NATIONAL GOLDEN RETRIEVER COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD BY MICROSOFT TEAMS

ON THURSDAY, 20st NOVEMBER 2025 AT

WA – 5:00pm QLD – 7:00pm SA – 7:30pm NSW, VIC and TAS – 8:000pm

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ATTENDEES: **NGRC Office Bearers**

- Jill Pearson President
- Debra Turner Secretary/Treasurer

NGRC State Breed Council Delegates

- Ruth Thompson South Australia
- Holly Brighton Western Australia
- Linda Rand Tasmania
- Jacqui Dixon New South Wales

APOLOGIES: State Delegates: Paul Landy (QLD), Jennie Coutlemanis (VIC)

		Meeting opened at 8:00 pm. President welcomed Linda Rand to the meeting.		
1.		**PRESENT**	As per above record of attendance.	
2.		**APOLOGIES**	As per above record of apologies.	
3.		**MIINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**	The minutes of the previous AGM held on 13 November 2024 were tabled.	*Moved: R Thompson* *Seconded: J Dixon*
4.		**BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**	Nil.	
5.		**STANDING ITEMS**	**DISCUSSION**	
	5.1	**Health Registries** 1. DNA Tests	1. DNA Tests - Karin Connell asked R Thompson to raise a serious issue on her behalf to the NGRC regarding DNA testing reliability. Karin initially had one of her dogs DNA tested as a puppy for parentage as per QLD's litter registration requirements through Orivet, which returned Clear for Ichthyosis (ICT). For accuracy purpose, as she was aware of inconclusive results by others, she repeated the test at 12 months, again through Orivet, with the same clear result. Recently, an overseas breeder requested semen from this dog. As new tests had been added to the breed profile, including ICT Type 2, the breeder asked for	

			retesting and offered to cover costs because their bitch was ICT affected. The retest (Orivet) reported the dog as an ICT Carrier, despite two previous clear results. When Karin queried this discrepancy, Orivet suggested it was an error in this instance but provided no explanation. Karin then submitted a sample to Animal Genetics USA, which confirmed the dog as an ICT Type 1 Carrier. Karin expressed concern that this inconsistency undermines confidence in DNA testing. Orivet has since ceased responding to her correspondence, prompting Karin to seek legal advice. The situation has financial and ethical implications, including costs for semen collection, transport and the breeder's need to source another stud. R Thompson stressed that while ICT is not lethal, errors in tests for conditions such as PRA or haemophilia could have severe consequences. Ruth noted that Dogs Australia currently mandates Orivet for parentage testing in two states, raising concerns about reliability under increased testing demand. Questions were raised about the accuracy of ICT Type 1 and Type 2 tests. Members also discussed other cases where dogs tested clear for certain conditions but later produced affected progeny. Ruth further reported that Orivet recently announced: "With our DNA Profiles, any diseases that are 'clear' for the parent will be automatically 'result' for the offspring. This gives you the result for that disease without having to pay and test for that disease." The meeting agreed this practice could compound reliability concerns. R Thompson recommended writing to Orivet and Dogs Australia, noting Orivet's refusal to respond to Karin is unethical. Members supported requesting Dogs Australia to review parentage testing standards. **Resolution:** The President asked if all agreed that NGRC should write to Dogs Australia. The meeting unanimously agreed.	
	5.2	**Breed Watch** 1. EU 2. Heart 3. MRD 4. Ichthyosis	1. EU -D Turner reported that at a recent show, she spoke with Carla O'Donnell (Dogs West panel member for Canine Health Research funding) regarding the process for applying for research funding on EU within the Australian canine population. Carla advised that an application would require a detailed proposal, including the amount of funding sought. D Turner believes that this is currently a moot point, as we need to have a clinical researcher to undertake the study. J Pearson added that at a recent GRCVIC committee meeting, a committee member mentioned their stepdaughter—who has just completed her veterinary science degree and worked on a reproduction study with Dr Stuart Mason—suggested contacting Dr Natali	

			Krekeler. Dr Krekeler is a senior lecturer in veterinary reproduction at Melbourne Veterinary School and is highly regarded in the field. She may be able to advise on potential researchers or postgraduate students who may have an interest in this area or potential interest in undertaking a thesis on EU. **Resolution:** D Turner asked the meeting if NGRC should write to Dr Krekeler for guidance. The meeting unanimously agreed. 2. Heart – nothing to report. 3. MRD – nothing to report. 4. ICT – discussed under 5.1 (1) DNA Tests.	
6.		**REPORTS**		
	6.1	**President's Report**	J Pearson presented the President's Report.	Moved: H Brighton Seconded: J Dixon
	6.2	**Secretary's Report**	D Turner presented the Secretary's Report.	Moved: H Brighton Seconded: J Dixon
	6.3	**Treasurer's Report**	D Turner presented the Treasurer's Report.	Moved: H Brighton Seconded: J Dixon
7.	**7.1**	**Appointment of Auditor**	• D Turner proposed to reappoint Anne Howell as the NGRC Auditor for the next financial year. D Turner gave Anne Howell two bottles of SSB as a token of thanks for auditing the NGRC accounts for the past two years.	Proposed: D Turner Seconded: R Thompson Carried.
8.	**8.1**	**Election of President and Secretary/Treasurer**	On 10 October 2025: • One nomination received from GRCSA for Jill Pearson as President and seconded by the GRCVIC. • One nomination received from GRCVIC for Debra Turner as Secretary/Treasurer and seconded by the GRCSA. Positions of President and Secretary/Treasurer were elected unopposed.	
9.	**9.1**	**Vote on Notice of Motion to amendments to Constitution and By-Laws**	On 10 October 2025: • Motion received from GRCVIC to amend Clause 3.1.5 of the Constitution and amend By-Law 1 and delete By-Law 2.	Motion Carried.
10.		**CORRESPONDENCE**		
	10.1 IN	20/08/2025 – GRCNSW 03/09/2025 – GRCNSW 909/09/2025 – TGRC 09/09/2025 – Anne Howell 09/09/2025 – GRCVIC 10/09/2025 – GRCVIC	1. Email concerning process to submit correspondence for NGRC meetings. 2. Email September 2025 Club Newsletter. 3. Email confirming Annual Membership Fee sent to club treasurer for payment. 4. Email confirming receipt of NGRC 2024-2025 accounts for auditing. 5. Email confirming Annual Membership Fee sent to club treasurer for payment. 6. Email from club secretary resending NGRC invoice to treasurer.	

		30/09/2025 – TGRC 01/10/2025 – TGRC 02/10/2025 - GRCVIC 02/10/2025 – GRCVIC 06/10/2025 – Anne Howell 10/10/2025 – GRCVIC 10/10/2025 – GRCSA 20/10/2025 – GRCNSW 21/10/2025 - GRCNSW	7. Email c/w bank receipt confirming payment of annual membership fees. 8. Email forwarding response DogsTAS re puppy research levy/funding canine research. 9. Email confirming value date of payment of annual membership fees. 10. Email advising club sent letter to DogsVIC re funding for canine research. 11. Email confirming completion of audit c/w signed NGRC financial statement. 12. Email with attached nomination letter. 13. Email with attached nomination letter. 14. Email October 2025 Club Newsletter. 15. Email confirming reminder sent to club's treasurer to pay Annual Fees.	
	10.2 OUT	14/08/2025 – GRCNSW 14/08/2025 – GRCQLD 08/09/2025 – State Clubs 08/09/2025 – State Clubs 08/09/2025 – GRCNSW 09/09/2025 – State Clubs 09/09/2025 – Anne Howell 09/09/2025 – Anne Howell 01/10/2025 – TGRC 1/10/2025 – State Clubs 01/10/2025 – GRCVIC 02/10/2025 – GRCVIC 02/10/2025 – GRCVIC 03/10/2025 – Anne Howell 21/10/2025- GRCNSW 21/10/2025 - GRCNSW	1. Email with letter responding to club's queries raised in their letter July 2025. 2. Email with attached letter seeking club's interest to host 14th GR National. 3. Emails with NGRC 21 August 2025 GM minutes and advising date of AGM. 4. Emails with attached Notice of the NGRC AGM and opening of nominations. 5. Email with NGRC explanation for re-resending NGRC letter dated 14 Aug 2025. 6. Emails with invoice for Annual Membership Fee with the NGRC for the 2025–2026 period. 7. Email seeking confirmation to audit NGRC accounts for 2024-2025 financial year. 8. Email thanking her for confirming acceptance of auditor role. 9. Email thanking club for prompt payment of Annual Membership Fee. 10. Email tanking TGRC for DogsTAS response and encourage all clubs to make similar enquiries. 11. Email thanking the club for payment of Annual Membership Fee and seeking value date for payment. 12. Email thanking club for writing to DogsVIC re querying funding for canine research. 13. Email thanking confirmation of value date of payment. 14. Email with NGRC Treasurer's documents for 2024-2025 financial year for auditing. 15. Email gently reminding that NGRC Annual Membership Fee remains outstanding. 16. Email thanking for following up payment of NGRC fees. R Thompson asked if a reply from GRCQLD was received to our letter asking for their interest in hosting next National. D Turner advised that the topic was on the GRCQLD's AGM agenda which is to be held early December. **Resolution:** The President asked if all agreed that NGRC should write to GRCQLD seeking outcome of this item raised at their AGM. The meeting unanimously agreed.	

11.		**GENERAL BUSINESS**	**DISCUSSION**	
	11.1	**13th Golden Retriever National Update**	R. Thompson advised that a meeting will be held at the Tanundas show hall next week to design the floor plan and other arrangements. The GRCSA is extremely fortunate to have Kim Burke volunteer as Show Manager. R Thompson expressed sincere appreciation, noting that Kim is widely regarded for exceptional organisational skills and experience in managing events. Her involvement is a significant asset to the success of the show. Discussion was held regarding the timing of the RATG and Obedience events. These will proceed as per the previously distributed timetable: • **RATG**: Monday at the grounds of Grand Cru, a beautiful winery located near the show hall in Tanunda. • **Obedience and Rally**: Tuesday, with two rings operating concurrently. It is hoped that trials will be suspended if dogs entered in Property Classes which are scheduled for the afternoon. Information will begin circulating to everyone in the New Year. Early feedback suggests strong entries, including people travelling from New Zealand and even breed enthusiasts from Estonia. H Brighton asked about fundraising activities. R Thompson confirmed that the Club will run its popular wine fundraiser. Details of available wine, pricing and ordering will be posted on the Facebook page. Members will be able to pre-order and pay online. Another,fund raiser will be a raffle and its details will also be added on Facebook.	
12.		**DELEGATE'S REPORT**	**DISCUSSION**	
	12.1	**NSW**	It was voted and agreed at the Club's AGM that meetings will now be held bi-monthly and also bi-monthly newsletters. Anything urgent will be addressed at the Committee Meetings. The Club has contracted Tina Angrell (SE) and Hilary Male (UK) for the June 2026 long weekend shows. They are moving their shows back to ring one at Orchard Hills.	
	12.2	**VIC**	Since the last meeting, the Melbourne Royal Show was held with an impressive entry of 55 Golden Retrievers, the second-largest breed entry at the Royal. A Golden Retriever achieved Group 2 under strong competition and a puppy was shortlisted for its class in group. In October, we held two Championship Shows: Saturday: Judge Doreen McGugan (Scotland) attracted 106 entries plus 30 property class entries. Critiques were provided on the day. Sunday: Judge Kat Jackson (New Zealand) undertook her first international judging appointment with 81 entries. Unfortunately, critiques from Kat have not yet been received despite attempts by the Club and separately by J Pearson. This delayed timing has been disappointing.	

			We also hosted a double Obedience and triple Rally trial, which drew excellent entries—up by 15 entries compared to last year. Following the Championship Shows, the Club attended the Dog Lovers Festival, where Golden Retrievers proved very popular with visitors. A highlight was a demonstration of spinning Golden Retriever hair into yarn, which attracted considerable interest. The spinner has offered to send the Club the yarn she produced on the day. An attempt was made to run a "Paint Your Golden" event, similar to the successful event by GRCQLD. Despite the low cost ($85, including wine and nibbles) and the opportunity to paint your Golden with guidance from artists, the event did not attract sufficient interest and was cancelled. We plan to try again in March next year. The Club has opted not to attend Dogs Day Out at KCC in December due to an already busy schedule. However, we are hosting a Sprint Dog double weekend on 29–30 November, with Sunday open to all breeds. The Sunday event sold out in just six minutes. The weekend attracted 120 entries both days at $20 per dog, making it an excellent fundraiser. Additionally, a Boxing Day sausage sizzle is planned, following last year's successful Christmas Eve event which raised $3,500 profit. We have organised an: • Eye Clinic: 29 November with Dr Robin Stanley, $90 per dog (includes ACES form) and $27.50 for gonioscopy. • Heart Clinic: Dr Richard Woolley's clinic, $50 per dog to be held at his rooms. The Club has also introduced changes to the point score system for next year: • Still 12 shows per year (one per month). • Baby of the Year retained. • New Rising Star of the Year category (Minor, Puppy, Junior). • Additional categories: Intermediate, Australian Bred, and Open of the Year. • Dog and Bitch of the Year revised: now based on the five best challenges, including points from Group or BIS wins in Victoria only. This change eliminates the advantage of those travelling to country shows under the point score system for example and now ensures a fairer system.	
	12.3	**SA**	We held our AGM on Monday night and introduced some new ideas to boost attendance, as we usually struggle to reach a quorum. To encourage participation, we offered raffle prizes and placed winning numbers under seats, which proved successful. We also featured a grooming demonstration by Kari Harding. As a result, instead of struggling to reach the required quorum of 16, we had 21 members attend. The Club also hosted a couple of Fun Days, which continue to be very popular, attracting 60–80 participants each time. These events are organised by an enthusiastic sub-committee made up entirely of pet owners, who do an	

			excellent job. The Club currently has approximately 250 members. We have appointed Leanne Francis as the new Coordinator for the Caring Canine Companion program, following the departure of the previous coordinator after only a few months, which was very awkward. Leanne is working hard to recruit more volunteers and assess additional dogs. The program now has nearly 100 volunteers, who collectively conduct up to 300 visits per week to aged care facilities. This role involves significant administrative work to meet government requirements, as the program receives substantial funding that must be justified. Fortunately, some of this funding allows us to pay Leanne a modest wage. She is supported by three additional coordinators.	
	12.4	**WA**	Our recent Championship Show achieved a record entry of 72 dogs, plus 22 in Property Classes, for a total of 94 entries—a fantastic result for WA, especially with no interstate exhibitors. At our AGM, a motion was passed not to hold Novice Restricted and All Age Stakes retrieving trials due to the challenges of obtaining gun licenses and sourcing birds. Rather the Club will run RATG events. Current membership sits at approximately 100 members. We are planning a sausage sizzle fundraiser but are carefully considering dates after last year's event in February was a 40-degree day. February has been ruled out for future sausage sizzles! A heart clinic was proposed for November, but arrangements have not yet been finalised. We have contacted several judges who have expressed interest in travelling to Australia and we will liaise with TGRC regarding these appointments. Critiques from our 2026 show were received promptly, which was appreciated. The judge noted in her preamble that there was a number of dogs with incorrect bites. D Turner commented that the judge appeared particularly focused on bites, which is important in our breed, suggesting that dogs with poor bites were unlikely to be placed.	
	12.5	**QLD**	Absent.	
	12.6	**TAS**	We held our AGM in early October and this year has been a change in the Executive with Jan Grierson retiring from the Committee and Paul Colles stepping down from Vice President. Lisa Watson was elected as new Treasurer with Ingrid Inglis elected as Vice President. Paul Stevenson also retired from the Committee and also as NGRC State Delegate. The Club is very grateful and thanked Paul and Jan for their long service on the Committee and welcomed Lisa and Ingrid. This year the Club has recognised Jan Grierson, Paul Stevenson and Jan Jeffrey as life members of the Club and the presentations will be made this Sunday at our Golden Retriever Club Walk. We had a very successful championship show in September with our Scottish judge, Mandy McDonald,	

			although the wind was bitter and a bit of a surprise to our judge and her husband James, it was well supported show. A couple of days after the show, James and Mandy led a very informative and practical retrieving workshop. Next year we are hoping to add another Retrieving RATG trial to our calendar as well as finding some special events to celebrate our 30th Anniversary. D Turner sought confirmation from Linda Rand that she will now be TGRC's State Delegate. Linda confirmed.	
13.		**NEW BUSINESS:**	**DISCUSSION** As the responses need to be received by Dogs Australia no later than COB 31 March 2026, D Turner will circulate to State Delegates and Secretaries, the Breed Council proforma constitution document which has been in progress for some time with the National Breed Councils Liaison Working Party and which the Dogs Australia Board of Directors have discussed and requested to be circulated to all Councils for their feedback before it is finalised.	
		Next Meeting for NGRC Thursday, 29 January 2026. **Secretary to set up meeting via Teams and invite Delegates at their local times as follows:** **5:00pm - WA** **7:00pm - QLD** **7:30pm - SA** **8:00pm - NSW, VIC and TAS** President thanked everyone for their attendance and wishes everyone a very happy Christmas and a safe New Year. Look forward to seeing you all after the festive season. Thank you for everyone's support.		
		Meeting closed at 9:32pm (AEST).		