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Karen Morrison has been involved in the sport of dog agility for approximately 9 years. During that time, she has been actively involved in her local Tokoroa club holding various committee positions and is currently the Chair of the Zone 2 NZDAC Organizing Committee.

During this time Karen has represented Zone 2 on three occasions at NZDAC, competed at the Australian Nationals qualifying for the Jumping Masters final, and has made her dog Fate up to an Agility & Jumping Champion. She is a regular competitor in both the North & South Island of New Zealand.

Karen holds an MBA from the University of Waikato and has been employed by Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited for the past 20 years in various leadership positions in Customer Supply Chain, Customer Complaint Management and Business Improvement. She has a passion for coaching and helping people and teams achieve their goals. Her energy and authentic communication style inspire action. She has a strong background in strategy development, project and program management.



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Hello everyone,

When I started in agility, I joined the local club and quickly became a member of the Committee, in the role of Secretary from 2005 to 2008. I was the Founding Secretary of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers New Zealand Inc from 2009-2013 and also held the role of Northern Area Representative for the New Zealand Flygility Dog Association in 2010. During 2014, I wrote a small column for the monthly NALA magazine representing Zone 1. Outside of agility, I have worked as a Secretary/PA, employed in large multinationals for nearly twenty years in the UK and in NZ, until I left to become self-employed. For the last ten years, I have worked as a professional Show Secretary alongside my husband, Scott, as ShowSec.

The reasons that I wanted to join the Agility Committee are still as valid as they were back in 2015 when I first stood and again in 2017 – I have experience from a slightly different viewpoint of agility, being behind the laptop at shows. I have a neutral position on issues that may arise as I'm no longer competing, so don't suffer from "my dog" syndrome. Finally, I never made it into Senior or Jumpers A - my highest achievement was a 3rd in Jumpers B - I know exactly how it is to be an average competitor, one with the minor successes and someone who enjoyed agility for the time with my dog, not necessarily to bring home ribbons every show.

I believe in listening to the agility community with an open mind. In the last term of office, I have supported points of view that I felt the majority of the community were holding. I was instrumental in adding clarification to our Regulations. Our Regulations are meant to provide a fair playing field to all and keeping the balance between implementing proactive ideas and bureaucratic red tape is vital.

What is also important is keeping the lines of communication open between the Agility Committee and the agility community. I will endeavour to ensure that the Agility Committee is the voice of the community and that every competitor feels well represented by their Committee.

Thank you.



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Dear Agility Community.

I'm going to keep this short and sweet. 4 years ago, I joined the Agility Committee. I have been part of a committee that took on the controversial heights review... followed by the committee that worked on the controversial equipment standardisation, the even more controversial topic of the collapsible tunnel, and ridden the rollercoaster of Covid-19.

Now the elections are coming up, and I have decided to put myself forward once again and stand for another term on the Agility Committee. Why? Because what would life be without a bit of controversy... LOL...

Over the last past 4 years, I have learned a lot about our sport, and about the people of our sport, and I have ruffled a few feathers here and there, but I have also started to learn the art of diplomacy and growing up... I am passionate about our sport and I feel I have the experience and the knowledge required to be a valuable part of the Agility Committee, and this time around, I would like to challenge myself a bit more and stand for the position of Chair and EC representative, and I feel that I would be a good fit for this position.

Don't spend too much time thinking about whether I'm a good choice, just pour yourself a drink, tick the box with my name next to it, and sit back and enjoy the ride.

Chris Richardson




Dogs

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In 2009, I quit my full-time job in event management and bought a villa in the country. Not long after that, I suggested to my husband that we get a dog. You know, as a companion. After much discussion and deliberation, we decided on a Standard Schnauzer. You could do agility with it, he said to me. And there it began.

I joined the Manukau Dog Training Club early on, taking Tillie to their Puppy Obedience classes when she was about 12 weeks old. After flirting a little with Obedience, Rally and Canine Good Citizen, we decided to give agility a crack and have never looked back. She was never going to be a superstar, she is a Schnauzer after all!, but I loved the bond we shared as we trained together.

At just over 10 years old and with the odd ribbon and a stack of certificates under her belt, Tillie is now happily retired, but still loves her sojourns around and across the North Island, following her little sister Gretel's progress. The agility community is full of a great spirit, and I too, have made some wonderful friends and met some awesome dogs that inspire me on a weekendly basis.

Since those very early days, I have trained, competed, attended some amazing seminars, coordinated my own club's shows, helped at other club's shows, been on the Manukau Dog Training Club's committee, served as their secretary and hopefully inspired others, through teaching, to find the joy in their agility journey.

In 2017, I put my name forward for the first time, to the Agility Committee and, despite not being voted on, was asked to sit on the Heights Review Subcommittee. It was a challenging sub-committee, but I was grateful for the experience and it taught me a lot about this sport of ours, people's passions and drivers and, ultimately, their love of dogs.

But, to leave the dogs and agility behind for a moment. From a purely professional stand-point, I have a background in Advertising Campaign Planning and Event Management, having worked in corporate advertising agencies, a community arts facility and at local government level at the Manukau City Council, and I now head up my own small Bookkeeping business.

At the core of everything I do, is an absolute desire to help people and I hope I approach that in a way that is straight-forward, respectful and comfortable for most. I enjoy working alongside diverse groups of people to make whatever they are doing successful, and I believe that open channels of communication are important.

So, my reason for putting my name forward for the Agility Committee this year is reasonably simple, I guess. I enjoy giving back, I enjoy sharing my passion with others, and I enjoy working with people who are working hard to benefit the majority, and make this sport, in particular, bigger, better, faster and more! Thank you for the opportunity.



COUNTIES DOG TRAINING CLUB Inc.
CHAMPIONSHIP AGILITY EVENT - EASTER 2016

STARTERS 1 ~ 2nd

COUNTIES DOG TRAINING CLUB Inc.
CHAMPIONSHIP AGILITY EVENT - EASTER 2016

JUMPERS C 1 ~ 1st

1 October 2020

I have been nominated for the DNZAC Committee.

Back in 2017 I was nominated but was not successful. Since then I have seen many changes with agility in general, rules, safety, equipment and opinions. Of course the committee is there for the good of the members and it's always good to get new ideas from new committees. For us in agility, it is for the good of our Dog Sport.

About me: I've been involved with dogs since I was 10 years old, having of types of pets. As an adult I bred Rottweilers back in the day, now breeding and competing with my Border Terriers. I was a Veterinary Nurse for 13 years and worked as a Field Officer for the SPCA for 13 years. From Veterinary nursing I moved to a Territory Manager for a Dental product company for 19 years, not nearly as interesting as animal involvement.

I started many years ago in dog obedience with Akarana Dog Obedience Club where I also became an instructor and the club Secretary for 4 years. I competed in obedience trials for a short time with my Rottie Gammon.

Later I discovered Agility and decided this was the sport for me with my first agility dog Teeshin. Akarana DTC hadn't started agility then so I joined ACAC where I remained for several years. Akarana then changed the club format and become more involved with agility, running obedience courses as a community service. It seemed a better option to move clubs when I lived 5 minutes away. I joined Akarana DTC again in 2006. As time went by I become involved with training agility and competing with my two dogs. I became the club secretary again in 2012- 2017. I remained on the committee for a time thereafter. The club has gone through some Reserve development's which threatens the existence of our long standing club. However, after I resigned from the committee I have continued to liaise on behalf of the club dealing with Auckland Council, Auckland Transport with regards to the reserve re- development issues to date.

Although none of my current dogs have made Agility Champion, which is a goal for competitors. I have enjoyed competing in the sport. I was fortunate to share 7 years with Kenzy, Windygyle Isla ADXGold, JDX, JAX, FD, my beautiful Border Terrier who loved agility and Flygility. Kenzy and represented the then NDTA Zone1 Team Starters dog. That was amazing and became one of many highlights in our agility time together. We also competed in the Zone1 Flygility Team in Tokoroa 2015. That aside it was Kenzy who made agility fun which encouraged me to continue competing in such a great sport. When I lost Kenzy tragically in 2016 I thought I would throw it all in, it was just too hard. But there were good agility friends out there who helped me carry on, thank goodness for them.

In 2017 I put my hand up to join the NZDAC organising committee and subsequently became the Secretary. I was fortunate to work with a great organising committee. What a fabulous experience the entire project was. I'm sure some of that committee will roll their eyes if they read that. Easy to say now it's all over!

This year in 2020, I know we all want to skip it and go straight to 2021. For me there were some new highlights. I had an exciting adventure with one of my dogs during winter. I look forward to telling you about it when time permits.

What I have to can offer if successful:

Importantly my love of the agility sport, which means I will have at least some understanding. Continue to work on knowledge/safety/awareness for competitors, for their dogs and the general public.

Knowing many competitors, I'd like to be approached to discuss agility matters/concerns and if requested raise them with the agility committee.

I have ideas around social media and how perhaps we could use this a little more proactively and cease some of the strong opinionated comments posted.

If elected I'll be putting these forward.

Ultimately it's not what I've done in my lifetime or who likes or dislikes me; it's my enthusiasm to put my hand up for the DNZAC committee.

I'm sure whoever is elected for this committee will be a great asset to all agility members.

A big shout out to the nominees and re-standing committee members, who are all prepared to volunteer their time for the Agility community..

Rosemarie J Baker



Phil Johnson

It is my intention to put my name forward and re-stand for a second term on the Agility Committee. For those of you who don't know me I have been involved in Dog Agility for over 15 years alongside my fiancé and fellow agility competitor Lisa Duff. I am a builder and own my own building company in North Canterbury. Prior to re-training as a builder I was a solicitor who practised in Company and Commercial law here in Canterbury. I am a member of the Waimakariri Dog Training Club and have previously been the President and Vice-President of the club.

I have enjoyed my first term on the Agility Committee and have enjoyed giving my time back to the sport that has given so much to me over the years. I have valued the opportunity and experience of being involved as a member of the AC and seeing the immense hard work and effort that my fellow agility enthusiasts have given back to their sport.

I have many attributes that support my ability to be an active member of the next Agility Committee. I am a practical thinker who is capable of seeing multiple sides to an issue. I think logically and enjoy the chance to collaborate alongside others. I also understand and appreciate that everyone has the right to express their thoughts and ideas and I am willing to listen to these and take your ideas back to the committee.

I have been actively involved in the standardisation of the contact equipment and this is one area that I would like to continue to work on to support clubs to make the changes in the coming years.

I am more than happy to answer any questions that you may have. Please feel free to make contact and have a chat.

