angela	Hervey-tennyson	234
Sandy	Lack	
Adele	Lindley	2143
Teisha	Mason	2365
Steph	Mccoll	300
Jessica	McNamara-Rice	1492
Eileen	Metherell	356
Hanne	Moore	
Melanie	Norgate	2312
Emma	Quick	12755
Ana	Rutter	12986
Laura	Ryder	
Alisa	Sannikova	2386
Rhonda	Sclanders	1487
Paula	Smith	13067
Jude	Tuttleby	1367
Adriana	Vergara	10940
Juliet	Ward	11436
Suzy	Whymark	79

Attendees: Via Zoom: Dr Lisa Ackerman

Apologies: Agi Herman, Robin Oliver, Christine Woodgate

Agenda Item	Summary
1. Welcome	The meeting opened at 5:30 pm. President Louise Ginman welcomed members to the meeting.
2. Previous Minutes	<p>Motion: That the minutes of the 2022 APDT Annual General Meeting held on 28 October 2022 be accepted.</p> <p>Moved: Jude Tuttleby</p> <p>Seconded: Rhonda Sclanders</p> <p>Motion carried</p>
3. Business Arising	None
4. President's Report	<p>The President, Louise Ginman, presented and read her report covering the period from the last Annual General Meeting in October 2022 to date. A copy of this report is attached (see Attachment 1).</p> <p>Motion: That the President's Report be accepted as a true and accurate record of the events of APDT Australia Inc. in the last twelve months.</p> <p>Moved: Louise Ginman</p> <p>Seconded: Pauline Ferguson</p> <p>Motion carried</p>
5. Treasurer's Report	<p>The treasurer, Mark Ehrman, presented the Treasurer's Report (i.e. Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet) for the financial year ending 30th June 2023. A copy of this report is attached (see Attachment 2).</p> <p>Motion: That the Treasurer's Report be accepted as a true and accurate record of APDT Australia Inc. finances in the last twelve months.</p> <p>Moved: Mark Ehrman</p> <p>Seconded: Paula Smith</p> <p>Motion carried</p>
6. Election of the 2023–24 Committee	<p>The outgoing President, Louise Ginman, vacated the Chair in order for new Committee nominations for the coming year, noting there were no contested position nominations.</p> <p>On behalf of APDT members, Louise thanked the outgoing Committee for their service to the organisation over the past year.</p> <p>As no contesting nominations for Executive or Ordinary Committee positions on the Committee were received, the Returning Officer declared the following candidates duly elected:</p> <p>Executive Committee (4 positions) President: Louise Ginman (#1055) – returning Vice-President: Jude Tuttleby (#1367) – returning Treasurer: Mark Ehrman (#2096) – returning Secretary: Christine Woodgate (#) – returning</p> <p>Ordinary Committee (8 positions) Alisa Sannikova (#2386) – returning Rhonda Sclanders (#1487) – returning Isabel Cetin (#12745) – returning Denise Bergin (#10892) – returning</p>

Agenda Item	Summary
	Following the election, four casual vacancies for Ordinary Committee positions remain. Under the Constitution, the committee may make appointments to these vacancies.
7. Written notices of business submitted under s.27(4) of the Constitution	None
8. Nominations for Honorary Life Membership submitted under s.5(2b) of the Constitution	The committee nominated Deb Millikan for life membership for her contributions to APDT and Australian dog training. 26 votes for Non against Motion carried
9. Other Business	The President reported that the committee is considering implementing requirements for ongoing Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and solicited opinions from members regarding this topic. Member comments are noted in Attachment 3 .

Meeting closed: 6:25 pm.

Attachments

1. [President's Report](#)

President Report 2023 AGM

Welcome to the 2023 Conference and welcome to the Annual General Meeting of APDT Australia. Thank you to all of those people present in person and to those also attending via ZOOM.

Firstly, thank you to all of our outgoing Committee – Vice President Jude Tuttleby, Secretary Christine Woodgate, Treasurer Mark Ehrman, ordinary committee members Rhonda Sclanders, Denise Bergin, Alisa Sannikova, Isabel Romero-Cetin, Steph Mc Coll and Tom Heeren. Each of you has been on committee for varying lengths of time from the full 12 months down to the last 2 weeks but we are very grateful for you as without your incredible work, APDT cannot keep moving forward and evolving so thank you for all that you do.

In 2022, the APDT Monthly Chat series continued right through until April this year. Over the 12 months of that program, Committee brought a whole host of international and Australian speakers to your homes via Zoom. The Monthly chats were free for all members to enjoy so that we all continued learning even throughout the Covid period that now seems a lifetime ago.

Committee spent countless hours updating our Strategic Plan which takes us from 2022 – 2025. Tom Heeren did a stellar job making the plan look truly professional with his graphic design skills. Each year, committee go through the strategic plans key principles and strategic objectives to measure our success and plan for the year coming.

The new website and multi-level membership structure has taken many hours of work for our membership secretary Rhonda Sclanders as she worked on and ironed out the glitches that we knew would be lurking. Rhonda has worked tirelessly to try to make the new website work to our needs but there seemed to be more challenges around every corner. Membership based websites can be challenging to set up and manage and ours has been no different. So after many meetings and much discussion, Committee has decided to move our membership area to a new web based membership database that will hopefully make your experience as a member signing up and renewing much easier and smoother. Our Membership sub committee are currently working with the developer to create our new membership system. We will keep you all posted on the progress.

As we welcome back our in person Conference, we also welcomed back the APDT awards and are excited to award Jess McNamara the APDT trainer of the year Award. Congratulations Jess and we are so happy that you could join us this year for conference.

We also were able to attend several community events this year – Million Paws walk and The Dog Lovers Festival in Sydney. These events are all about education, are an incredible way for members to spread the message to educate future generations

of the dog-owning public and new dog trainers so we can help get them off to the right start. We can only do this with the help of volunteers manning these stalls, so a big shout out to all of those that helped this past 12 months – we cannot do it without you.

Recently, APDT released a joint media statement with PPGA about the impending class/workshops that The Dog Daddy was due to hold in Sydney earlier this month. Using aversives to train dogs or people (or any animal) is unnecessary. Numerous scientific studies indicate a dog's welfare is compromised when these training methods are employed. APDT does and will continue to take a strong stance against the use of aversives in training animals. If you haven't seen the media release, it is located on the home tab under media releases.

Even more recently, APDT and Delta Institute have teamed so that Delta students can now be mentored by trainers from the Accredited professional level of membership. This is an exciting new partnership and opportunity for Accredited Professionals to mentor the new generation of dog trainers. I have been mentoring Delta students for 10 years now – several of whom are here in this room and I can say that it is extremely rewarding to give back to our community and help new, up and coming trainers find their feet and grow and develop under your guidance.

So what is coming in 2023/2024? Committee will continue to work on the web based membership system to ensure it works seamlessly. The Code of Ethics will be given a thorough overhaul to ensure that it is current and accurately reflects APDT's mission, vision and purpose. Mark Ehrman will head up the Code of Ethics subcommittee and we do invite interested members to join that subcommittee to help shape the new Code of Ethics. We will be out and about working at community events in NSW but also hopefully around the country.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing support. Thank you for attending the AGM and for those here in person, thank you for supporting the Conference and all of our wonderful speakers. Don't forget we are always open to taking on volunteers for Committee roles so please come and chat to us if you want to learn more.



2. Treasurer's Report

Association of Pet Dog Trainers Australia Inc.

Treasurer's Report for Financial Year Ending 30.Jun.2023
For review and acceptance at AGM held 13.Oct.2023

Prepared by: Mark Ehrman, Treasurer

Overall, the organisation is in a good position financially.

With COVID restrictions lifted, and our transition to the new tiered membership structure completed, APDT income and expenses have both increased compared to the previous period. However, our net position is only slightly better (+3.6%).

The organisation is incorporated as a Not-For Profit entity, and does not strive to make profit from our activities. However, to ensure continued sustainability, we must act to prevent large operating losses from year to year.

Please refer to the attached Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statements for detailed figures for the last financial year.

Many income items (memberships, insurance commissions) and expense items (storage unit, other expenses, website, insurance, and Click! Magazine) were of a similar level to previous year.

As interest rates have risen, APDT has been able to earn some modest interest income on our bank savings. However, this interest income and the commission income resulted in a tax liability which will be reflected in next years' expenses.

Due to a change of treasurer, and transitioning to online accounting, the merchandise sales and inventory may not accurately reflect the true condition. It is expected that a physical stocktake before the end of 2023 will result in an inventory adjustment.

The main drivers of larger income and expenses are related to our community and education events, both online and in person. By the end of the financial year, APDT was slightly negative for events (~\$2,000), mostly due to conference expenses.

Looking forward, we expect 2024 to be financially challenging for the organisation. Preliminary figures suggest APDT will incur a significant loss for the conference. We are working to recoup losses via sales of event recordings.

APDT Australia appreciates your continued support as we strive to provide value for your membership.

For any questions, please contact Mark Ehrman at treasurer@apdt.com



3. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) Member Comments

Member questions and comments on potential Continuing Education Units (CEU) for members.

- Would there be different CEU requirements for different membership levels?
- Would APDT combine the CEU requirements with Delta?
- Member voiced support for moving forward with CEU requirements.
- Alisa S. stated that this requirement would be for Professional and Accredited Professional Dog Trainers only.
- Jude T. commented that assigning and auditing CEU is a labour-intensive task. She questioned if this would require another committee member position.
- There was a request to align with other organisation CEU requirements (e.g. PPGA, Delta, etc).
- A member questioned if this topic would be suitable for a subcommittee.
- Could this be done on a trial basis at first?
- Could APDT provide, or direct members to, options to earn free CEUs?
- For new trainers just starting out, having a CEU requirement is an additional burden.
- Denise B. noted that our new membership management system (360) supports CEU tracking functionality.
- PPGA does “random audits” of CEUs to reduce the administrative workload.
- Alisa S. noted that ADPT may lack resources (people) on committee to implement this, even if it is decided that we will do so.
- Not implementing CEUs may erode the image and credibility of APDT.
- Could Accredited Professional and Professional Dog Trainers provide learning content that could earn CEUs?