



WALKABOUT

January 2019, Issue Number 128

From the President

Happy New Year! I hope your holiday season was trouble-free and fun!

We decided to join the family in Victoria for an overdue get-together, so we packed the whippets (Max and Ruby) into the car and drove to Devonport to catch the ferry. I don't know if you've taken your dogs on the ferry, but it can be distressing for them to be locked in a cage on the deck of a rolling ship overnight. We'd done it once before, so decided to use Trazodone this time, to take the edge off their anxiety. It worked well with no un-due side effects.

Along the drive to Ocean Grove, we factored in unrushed comfort stops for Max and Ruby. I suspect it can be overwhelming for dogs having to get on with business while taking in new sights, smells and strangers approaching for pats! And the bonus was seeing places we might not have otherwise visited.

In Ocean Grove, we took them to dog beaches, on walks along the Barwon river and to The Terrace (the main shopping strip). They sat at outdoor cafes for *our* comfort stops, receiving open adoration and pats from locals – and laughs when seen propping themselves on our laps at the tables.

Our journey included a visit to Cape Paterson, where we stayed with friends on their hobby farm. The six resident alpacas were curious about Max and Ruby; and Max and Ruby were curious about the yabbies in the dam – especially when they were set free to crawl about in the grass for inspection!

Max and Ruby adjusted well to all the new experiences on this trip, but their relief was palpable when they resumed possession of their own beds back home. I dream of travelling with them in a motorhome one day, but I suspect they are happiest with solid ground under their paws.

I hope your dogs are happy and well and that you can join us at an event sometime soon in 2019.

Happy walking, Georgia.



KDWA CALENDAR For members and guests

Sun 3 Feb KDWA Chats & Wags*, Suncoast Dog Park, 10.00–11.00 am

Thurs 14 Feb: KDWA Chats*, 43 Coolamon Road: Taroona, 7.30-9.00 pm

Sun 17 Feb KDWA Chats & Wags, Taroona Beach, 8.30 am. Meet at Apex Park (off Batchelor Way) for a walk and off-leash play. Followed by a cuppa at The Picnic Basket.

Sun 3 Mar KDWA Chats & Wags, Dru Point Dog Park, 10.00–11.00 am

Thurs 18 Apr KDWA Chats, 2 Osborne Esplanade, Kingston Beach, 7.30–9.00 pm

Sun 17 Mar KDWA Chats & Wags, Snug Point Track ('Coningham coastal track'), 9.30 am. Meet at the carpark near the boatsheds. Followed by a cuppa at the Margate Train.

Sun 7 Apr KDWA Chats & Wags, Kingston View Drive Dog Park, 10.00–11.00 am

Sat 13 April: KDWA Treasure Hunt, Huntingfield Pony and Riding Club, Club Grounds, 10.00 am

Sun 5 May: KDWA Chats & Wags, Suncoast Dog Park, 10.00–11.00 am

(First Sunday of each month, 10.00–11.00 am = Chats & Wags)

*Chats = Committee meeting (no dogs)

*Chats & Wags = Social gathering (with dogs)

Thank You, Diane Fuglsang

Dianne Fuglsang was our first Patron and is a marvelous supporter of KDWA. Dianne's mother, Marjory Crossley, was a founding member and our first life member. Without Marjory's help and support it would have taken KDWA longer to reach many of its goals; and a seat has been placed in her honour in the Peter Murrell Reserve.

On Marjory's passing, Dianne took on the KDWA support mantle, providing generous donations and showing great interest in our activities.

Sadly, Dianne was diagnosed with motor neurone disease last year, and subsequently resigned as Patron.

We respect and thank Dianne for her generosity and support over many years. As a way of supporting and thanking Dianne, KDWA is donating to the Motor Neurone Fund in her name.



KDWA Vice President Venie Phillips and former Patron, Dianne Fuglsang.

Kingston View Drive Dog Park

It is pleasing to know we now have three fenced dog parks in central Kingborough, plus the beach.

Kingston View Drive Dog Park (between the Sports Centre and the Kingston Cemetery) is becoming popular as word gets around. Council has recently added a water tap in the top corner near the road, and is continuing to improve the grounds, including reducing the risk of dogs escaping under the big gate and a few other spots where the ground drops away. They also intend to put another gate as an airlock by the entrance to make it safer to get in and out.

Well worth a visit, with some lovely shady gum trees and an awesome view!

As usual we welcome any ideas for improvements.

Spread Out!

There's plenty of space at Kingborough's dog parks.

The latest best practice in dog parks is to walk and talk rather than stand still in a group. The human momentum keeps the dogs busy and moving, which has the effect of minimising any tendency for dogs to defend 'their territory' or guard resources, like balls and their people.

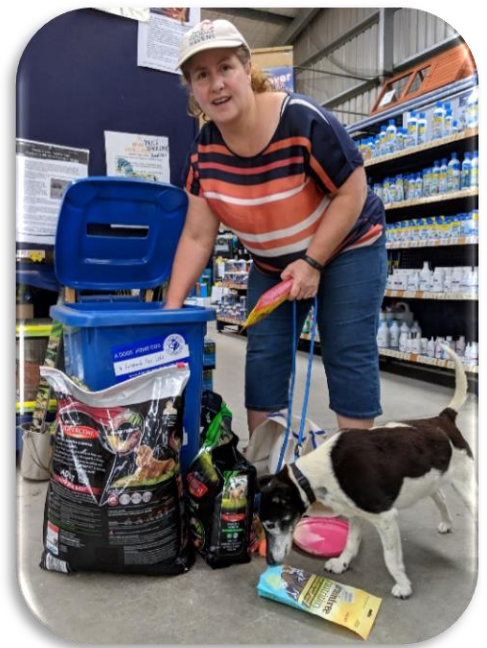
Walking together in open areas generally results in more positive play experiences for the dogs. Pay attention to your dog even while chatting – body language changes like lightning or you may miss a poo collection – which no one will thank you for!

KDWA Members Give Generously

Thanks to all members who brought donations for the Dogs Home with them to our Christmas party. Committee member Belinda and loyal friend Spotty placed all the donations in the collection bin at Animal Tuckerbox Kingston before Christmas. We hope the donations provided Christmas cheer for all the dogs waiting for their furever homes.

Adopt. Don't shop.

How Hot?



KDWA donations to the Dog's Home

Before walking your dog on the pavement or road in summer, remember your dog does not have shoes, yet their paws can be just as sensitive to heat as your feet. Hot surfaces – especially roads, pavements and fake grass – can burn quickly in hot weather.

Place the back of your hand on the pavement. If it's uncomfortable to hold it there for 5–7 seconds, it's too hot to go for a walk.

A Jolly Good Time

Wow! What a success the KDWA Christmas party was at our just-fenced Kingston View Drive Dog Park! The weather was great, turn-out good and there were many smiling faces – human and canine.

The Kingborough Council worked hard to get the fencing mostly complete the day before the event – after a hiccup with the theft of some of the fencing material, and over 40 people attended (it was difficult to count the dogs as they would not stand still long enough, but they were all well-behaved).

It was nice to see the Mayor Councillor Dean Winter and Deputy Mayor Councillor Jo Westwood present, along with Daniel Smee, Executive Manager Governance and Community Services.

Congratulations to Roxy for winning the musical sits competition, and all the other winning canines; and thanks to Dogs Holiday Havens for sponsoring the event, and Long Black Jack for bringing the much-valued coffee van!



What's your 'dream' dog walk?

What dog walking facilities would you like included in plans for the new Kingston Park? The company designing Kingston Park, Playstreet, talked with KDWA about this just before Christmas. Dream ideas discussed included:

- a wide shared-use pathway around Whitewater creek, with trees along the edge of the track and shaded/sheltered seating and lighting
- drinking water for people and dogs, like the example pictured
- access to public toilets, with tie points for dogs
- features such as dog memorials and dog-related sculptures
- picnic tables accessible to dog walkers
- fencing around children's play areas to help ensure access by dog walkers to cafes and other shared-use areas.



*Drinking water for people and dogs.
Image sourced from www.dog-on-it-parks.com/blog/*

We're confident Playstreet will include these ideas in their recommendations to Council. This area has been a popular, spacious and central dog exercise area since closure of the old Kingston High School. Fingers crossed, dog-walkers will be catered for as the area transforms into Kingston Park.

Taroona Beach – Thank You Kingborough Council!

From this . . .



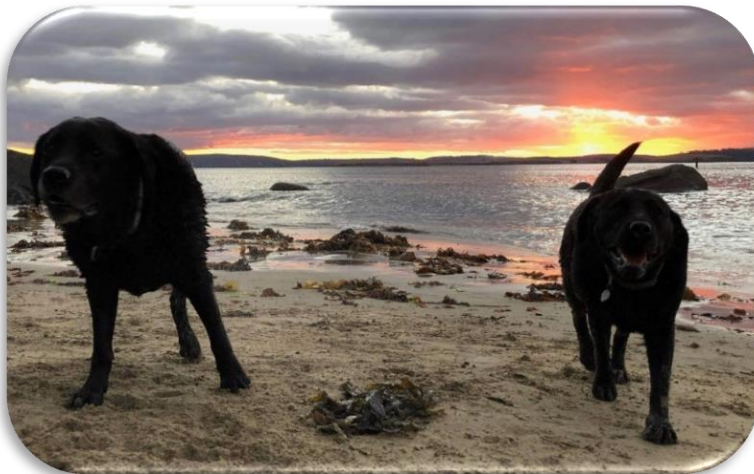
Woo hoo! The eastern end of Taroona Beach is now dog-friendly!

To be clear, it is only the 130 metres of Taroona Beach that is EAST of the boat ramp. The boat ramp is on-lead only and every other part of the beach is off-limits for dogs.

This small area is already a favourite spot for many dogs and their people. Thank you, Kingborough Council.

Committee members Maggie and Maureen, disappointed not to be able to visit the beach.

To this!



Eric and Rita enjoying the eastern end of Taroona Beach – now an off-leash exercise area for dogs, all hours.

Know Other Dog Walkers in Kingborough?

Please encourage other dog owners to join KDWA – more voices give greater influence! A 2018–19 KDWA membership form is attached. Please print a few out and pass them on to fellow dog owners. Every new member helps!



**Charlotte Peterswald
Property Management**

Thought for the Season: Child Safety Around Dogs

Extract from an article from the Liam Perk Foundation, <http://liamjperkfoundation.org/lets-talk-dog/dog-body-language>

Many dog bites could be prevented if parents and children were aware of the subtle communication signs dogs send when they are anxious.

Dog behavior is complex and the signals that dogs send are often subtle. Parents, if you see potential danger signs in your dog's behavior, err on the side of caution and increase supervision and use physical barriers when supervision is not possible, until it can be determined whether your dog is a danger to the children and the problem is resolved through consultation with a professional.

Many dogs are exceptionally tolerant of mishandling by kids and adults. They show signs of anxiety, yet never get to the point of biting. Other dogs tolerate things they don't enjoy for while or from certain people and not others, but at some point, decide they've had enough and growl or snap. Most people are shocked when this happens. They say: "He's never bitten anyone before" or "there was no warning". Dog behavior experts say there is always a warning, it's just most people don't recognise it.

If your dog growls at the kids

Don't punish your dog for growling. This may seem counter-intuitive and even go against the advice of your dog trainer. If your dog growls at your child, he is sending a clear warning that he is very uncomfortable with the actions or proximity of the child. Be grateful your dog chose to warn rather than go straight to a bite. If you punish the growling, you may inhibit the warning growl next time and the dog may bite without growling first. Punishment or scolding will not make the dog feel better about the child – it may make the dog feel more anxious and more likely to bite next time, especially if you're not there to control the situation.

If your child does not follow directions and/or has got into the habit of being rough with your dog, separate the dog and child until the child learns to treat the dog with kindness and respect.

What to do if your dog growls:

- Increase supervision.
- Take your dog to the vet to make sure he is not sick or in pain.
- Don't assume the dog will not bite because he hasn't yet. As dogs age they can become less tolerant.
- Teach your kids to back off and tell you if the dog growls. "Doesn't this just encourage the dog to growl if he finds out he can control us with this behavior?" is a very common question. Yes, if your child backs off, the dog will learn that growling works to get himself out of an uncomfortable situation. He'll likely growl in the same situation next time, and feel less need to bite, since growling works.
- Seek the advice of a dog behavior specialist who will use positive reinforcement to help teach the dog to change his attitude and to enjoy the company of the child.

Wouldn't you rather have a dog that warns with a growl and doesn't go straight to a bite? Of course, we don't want the dog to turn into a growling machine, so action is required to remedy the situation. Teach the kids to avoid the behavior that causes growling until the dog is trained (and possibly afterwards). And teach the dog to enjoy whatever situations cause him to growl. This requires behavior modification training. We recommend you hire a dog behavior consultant to help with this. Growling is a serious warning and must be dealt with immediately and properly.



KDWA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2018-2019

(For your use or to pass on to a prospective member)

Names (list the names of all family members to be included in the membership):

Please circle to indicate: New Member or Renewing Member:

Address _____
_____ Post Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Mobile phone: _____

Dog/s: name and breed:

Payment of \$15 (single) or \$20 (family)

Three ways to pay:

1. **Bank transfer:**

BSB: 037015 / Account Number: 125518

Account Name: Kingborough Dog Walking Association

Reference: Please enter your surname in the Reference space, then email or post your membership form to us, so we can record your payment.

2. **Cheque:**

Payable to Kingborough Dog Walking Association

Post to PO Box 39, Kingston 7051, with your membership form.

3. **Cash:**

Give your completed form and the money to a KDWA committee member.