

Agility

End of year messages from your Agility committee...

Supplied by Rosemarie Baker, rjbagility2020@gmail.com

Rosemarie J Baker

From the beginning of our Agility Committee term in December 2020 it has been pretty full on. Meetings, Zoom meetings, decisions, more Zoom meetings, messages, messages. It's been all go!

Most of my year was focussed on articles for *NZ Dog World*. Just as well, since COVID-19 Delta sure put a stop to any Agility events for me.

A big thank you to all the authors who made time to write *NZDW* articles this year. All the articles have been outstanding and a great



Rosemarie's team: Piper, Tweed, Star & Isla Wonderful.

read for the Agility community.

Your comments show us you are enjoying them.

Special thanks to Derek Johnson, *NZDW* editor. He is so helpful and creative with the articles I send him.

I feel the first year of managing *NZDW* articles has gone reasonably well. I'm now on the hunt for 2022 articles. If you have a topic you'd like to write about please email me at the address above.

Thank you to the Agility Committee during such a challenging year. We've had highs and lows but we are a great team and work well together.

Wishing everyone a safe, Happy Christmas and Merry New Year.

Hope to see you all sooner rather than later!

Diana Gausden

I'm pleased to have initiated the implementation of the collection of data on injury reports by tying data collection in with refund requests from events. Information from this will help identify where

dogs are being injured and if prevention measures are applicable. What I'm looking forward to in 2022 is more freedom to hold events with vaccination passports opening up Agility to more competitors and not just the lucky 100 who happen to live close to event venues.

Clint Banks



Tanz (Evie Bump) Bella Gizmo Jess Bailey & Clint.

How has the last year on the Agility Committee been for me?

Well, one thing stands out to everyone, not just those on the AC: COVID-19! This has certainly highlighted everyone's urge to get to shows in the weekends but with level restrictions and events restricted to 100 competitors in Level 2 this has been impossible for some.

One advantage of this is we save money, but why not look at re-investing that money into training gear for home? Or if you're unable to get to any club or training groups look into online training provided by some amazing trainers here in New Zealand or overseas. There is no such thing as a perfect pairing between dog and handler: things always go wrong or we find ourselves saying my dog's contacts are slipping or weave entries need improving.

This is a perfect time to step back and work on fixing these issues while we are out of the competition.

Our dogs are not eligible for competition until they are 18 months old and countless hours are put into training and fitness with them which is so much more important than maybe 10 minutes of running over a competition weekend.

It's great to see clubs having fun training weekends and keeping it local for members to still get out with their dogs and I fully

encourage this for clubs that are in a position to do so.

Happy training and I hope everyone has a great Christmas and New Year with your dogs and family and hope to see you all when some normality kicks in.

Chris Richardson



Chris & Rocky

I was asked to write something small about what I have enjoyed so far this term, and what my challenges were. I was going to say my biggest challenges are the other seven people I have to work with, but that's simply not true. This is my third term on the Agility Committee and I think, so far, this has probably been my most enjoyable. A lot of that comes down to the team we have, so thanks guys.

We have certainly faced our [un]fair share of challenges with this god-damned bloody virus going around. It's like the gift that keeps on giving, just not in a good way. I doubt it will change any time soon, so we just have to keep rolling with the punches and do what we have to do to keep our sport alive.

I hope each and every one of you has an amazing Christmas and New Year, and will be ready to get back out there next year and run our asses off... some of us who have been stuck at home for a while may have a bit more ass than others to move. I know I certainly do!

Karen Grant

What I've loved:

- Working with a great bunch of people – my fellow Agility Committee members
- Developing some fantastic new initiatives – Take the Lead is a definite highlight (see November's *NZ Dog World*)

What I've hated:

- COVID-19 has stolen so much time from exciting projects we want to be progressing as we try to navigate the seemingly ever-changing government rules and regulations, not to

mention the cancellation of so many events.

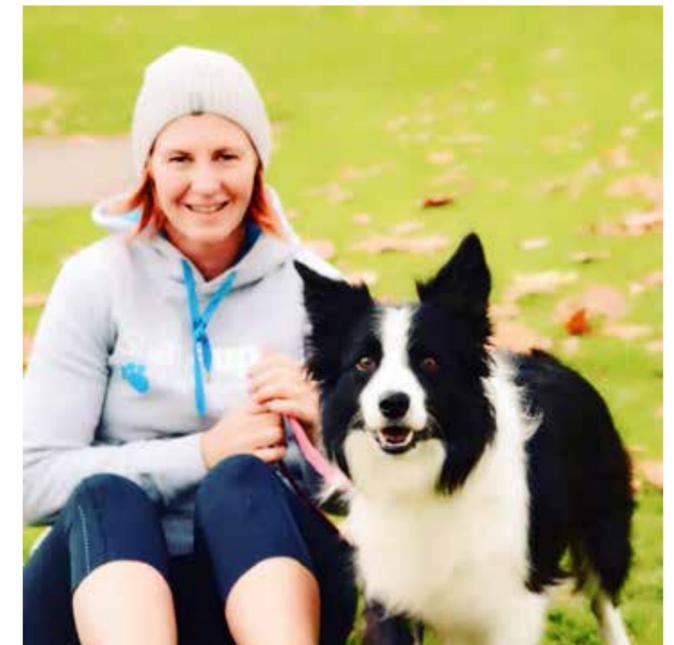
What I've learned:

- How much work AC puts in and how much time that takes up!
- My hopes for next year:
- That AC can get back to concentrating on stuff that excites us - ie., NOT COVID-19
 - That we can all get back to competing whenever and wherever we want
 - That NZDAC goes ahead as planned

I am personally most looking forward to being in Starters and Jumpers C with my young dog, and spending more time with friends and family.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Karen Morrison



Karen & Agility Champ Fate

Time flies (when you're having fun!). It's only been a year but it feels like a lifetime since our first meeting as the AC8 in Christchurch last December. Little did we know what the year ahead would hold for us. Despite the challenges of COVID-19 and the cancellation of NZDAC for the second year in a row, I've thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Agility Committee so far. We are a diverse bunch and for that very reason we work together very well, bringing some game-changing initiatives and improvements to our sport and community.

I'm extremely proud of the work we have done with Dogs New Zealand sponsors Purina Pro Plan to bring you 'Take the Lead' and look forward to seeing this firmly embedded in our sport.

I'm really looking forward to 2022 and enjoying some time with my friends and dogs competing in our new 'normal'. We have lots of exciting work on our agenda for 2022 to finish out our term as AC8, and this makes it all worthwhile.

Wishing you a safe holiday season with the ones you love. Have a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Phil Johnson

2021 has been an interesting year for so many reasons. Between COVID-19 dramas, extremely busy work, 'new normal' dog shows, face masks and to vax or not to vax, it has been brilliant to be able to tackle the year with the unwavering support of such a fantastic

Agility Committee. Bring on 2022 and all of the new dramas that will no doubt arise, so I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and all the very best for the year ahead. Remember to be kind while we all go through some uncertain times and try to have some fun along the way.

Meri Kirihimete.

Nicola Parmenter



Nicola, BJ & Cherie - Friendship, by K Mountain Pics.

Christmas and the summer holidays is generally a time where we relax, catch up with friends, reminisce, and perhaps set goals for the year ahead. Oh, and definitely eat too much!

Christmas could be somewhat different this year. As an Aucklander, never has an Alert Level change been more anticipated, than one which can see me spending Christmas with my family, where social

distancing and mask wearing can (somewhat) be forgotten.

It might sound funny, but I feel the same about Agility. In looking back over the last year, I'm reminded of all the people I have met, shared a laugh with, debated ideas with, shed tears with, drank too much wine with and made lifelong friends with.

I have always said that the Agility community as a whole has such a spirit, and, despite the angst and frustration, the fatigue and anxiety that has come with living within a pandemic, I have seen great things happen too, between people, between clubs and between codes.

So, as we roar towards Christmas and a new year, with hopefully more shows for me to go to!, I raise (yet another) glass of wine to that agility spirit, to the friends I haven't seen in ages, and those blimmin' Auckland border restrictions easing. 🐾

