

TRIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT – 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Obedience, Rally, Trick Dog, Agility and Dances with Dogs

The past twelve months have been a busy and productive period for the Club's trial and competition activities, with 2026 seeing the introduction of Dances with Dogs competitions, the continuation of our annual Obedience & Rally Trial and Agility Trials, and a series of successful external workshops conducted to support the development of Dances with Dogs.

DANCES WITH DOGS

2026 marked the first year that the Club conducted Dances with Dogs competitions, adding another Dogs Australia discipline to our competition calendar.

The Club has committed to conducting three Dances with Dogs competitions each year. Competitions were successfully held in Sunday 12 April and Saturday 20 June, with the third scheduled for Sunday 18 October. Both competitions were well supported with entries, including strong participation from our own Club members.

Establishing the discipline has required the purchase of equipment and other competition resources. The Club was fortunate to receive sponsorship from Wilton Dog Training Centre towards the cost of ribbons for our Dances with Dogs competitions, as well as generous sponsorship from KONG. This support has been greatly appreciated during the establishment of the discipline.

External Workshops and Funding of Dances with Dogs

A number of external Dances with Dogs and Rally workshops were conducted during the year, attracting participants from both within and outside the Club. These workshops were specifically undertaken as a fundraising initiative to support the establishment and ongoing development of Dances with Dogs.

The workshops generated a profit of over \$3,000, providing working funds to support the continued development of Dances with Dogs at the Club. As some of the assets currently required to conduct competitions are still being borrowed, these funds will assist the Club to progressively build its own equipment and resources for the discipline.

Further external workshops are planned, with funds raised continuing to support Dances with Dogs and its competitions.

OBEDIENCE AND RALLY

The Club's annual Obedience and Rally Trial was held on Sunday 17 May 2026. Entry numbers were lower than previous years, particularly in Obedience.

Club members were well represented, competing in Obedience and Rally. Three Club members achieved qualifying scores in Obedience and Thirteen in Rally.

The Club has been very fortunate to receive generous sponsorship from Clisdells Strata Management, Blackdog Foods and KONG for our Obedience and Rally Trial. Clisdells Strata Management also provided sponsorship in 2025, without their financial support, the trials in both 2025 and 2026 would not have been financially self-supporting, with entry income alone

insufficient to meet the costs of conducting the events. We are extremely grateful for the support of all our sponsors.

This reflects the broader challenge currently facing Obedience trials, with declining entry numbers while the costs, volunteer requirements and resources required to conduct events remain significant.

TRICK DOG

No Trick Dog competition was conducted in 2026, as the Club's allocated calendar date fell on Easter Sunday. Trick Dog will return to the Club's competition calendar in 2027.

AGILITY

The Club's annual Agility and Jumping Trial was held on Sunday 14 June. Entry numbers were lower than in previous years, with a number of regular competitors travelling to Queensland to compete at the Dogs Australia Nationals Agility Trial held around the same period.

Despite the reduced entries, the trial was successfully conducted with the support of our judges, stewards and volunteers.

We gratefully acknowledge Blackdog Foods, KONG and The Shire Vet for their generous sponsorship and support of our Agility Trial.

LOOKING AHEAD – 2027 COMPETITION PROGRAM

During 2026, the Club reviewed the format of its annual May Obedience and Rally Trial in response to the changing trial environment across NSW.

Obedience entries have continued to decline across many clubs, with some events cancelled or placed at risk due to low entries, judge availability and the resources required to conduct them. While trials are not conducted for the purpose of generating a profit, they do need to be financially and operationally sustainable. For 2027, the Club will therefore introduce a revised format for its annual May trial, incorporating Obedience, Rally and Trick Dog on the same day.

The revised format will make better use of the grounds, officials, volunteers and infrastructure required to conduct a trial day, while providing competition opportunities across three disciplines and appealing to a broader group of competitors.

This change is not about moving away from Obedience. Obedience remains an important part of the Club and its history. Rather, it is about adapting our trial format so that we can continue to provide Obedience competition alongside other growing disciplines in a practical and sustainable way.

The Club's competition program will continue to evolve in 2027, with Dances with Dogs now established as an ongoing part of our calendar, the new combined Obedience, Rally and Trick Dog trial format being introduced in May, and our annual Agility and Jumping Trial continuing in June.

Finally, none of these events could be conducted without our judges, stewards, committee members and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who has given their time throughout the year, together with our sponsors whose support has helped make these events possible.