



Supplied by Rosemarie Baker,
rjbagility2020@gmail.com

The Inaugural Agility Clubs' Conference 2023

When the Agility Committee first floated the idea of an Agility Clubs' Conference, while we believed it was a good idea, and something that needed to happen, we weren't sure how or if it actually could become a reality – it seemed such a huge logistical exercise and a significant financial investment and we really weren't sure if we would have the support of the clubs.

Our vision was to create a platform where representatives from every Agility club in New Zealand could come together. We aimed to offer them a chance to listen to speakers discussing a spectrum of relevant topics, but, more crucially, we wanted to facilitate networking, fostering discussions on topics such as club membership, training, and show management.

From the perspective of the Agility Committee, the task was monumental. Operating on a tight budget, we transformed into travel agents, chefs, kitchen and bar staff, chauffeurs, keynote speakers, and masters of ceremonies.

As the first delegates began arriving at Ardmore on that Saturday morning, we couldn't believe it was actually happening. In fact, we were high on disbelief and adrenaline over the entire weekend because this totally crazy idea we had was not only a reality, it was an unqualified success!

In total, our conference boasted an attendance of 55 individuals, including club delegates, guest speakers, and guests from Dogs NZ and the Executive Council.

The Agility Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the clubs for their support and for sending their delegates. Our appreciation extends to the delegates themselves, a remarkable group of individuals who eagerly engaged with one another and shared their ideas. We would also like to thank our guest speakers, whose expertise and knowledge enriched the event. Special thanks go to Dogs NZ and the Executive Council for their support, as well as our sponsors, whose contributions were integral to the success of the weekend: Purina Proplan, PD Pet Insurance, Warehouse Stationery St Lukes Ak, Bakers Delight, Pukekohe Service Print, and Mission Estate.

In conclusion, the Agility Clubs' Conference started as a daring vision but culminated as an extraordinary achievement. It was a testament to the dedication and collaborative spirit of the Agility community in New Zealand. 🐾

Karen Grant
Agility Committee Secretary





Delegate Booklets have arrived



Delgate bag preperation



Take The Lead (TTL) leaflet sorting



Above: Jam Board - post it notes.

Below: Conference Chef - Chris Richardson



It was an honour and a very exciting prospect to be invited to present at the Inaugural agility clubs conference.

Starting with an idea being floated by the previous AC the event was finally happening. The organisation completed by the AC members was amazing. Every detail was considered, and a huge amount of time and effort went into every aspect including the catering which was also done by some AC members.

Over the weekend it was wonderful to listen to the presenters throughout the weekend and see the conversations each triggered and how much the club reps were interacting with each other, asking questions and sharing existing good practices. It seemed that everyone got something out of the weekend, new contacts were made, and new ideas hatched.

I loved delivering the show management topic and it was awesome to see everyone getting really behind the scenarios which also provided a huge amount of laughs.

It was wonderful to catch up with everyone. I would like to commend the AC for the idea, the foresight to give it a try, and for super execution. An enormous job very well done. 🐾

Fiona Hodgson

Dogs NZ Executive Council

Comments from Delegates:

I had the opportunity to attend the AC's Agility Club's Conference in Auckland as our club's delegate.

I went in with an open mind, and was blown away by the organisation, content and collaboration opportunities all weekend. I've been in the sport for a while, however, am newish to our club's committee and responsibilities that entails. The presentations ranged from information on policy and procedure, like the Dogs on Report and role of the AC and Dogs NZ Executive Council, to practical information like show management, contracting judges and using social media right through to how clubs run their foundation and beginner's agility classes including an awesome demonstration.

Collaborative ideas were shared on post-it notes, such as fundraising ideas and judge's gifts to be collated and sent to clubs, and ideas to improve the Dog Agility website were brainstormed. The sharing of information, ideas and supportive atmosphere was fantastic, as well as having representatives from Dogs NZ who provided useful insights.

To top it off we were well looked after, accommodation was good, the food was exceptional, and the venue was great – even with threats to make us move tables and sit with new people. All in all, a hugely successful, positive, and collaborative weekend with quality presentations that were interesting, relevant, and informative.

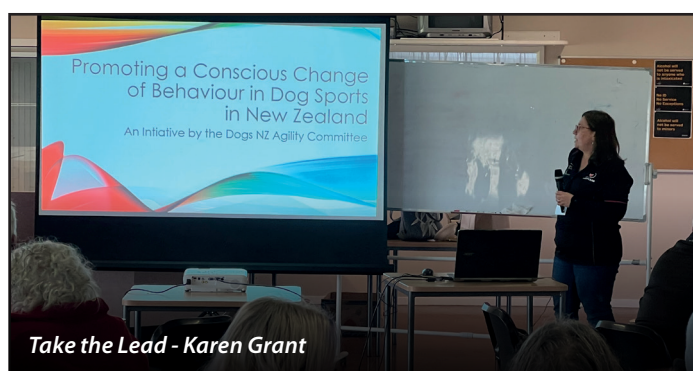
Thanks again, I really enjoyed the weekend and found it so informative! 🐾

Jen Van Dijk

Waimakariri Dog Training Club



Reducing physical work load - Wayne Turner



Take the Lead - Karen Grant



Dogs on Report (DOR) - Rosemarie J Baker



Contracting and hosting Judges - Chris Richardson



Using Social Media - Reece Smith



Foundation and Beginners training - Sallie Remon

"I'll admit I was pretty sceptical about it all but was completely blown away by the topics covered and contributions from other clubs and delegates. Thank you again to everyone who pitched in to make it happen. Hopefully it will be a semi-regular event."

"I have got some really great ideas to help our little club, but more than that, my enthusiasm has been energised by the support and passion of everyone who came along and worked so hard to make this happen!"

"Thank you so much to all the AC and all other people involved for your hard work and amazing organisation of the conference! I have learnt a lot, met new people, said hello to people I already knew. Great weekend with great people! I had so much fun over the weekend!"

"Went in with an open mind and loved the collaboration, willingness to share ideas and getting to meet new people (and put faces to names I see on the FB groups!). Was such a great atmosphere and bravo to the AC keeping us on task, (well) fed, chauffeured and the millions of tiny tasks that went into this."

"I also really enjoyed the input from Steven Thompson (Director/Secretary) and Brian Harris (President) of DNZ. Please pass on our appreciation of their part in making this a totally successful weekend."

"Summed up - FREAKIN AMAZING WEEKEND!!!!!"

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