



WALKABOUT

May 2021 Issue Number 136

President's Notes – May 2021

Clarence Council is revising its Dog Management Policy and the locals are not happy. Some options being canvassed by the Council would mean the loss of some of the most popular off-lead dog exercise areas. Worse still, dogs may be further restricted or even prohibited on the major beaches.

To protest these changes, the Hobart Dog Walking Association (which deals with Hobart, Clarence and Glenorchy Council areas) organised two dog rallies on Saturday 10 April. The first was at Anzac Park in Lindisfarne, which risks losing dog park status, followed by a march to nearby Simmons Park where there were a number of speeches. There would have been close to 200 concerned citizens with their blissfully unconcerned dogs. Unfortunately, after the first speech the heavens opened up and many were forced to seek drier places. An intrepid group of people and their dogs huddled under the covered stage area to hear the remaining impassioned speeches. A total of five Clarence Councillors attended and the four that remained to speak encouraged everyone to have their say through the review process. The general feeling was that there was no good reason to further restrict the existing dog exercise areas.

In the afternoon, at a second rally, there were about 150 attendees. The weather held off for three speeches (including yours truly) with the importance of beaches as off-lead exercise areas highlighted. The speeches were followed by a walk along Bellerive beach, one of the areas at risk.

The first review period for the draft policy is now over. The Council will make amendments, taking into consideration the feedback they have received, and a new draft Dog Management Policy will go out for final comment in due course. This may well be followed by further rallies unless the existing document changes substantially.

In many ways Clarence is where we were three years ago, struggling with an ill-informed Council proposing unpopular limits on dog exercise areas perhaps based on just a few minor complaints. We have come a long way and now have an excellent relationship with Kingborough Council, one that has allowed us to jointly achieve a lot for our dogs.

Hobart Dog Walking Association has done a wonderful job looking out for the interests of Clarence dogs. However, they are a bit stretched covering three different councils. I suspect that Clarence would do well to form its own dog walking association that can focus on building a good relationship with their Council for the benefit of all dogs there.

Cheers, Peter



Charlotte Peterswald
Property Management

KDWA CALENDAR

- May 9 9.30 am Snug Falls*
- May 13 7.30 pm Committee Meeting
- Jun 10 7.30 pm Committee Meeting
- Jun 13 7.30 pm Peter Murrell Reserve*
- Jul 8 9.30 am Committee Meeting
- Jul 11 7.30 pm Margate*
- Aug 12 9.30am Committee Meeting

* *On-lead walks*

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

Your 2020-2021 Committee

<p>President: Peter McIntosh Email: kdwa.tas@gmail.com</p>	<p>Vice President: Venie Phillips Email: venie.phillips@gmail.com</p>
<p>Treasurer: Simon Barnsley Email: simonbarnsley01@gmail.com</p>	<p>Secretary: Jan New Clark Email: sujan.newclark@gmail.com</p>
<p>Committee Members: Georgia Clark, Tony Walch, Katrina Ward, Jess Adams</p>	<p>Public Officer: Ailsa Richard Newsletter Editor: Venie Phillips Email: venie.phillips@gmail.com</p>

KDWA website: <https://www.dogwalkingtas.org.au/kingborough>

KDWA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/487730754572363>

Planned 'Chats & Wags' Walks – May-July

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.

May 9 Snug Falls <https://tastrails.com/snug-falls/>

Meet at carpark (extra spots available near the sign for the walk)

A more rugged 2km walk requiring sturdy shoes.

Morning tea @ Margate Train outside.

Host: Georgia Clark

June 13 Peter Murrell Reserve

<https://parks.tas.gov.au/explore-our-parks/peter-murrell-reserves>

Meet in the gravel carpark off Lady Penryhn Drive.

Walk a circular route, downhill first.

Morning tea optional in winter months.

Host: Jan New Clark

July 11 Margate <https://www.dogwalkingtas.org.au/dru-point-park>

Meet at Dru Point PUPPY area.

Walk via laneway through Margate before returning via Esplanade.

Morning tea optional in winter months.

Host: Georgia Clark

Dog's Dilemma – where to do it?



Building Resilient Puppies

Have you been told that your puppy should not be taken out in public until 2 weeks after it has had all its vaccinations?

It sounds sensible to reduce the risk of infection from viruses such as Parvovirus and Distemper while your puppy is developing its immune system with the help of vaccinations; keeping it at home might reduce that risk. However, this period is also exactly the same time that your puppy is in a critical period in brain development called the 'socialisation period' which occurs from approximately 3 to 12 weeks of age (possibly up to 16 weeks).



The socialisation period is a time when the brain is in accelerated learning, developing lasting associations about the environment, humans, littermates and other species. Most puppies are inquisitive and curious and open to new experiences during this stage of development. Exposure to different humans, environments, surfaces, sights, sounds and objects can help them be at ease in future in their expected living environment. Proper socialisation leads to more acceptance and resilience to new experiences and more socially positive behaviour.

Limiting socialisation can lead to intolerance or fear of other animals, humans, places and sounds. These dogs rarely make good pets. With 40% of dogs being relinquished because of behaviour reasons, and the number one cause of death in dogs less than 3 years of age being behavioural issues, not infectious diseases, there is strong reasoning for the provision of positive socialisation.

So, how do you reduce risk of infection whilst exposing your pup to the big bright world?

- Avoid places of high-risk exposure or unvaccinated individuals.
- Offer novelty in your home to help your pup learn that the world can be loud and unpredictable (note - don't overwhelm them - watch their body language for signs of discomfort and decrease the intensity of the stimulus if they appear worried). See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bg_gGguwzg for a video on body language.
- Sit on the footpath and offer tasty little treats as cars and bikes and dogs walk past.
- Wear strange hats and hoodies and use walking sticks etc. around the house.
- Play sound recordings to expose your pup to baby crying, fireworks etc. (an app called "sound proof puppy training" provides access to such noises)
- Invite all sorts of people to your house.
- Sit on a rug in the park, carry your pup, put him in a stroller to cross potentially "infectious" territory.
- Have play dates with other vaccinated puppies or older dogs.
- Look up puppy socialisation checklists for more e.g. <https://puppytales.com.au/puppy-socialisation-a-free-downloadable-checklist-for-you/>

Well run socialisation classes provide puppies with positive exposure to new sights, sounds, humans and social play. The owners will be helped to address common puppy issues such as chewing and house training and taught how to train their puppy using positive reinforcement. If run at a Veterinary clinic, it will provide a safe environment and help the puppy form a positive bond with the location. If abnormal behaviour is observed, early intervention can be provided which is more likely to result in a positive change in long-term behaviour.

Achieving success in the development of a behaviourally normal dog far outweighs the risk of contracting parvovirus or other infectious diseases in our local community (which has a high rate of immunisation).

Dr Katrina Ward

The Origins & History of KDWA

KDWA currently has around 70 members; many have been with us a long time and know our story but, for more recent members, our early history is worth sharing.

Back before 2000 the authorities weren't happy with dogs; Councils and the State Government were receiving complaints, particularly about dogs in the streets of Hobart that were attacking Guide Dogs when they were "on duty".

About the same time, a large expanse of Commonwealth Government bush in Kingborough became a 'park' and was named the Peter Murrell Reserve. When Parks and Wildlife took it over they said that dogs weren't allowed access.

A number of dog walkers had long been using this land for walking their dogs off lead but under effective control. Not wanting to lose access, six of us arranged a meeting with Parks and Wildlife; tempers on both sides were raised and nothing was achieved except that, as P&W management walked out, they said they would not talk with us again unless we were an Incorporated Body. This was why KDWA was formed. Once incorporated, we went back to P&W and, after many meetings, we achieved access to the Peter Murrell Reserve under rules that are still in place today.

Shortly after, the then Premier, Jim Bacon, instructed that a new Dog Control Act should be written to deal with the spate of serious dog attacks in Hobart.

KDWA got wind of this and started investigating; the proposed Act was in draft form and available to be discussed. It was draconian. KDWA organised a Public Meeting in Kingston to listen to the Manager of the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) and to discuss this proposed Act. The meeting was attended by around 100 people, most of whom then joined KDWA. At the end of the meeting the LGAT representatives advised that they would reconsider their draft Act. A short while later it was scrapped and a group of animal lovers, including one from KDWA, was selected to discuss and advise the State Government. After many meetings we produced the *Dog Control Act 2000* which, with a few amendments, is still in existence.

Local Dog Management Policies get their authority from this Act. The Act requires each council to review its dog management policy every five years. This is a safeguard for the public but it can work both ways and in 2018, when the Kingborough Council put out its draft *Dog Management Policy*, dogs looked set to lose a great deal unless the draft was changed.

A public meeting was held to challenge the Council's proposed plan. The rally was held on Kingston Beach and attracted hundreds of people. The councillors listened and ultimately a much-improved *Dog Management Policy* was passed by Council.

Over the years KDWA has had many constructive discussions with Council on dog-related matters and dog-owners have benefitted as a result.

We now have a very positive relationship with Council which includes quarterly informal meetings with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor which allows discussion on any dog related problem that either Council or KDWA has at that time. This is excellent.

In summary KDWA has had its fights to be recognised but has achieved a great deal. We have given rise to other Dog Walking Associations in Tasmania: Hobart, Huon, Derwent Valley. We will continue to work towards the formation of Dog Walking Associations in other parts of the State.

Our success depends on our membership - the greater our numbers, the more influence our organisation has. When dog walking facilities are under threat our membership numbers increase but they gradually drop off when the problems have been solved. For the first time since KDWA was formed, our membership fee will increase slightly. Don't let the \$5 increase be a reason to let your membership lapse. I cannot think of anything else that costs the same as it did over 20 years ago. It would be wonderful if the many KDWA Facebook page members became full financial members of the organisation that looks after the interests of all dog-owners in Kingborough.

Tony Walch

Renting with Dogs

project update

Late last year, KDWA embarked on an ambitious initiative to improve 'rentability' prospects for dog owners. Michael Sertori, CEO of the Dogs' Homes of Tasmania, touched on the topic of rental-driven dog surrenders as part of his speech at our 2020 AGM. We realised that this area is an opportunity for us to support responsible dog owners, and the more we explored it, the more we saw how much has to be done.

What exactly is the 'Renting with Dogs' mission? Tenants across all demographics are severely limited in their rental options because of an anti-pet bias which is carried to an unreasonable extent in most cases. This is a time when many Australians are now renting for life. If landlords and property managers take the approach of 'pets considered', dogs' lives and their parents' peace of mind can be saved, while also bringing long-term tenancies and good returns for landlords. Did you know that statistics show that pets cause less property damage than children?

Somehow our adoption of this issue, and what we have contributed to the media buzz, has coincided with extensive nationwide news coverage of pet-friendly renting. This is useful to raise awareness of the issue but our goal is to achieve actual change.

Here is a blow-by-blow account of what we have achieved so far, with much work still ahead of us:

- Created 'Renting with Dogs' information sheets for both landlords and tenants with links to practical resources which are available from our [website](#).
- Started distribution to pet-friendly property managers. (We've been surprised and encouraged by the positive responses.)
- Plan to create a list of supportive property agencies to guide responsible 'dog families'.
- Raised this initiative to a statewide level with its adoption by our parent organisation, Tasmanian Dog Walking Clubs Inc.
- An interview with Ryk Goddard on ABC Breakfast radio, which aired on 25 February.
- A feature in Anne Boxhall's pet column in the *Sunday Tasmanian*, published 28 March.
- Plans to bring this to the attention of our politicians at the state level; continue distribution of information; and hopefully work towards a positive result such as in NSW, where pet bans have been blocked.

Do you have a rental-related story, good or bad? It would be much appreciated if you could send a note to jessadams102@outlook.com. We are collecting real life stories/case studies which can be used to inform our steps – and for those who do not have privacy concerns, to help illustrate the issue in upcoming news articles.

Let's work towards a more enlightened era of property management.

Jess Adams (project co-ordinator)

Membership Fees in 2021-2022

Your membership provides sustained support for our causes.

KDWA has been in existence for around 20 years, and over that time, has provided a strong voice for dog owners in Kingborough. There have been many successes over the years that can be celebrated - you can read all these on our website at <https://www.dogwalkingtas.org.au/kdwa-achievements>. Notable achievements include:

- the continuing creation of off-leash dog walking areas and agreement with Parks and Wildlife for access to certain areas of the Peter Murrell Reserve,
- the development of dog agility facilities (a major upgrade was recently opened at Dru Point),
- regular dog walking activities and public education work,
- getting the proposed Tasmanian Dog Control Act 1999 replaced with the slightly friendlier Dog Control Act 2000
- the recent release of an improved Dog Management Policy in 2019 by Kingborough Council after major public debate, and
- our contribution to the Tasmanian Dog Walking Clubs Association as a state-wide group.

The risks to dog owners of not having an effective voice and relationship with local government is evident in what is currently occurring in the Clarence Municipality.

As a small volunteer-operated organisation, we meet our operating costs through membership fees. The costs that we must pay include registration as an Association, public liability insurance to provide coverage of our regular dog walks and other activities we run, AGM meeting costs, rent for a PO Box and a small range of publicity activities.

Every year, the committee reviews its membership fees to ensure that we can meet these ordinary costs of business; our goal is to cover these costs from membership. Our special activities and campaigns are met from specific fundraising activities designed to fit the needs of the time.

We have found that for the coming year, given the regular costs of operating, we will need to increase our fees marginally to \$20 for single memberships and \$25 for families. A membership renewal advice will come out to you in a few months.

The committee is highly active and creative in its work; most recent was our 'Renting with Dogs' initiative to liaise with policy makers and property managers to encourage them to allow tenants to keep dogs (this is a major impediment for many dog owners who do not own their own home). We are always looking for new ways to improve community wellbeing through responsible dog ownership and your annual membership fee is vital to this purpose.

We know that Kingborough continues to grow, the number of dog owners continues to increase; community services and infrastructure need to continue to grow to meet the demand. Your continued membership enables us to meet these challenges and we wish to thank all our members for their continuing support.

Simon Barnsley, Treasurer

A Dedicated Greyhound Exercise Area?

Under the Tasmanian's *Dog Control Act 2000*, greyhounds may only be exercised off-lead in areas that have been specifically declared by councils. This out-dated requirement reflects the fact that, in the past, most greyhounds were kept for racing rather than as pets. This situation has changed and, in order that greyhound owners can legally let their pets enjoy the freedom to run, Kingborough Council is proposing to create an exercise area specifically for them at the Kingston View Dog Park.

Have your say!

The Council is seeking your opinion and is calling for public submissions. You can find information on the proposed exercise area at the Council's website www.kingborough.tas.gov.au or by visiting the Civic Centre at 15 Channel Highway, Kingston.

Public submissions can be made from April 21 to May 14.

KDWA online purchases

'Dog Home Alone' key ring (www.dogwalkingtas.org.au/kdwa-keyring)

This keyring will give you peace of mind and may 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 will look after your dog in an emergency.

Cost: \$6 for one or \$10 for two.

\$5 postage or phone 0419306021 to collect from a committee member.



PLEASE CALL

NAME:

PH:

KDWA Clothing (www.dogwalkingtas.org.au/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

