



Kingborough  
Dog  
Walking  
Association

# WALKABOUT

December 2021, Issue Number 138

## President's Notes – December 2021



Your new committee was elected at the AGM in September. It's much the same as the previous committee except that our wonderful secretary, Su Jan New Clark, retired after two years in the job to focus on her increasingly busy day job as an architect. Thank you Jan for your hard work and wonderful camaraderie. Jan was one of the main organisers for our sausage sizzle at Bunnings which was a lot of hard work, a lot of fun, and made about \$800 for KDWA. This money helps to offset our spending as part of the recent upgrade of the Dru Point dog agility equipment. We welcome Fiona Masters as our new secretary. We also have a new Vice President,

Jess Adams, while our previous Vice President, Venie Phillips, remains on the committee. Welcome to Jess, and a big thank you to Venie for all her hard work.

Clarence City Council has completed its review of their dog management policy. Thanks to a lot of effort by many people, the new dog management policy is now much more dog friendly than the original draft. This just goes to show that when a community works together they have the power to achieve change.

The dog community is now uniting over another issue: the cruelty that seems to be associated with the greyhound racing industry. There have been various incidents over the years: the latest involved the cruel and heartless treatment of a greyhound called Tah Bernard. You may have read about this in the papers – I can't bear to repeat the details here.

A group of concerned dog lovers have banded together and drafted a petition to State Parliament. The petition asks the Government to stop using taxpayers' money to fund the unsustainable and cruel greyhound racing industry.

I am asking all KDWA members to read the petition, and if they agree, sign it. Furthermore, I ask that you please publicise this petition as widely as possible so that we can try and achieve better outcomes for these lovely dogs.

The petition may be found on our web page, [www.dogwalkingtas.org.au/kingborough](http://www.dogwalkingtas.org.au/kingborough). There you will find a link to the petition on the government web site, a link to a PDF of the petition form if you would like to collect signatures, and a QR code that you can use to quickly access the government petition. The latter is a great way to get friends involved. Simply download the QR code onto your phone and get your friends to scan it from your phone's screen using their camera app. It works a treat! Thank you to Jess Adams for making this available.

Finally, have an enjoyable Xmas and New Year period while staying as safe as you can during the ongoing COVID uncertainty.

Cheers, Peter.

## Your 2021-2022 KDWA Committee

<b>President:</b> Peter McIntosh <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:kdwa.tas@gmail.com">kdwa.tas@gmail.com</a>	<b>Vice President:</b> Jess Adams <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:jess999adams@gmail.com">jess999adams@gmail.com</a>
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KDWA website: [www.dogwalkingtas.org.au/kingborough](http://www.dogwalkingtas.org.au/kingborough)

KDWA Facebook page:click [HERE](#)

## KDWA Calendar 2022

February 10	7.30 pm	Committee Meeting
February 13	9.30 am	Coningham Walk (on-lead)
March 10	7.30 pm	Committee Meeting
March 13	9.30 am	Taroona Foreshore (on-lead)
April 10	9.30 am	Kingston Beach (off-lead)
April 14	7.30 pm	Committee meeting
May 8	9.30 am	Snug Falls (on-lead)
May 12	7.30 pm	Committee meeting
June 9	7.30 pm	Committee meeting
June 12	9.30 am	Peter Murrell Reserve (on-lead)
July 10	9.30 am	Margate (on-lead)
July 14	7.30 pm	Committee meeting

*More detail can be found on the next page and on our website, including Google maps links to help you know where to be.*

## **‘Chats & Wags’ Walks: February - July 2022**

Meet up with other KDWA members and their dogs for a walk. Walks are held on the second Sunday of each month and start at 9.30 am. In case of inclement weather, the KDWA Facebook page will give notice of any cancellations.

Visit this website for locations and maps used for creating this calendar:

<https://www.kingborough.tas.gov.au/recreation-facilities/tracks-trails/>

*February 13*    **Coningham – host: Katrina**

Meet before 9.30am at the boat sheds off Coningham Road at Coningham beach. Walk along Snug Point track.  
Optional Morning tea @ Margate Train outside.

*March 13*    **Taroona Foreshore – host: Peter**

Meet before 9.30am at Taroona Beach carpark. Follow the foreshore path as far as Taroona High School before returning.  
Optional Morning tea @ Picnic Basket outside.

*April 10*    **Kingston Beach – host: Fiona**

Meet before 9.30am at Tyndall Beach carpark. Walk over the white bridge, along to Balmoral Road, towards Beach Road and back towards the Esplanade. Finish with a splash at the beach.  
Optional Morning tea @ Eb & Flo outside.

*May 8*    **Snug Falls – host: Georgia**

Meet before 9.30am in the carpark.  
A more rugged 2km walk requiring sturdy shoes.  
Optional Morning tea @ Margate Train outside.

*June 12*    **Peter Murrell Reserve – host: Venie**

Meet before 9.30am in the gravel carpark off Lady Penryhn Drive.  
Walk a circular route, downhill first.  
Morning tea optional in winter months.

*July 10*    **Margate – host: Jess**

Meet before 9.30am at Dru Point PUPPY area. Walk via laneway through Margate before returning via Esplanade.  
Morning tea optional in winter months.

# COVID and Dogs

There is so much to be interested about regarding COVID and our canines.

## **Can dogs really detect COVID?**

Results are indicating that dogs may be able to detect COVID 19 in humans with the disease. The problem is there's only one peer-reviewed study in publication and the rest is research-in-progress. The good news is that results so far suggests detector dogs are almost 100% accurate at detecting who DOESN'T have COVID. There is a lot of work going on in France, Lebanon, Germany, the USA and UK to determine the accuracy rates of those POSITIVE with COVID. They're doing airport trials as well as laboratory testing and then comparing them to PCR tests. Unfortunately, there are also false positives and negatives in the PCR (swab) tests and they don't yet understand exactly what volatile organic compounds (VOCs) the dogs are picking up and whether it is the virus itself causing the release of these scents. Whether this could become a cheap and faster way of detecting the virus in large groups of people remains to be seen.

## **What should we do if we go into another lockdown?**

The RSPCA Tasmania has a COVID 19 lockdown plan (which you can view in their newsletter) and they remain committed to taking your calls and managing your inquiries. They will still be able to take in surrenders and offer adoptions (by appointment) and have a plan for animals coming off the Spirit of Tasmania and into emergency boarding. You should consider what you will do if you are cut off from being able to visit and care for your pet? Do you have an emergency plan?

## **How has COVID affected our dogs?**

Internationally, in April and May 2020 there was an increase in dog adoption rates. This then decreased during July-December 2020.

Some studies have reported increased vocalisation and attention-seeking in dogs since COVID.

Other studies have reported owner concerns about limitations on their dogs' ability to socialise due to restricted opportunities to attend puppy classes and training classes. The implications of this will be interesting for future studies.

Owners working from home have reported more behaviour problems in their pet. This may be because of increased stress levels, increased interaction or simply being more observant of their pet.

We must be thankful living in Tasmania where we have had only one lockdown and therefore minimal impact on our pets' routine and environment. However, we need to be prepared for future impacts. As an owner you should be aware that your dog needs to learn how to be alone. For example, have showers with the door closed, collect the mail without your dog, exercise without your dog (and then with your dog). Encourage them to be independent players and ensure they have a safe space to be in when left alone.

# Parliament Petition to End Government Funding of Greyhound Racing

A fresh and well-coordinated wave of activism has been sparked following recent greyhound racing incidents. General public sentiment is pro-animal welfare and anti-gambling, but you wouldn't know this, based on the government's nearly \$60 per person annual contribution to the Tas Racing body, part of which goes to greyhound racing.

It is time that funding is reconciled with our priorities, and that Tasmanians aren't automatically supporting an industry which many of us do not support as individuals.

KDWA has joined the campaign behind this new petition to the Tasmanian government to '*end the taxpayer subsidy of the inherently cruel greyhound racing industry*'\*.

You can sign the petition online and share with friends.

<https://haepetitions.parliament.tas.gov.au/haepet/Home/PetitionDetails/98>

If you can go the extra step, take a clipboard and print off the petition from our website so you can collect signatures on your travels or dog walks. (Petition contact: 0417 418 942 or [deb7234@gmail.com](mailto:deb7234@gmail.com)) The numbers are quickly building and on-the-street responses have been very positive, with people glad to add their names.

On Sunday 12 December, a media event was organised at Kingston Beach. Spokespeople were interviewed and volunteer campaigners collected signatures. The ABC filmed for TV and the Mercury reported for the paper.

Representing KDWA were President Dr Peter McIntosh and Vice President Jess Adams; they were joined by Melissa Fraser of Dogs' Homes of Tasmania / President of Tasmanian Dog Walking Clubs Inc. and representatives from other dog walking and greyhound groups. Jan Davis, CEO of RSPCA Tasmania joined by phone. A full rally is planned for late January.

## **\*The Petition:**

*To The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly:*

*The petition of the undersigned citizens of Tasmania draws to the attention of the House:*

- *The inherent animal cruelty and suffering of greyhounds in the publicly-funded racing industry;*
- *That opposition to the cruelty in the greyhound racing industry cuts across politics, and that greyhounds are rescued and re homed by Tasmanians of all political affiliation;*
- *That it is opposed by the majority of taxpayers and the RSPCA; and*
- *That as pet owners, we will use our purchasing power and influence to send a message to retailers, veterinary practitioners, pubs and all businesses supporting and enabling greyhound racing.*

*Your Petitioners therefore request that the House call on the government to end the taxpayer subsidy of the inherently cruel greyhound racing Industry.*

## Rally for Greyhounds January 29, 2022



Some KDWA members may have heard of recent distressing events in the greyhound world involving a trainer and his cruel treatment of an injured dog.

Whilst this incident is under review, planning is underway for a peaceful rally on January 29, 2022. All dogs welcome.

See the GREAT (Greyhound Rehabilitation Enthusiasts Association Tasmania) Facebook group for further information.

## Kingston View Greyhound Area

Kingborough Council is keen to hear the views of greyhound owners who have used the dedicated off-lead area at the Kingston View Drive Dog Park.

Please email us at [kdwa.tas@gmail.com](mailto:kdwa.tas@gmail.com) and we will pass your views and ideas on to the Council.



Charlotte Peterswald  
Property Management

## KDWA online purchases

Items Available for Ordering Online:

### 'Dog Home Alone' key ring

This keyring will give you peace of mind and may even save your dog's life.

Attach the keyring to your set of keys and, on the back, write the name and phone number of someone who is willing and able to look after your dog in an emergency.

**Cost:** \$6 for one or \$10 for two *plus* \$5 postage, or phone 0419306021 to collect from a committee member.



[CLICK HERE TO BUY 'DOG HOME ALONE' KEY RING](#)

### KDWA Clothing

**T-shirts, windcheaters and hoodies for men and women, available in all sizes and a range of colours.**

**Instructions for ordering are on the webpage. Delivery takes about two weeks; pay on delivery.**



[CLICK HERE TO BUY 'KDWA CLOTHING'](#)