



# Southern Region Rapport



Website: [www.southernregion.com](http://www.southernregion.com)

Email: Alistair Kirk; Southern Region Representative,  
Janet Bainbridge; Southern Region Secretary,  
Margaret van Oosten; Southern Region Treasurer

[kirka@clear.net.nz](mailto:kirka@clear.net.nz)  
[gjbainbr@clear.net.nz](mailto:gjbainbr@clear.net.nz)  
[margvo@xtra.co.nz](mailto:margvo@xtra.co.nz)

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## Regional Representative's Blurp

As a result of Jo Miller's retirement in December last year I find myself in this new and rather challenging roll. I have promised myself to be the best I can be and never say that's the best I can do.

At the moment we do not have a Deputy Rep; a notice will appear in next month's Dog World calling for nominations.

I have created an e-group for our delegates which hopefully will assist in their ability to communicate and pass on information.

I also hope to have (dare I say monthly) newsletters. Perhaps our readers may like to suggest ideas for inclusion in these newsletters.

*When a man's best friend is his dog, that dog has a problem.*

*Edward Abbey*

## Dog Obedience Committee Report

The last NZKC Dog Obedience Committee meeting was a teleconference on 23 November 2011.

At this meeting:

- Results from the latest voting round were discussed with an expression of disappointment at the low voting return being expressed. All voting options that had reached the required pass threshold are to be forwarded to the NZKC Executive Council.
- A call for nominations for the Deputy Region Representatives positions due this year, would be published in the February 2012 NZ Dog world.
- Obedience tests at the NZKC National Show would commence on Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> in 2012.

The next scheduled NZKC Dog Obedience Committee meeting is set for 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012. If there are any matters you wish for me to raise at this meeting, then please let me know within the next few weeks.

## New Zealand Kennel Club Intelligence

The last NZKC Executive Council meeting was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of December 2011.

At this meeting, the NZKC EC endorsed all of the Dog Obedience Regulations forwarded to them by the NZKC Dog Obedience Committee, following the October voting round.

There was also some discussion about allowing on line entries being permitted, with an associated increase in NZKC membership to offset loss of revenue gathered from printed forms. If agreed to however, this would need to be passed at the Annual Conference of Delegates in June 2012.

*A committee is a thing which takes a week to do what one good man can do in an hour.*

*Elbert Hubbard*

The next scheduled NZKC Executive Council meeting is set for 18/19 February 2012 so, depending if there are any matters of relevance to Obedience raised at this meeting and when the next Southern Rapport comes out, there may be some more to share in the next issue.

## **Region/Area Rumours**

The last Region meeting held was at the Tairei Canine Training Club on 10 December 2011. Regrettably, there were insufficient Club Delegate attendants to form a quorum, so any matters which required voting upon could only be discussed. However, with a recent change to the NZKC Dog Obedience Regulations allowing for electronic meetings to occur, and the setting up of a new Southern Region Club Delegates “conference group”, such situations should not occur again. This does not mean however, that there should be allowed a greater complacency to creep in on the part of clubs, their delegates, or you as individual members. While it may now be easier to discuss and vote on Region matters as they occur, your input into these discussions is just (if not even more so now), just as important. Frequently, I have heard people complain that clubs or their committees have made decisions without calling for any individual membership input. Well, do not wait for them to consult with you, but rather take the initiative and consult with them.

Matters discussed at the last Southern Region meeting included:

- An initial intent to incorporate NZKC Rally-O as an Inter-Region Event, which had to now be abandoned due to a perceived lack of support expressed by members on the NZKC Dog Obedience Committee.
- A proposal to adopt the monogram designed for this year’s NDOA as a permanent Southern Region NDOA monogram.
- A proposal to alter the current Southern Region NDOA uniform.
- A report given by myself on NZKC’s intent to run their National Show from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October this year.
- NZKC now recognizing (at long last), the Canine Good Citizen titles.
- Proposed changes to the Southern Region Administration Orders.
- The need to call for an election to appoint a Deputy Representative for the Southern Region.
- A desire for there to be expressed a disappointment at the lack of clubs represented at this meeting.

Each of the proposals listed above are now required to be discussed at club level, which means YOUR input is being asked for. So, if you wish to say something about any of these matters, the “ball is in your court”.

## **Club Information**

Traditionally this section has been reserved for highlighting one of the clubs within the Region. However, this being my first newsletter out to you and the first for this year, I wish to alter the practice just a little for this issue.

Being this time of the year, I am going to soon pester you (more than I already have) for administrative information for the purposes of maintaining an accurate Southern Region voting register. For a number of reasons, gaining this information from each club rather than NZKC (who theoretically have the same information) is considerably easier and results in a substantially more accurate register.

I am aware that membership changes through the year, which is why this is an annual exercise. For those of you who are responsible for “guarding” the information required, my plea to you is to please pass on the information required as quickly as possible so that this substantial annual task is dealt with as quickly as possible.

Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success. ~Author Unknown

As this is a voting register and there are potentially three obedience codes your members may vote on matters for, I am also in need of knowing which members can vote for what. If you yourselves are unsure who can vote for what, I would implore you to read (the latest version of) NZKC Dog Obedience Regulations 5.2 (which takes all of about five minutes). Once you have identified what codes they are eligible to vote for, please identify them on your register details to me (by either highlighting or the sending of separate code registers).

As if all of this is not enough, I still have clubs in this Region that have not registered a club delegate with me. Essentially, this is the vital link between the Southern Region Committee and you the club. A human equivalent of the vital connection required between the brain and the heart. So PLEASE, if you are one of these clubs that have not already informed me of who your delegate is do so NOW. I have set up a system that I think will make communication of Region matters far more efficient than may have been the case in the past, but it is totally dependent on your club having a representative (delegate).

## Individual Newsflash

Following on in the same theme from the previous section, I also wish to very strongly encourage you, as individuals, to play your part. Before we get our results after a day of competing, I am sure all of us look forward in anticipation to reaping the benefits of a well-run show/event. We are often even mindful that this is only possible because of the labours of a (often small) team of very hard working and dedicated people. While not everybody can become a club committee member and/or Club Delegate (although I am sure your club(s) would love you to volunteer), for most, the commitment to helping out at our club show occurs only about two weekends a year. If not already done so, why not make a New Year's resolution to be more supportive of your own club(s), and VOLUNTEER to help out on at least one occasion. Why not also learn to become a Ring Steward. Almost everybody I know who has decided to undertake this task has truly appreciated (for all the right reasons) the opportunity. Regrettably, many have stood back and said "it looks too hard" when in fact it is not and the comment frequently made by those who have stewarded is "that was fun". Along the same lines, YOUR Region is run by a very small but dedicated band of people both within and associated with the Southern Region Obedience Committee. YOUR commitment to them is equally important as it is to your club(s). YOUR support IS VITAL in that they want to hear your feedback on matters of discussion both at Region and National level. No matter what level of involvement you have within the club or at a show/event, the fact that you are an eligible obedience voter means that you have the right to express an opinion on whatever obedience matter (including working trials and rally-o) arises. Just because you may have only recently entered the sport, does not mean you could not be able to share some profound insight. Those of us who have been in the sport for some time have often developed blind spots. It is important therefore that when you receive discussion documents, which is generally only twice a year, that you do exactly that. DISCUSS THEM! Following these discussion documents will come an invitation to vote on the matters just discussed. Too frequently, we hear another criticizing the changes made. However, frequently they are also the ones who did not vote. So PLEASE, make this a year where you give a little more to the sport of your choice, and together we will ALL reap the benefits of your input.

## Rally Résumé

**The great pleasure of a dog is that you may make a fool of yourself with him and not only will he not scold you, but he will make a fool of himself too. ~Samuel Butler, *Notebooks*, 1912**

It had been hoped that this year we may have had the opportunity to host the first Inter-Region Rally-O Event at the NDOA in October. However, regrettably this endeavour has had to be placed on hold for at least another year.

One of the reasons why it had been placed on hold is due to the, as yet, very small number of NZKC Rally-O judges in the North island, which has led to a lack of NZKC Rally-O Championship Events being conducted up there. In turn, this means that there is a lack of “qualified”

participants able to represent their respective Regions.

However, I believe it will only be a short matter of time before we start to see Inter-Region competition occurring, albeit on a friendly basis (which is what Rally-O is always about), and at next year’s NDOA in Auckland, you just never know.

Arend van den Bos has already been to Auckland three times to specifically promote/train and judge Rally-O up there, and the reports coming back from him are VERY encouraging. Jo Miller has also already made one trip up there, and is contracted to judge there again in March.

Following the latest round of voting in October, five remits members were asked to vote upon were passed. These being:

- If a member has previously achieved a Companion Dog Title (not necessarily with the dog they are now handling in Rally-O), they start in Rally-O Novice B (and not Rally-O A as was previously allowed).
- Size/Colour/Placement etcetera of signs has now been regulated for, which previously had not been the case.
- Handlers now have a greater variety of options as to what to do with their leads AFTER they walk the dog into the ring for an off lead course.
- Restrictions on which stations may be duplicated within any one course is now regulated for, which had not previously been the case.
- It is now a regulated requirement for hosting clubs to provide a time steward for Rally-O Events.

NZKC Rally-O has now reached its first anniversary and largely all indications for a very bright future are there. Inevitably there will be a little settling, but by and large I think we can feel very proud as a Region to have essentially been the major instigator and promoter of this wonderful code to the rest of the country through NZKC.

## National Dog Obedience Assembly News Update

The last meeting of a very vibrant 2012 NDOA Committee was held on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, with the next meeting planned for 9<sup>th</sup> February.

There is an enormous amount of work involved in organizing an NDOA, which is why the planning begins two to three years out, which now with a three yearly Region rotation actually means an almost continual committee commitment.

For this year’s NDOA we have been truly blessed with an incredible and committed committee.

At their last meeting, matters discussed included:

- A critiquing of the 2011 NDOA.

- A disappointment that there still had been no acknowledgement received from the two principal sponsors who were approached about sponsoring the 2012 NDOA.
- Allocation of tests to the selected judges for the 2012 NDOA.
- An agreement to submit a recommendation to the Southern Region Committee that the 2012 NDOA Working Trials be hosted in Nelson during the week leading up to the commencement of the 2012 NDOA Obedience and Rally-O in Christchurch.
- A draft plan for an Inter-Region Rally-O Event was accepted.
- An offer by Kate Winters to organize a Heelwork to music event at the 2012 NDOA was accepted on the proviso that it is at no additional cost to the Southern Region.
- The hire/purchase of a new mascot is ongoing.
- Outside ground usage and parking were becoming issues due to a secondary booking. An ongoing investigation is occurring.
- The success in selling ALL the Southern Region supporters vests.
- Recommendation (to the Southern Region Committee) that the current (self-funding) NDOA supporters vest be included as part of the Southern Region's NDOA team uniform.
- 2012 NDOA Badge and Key-ring sales had commenced.
- Recommendation (to the Southern Region Committee) that the current 2012 NDOA logo be adopted permanently.
- A recommendation for the establishment of a permanent Southern Region NDOA subcommittee.

And these are just some of the main points. As you can see, there is a great deal of work being done and still being required to be done. If you feel you can assist in some way, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

## Obedience Events Calendar



In accordance with Dog Obedience Regulation 7.2 **ALL** official Obedience events must have prior approval from the Region Representative. This includes Ribbon Trials and Rally-O Events. When requesting for permission to do a CD Trial, you need to specify what level(s) of CD you are providing. For example, CD only, or CD and Silver etc.

All of the following information is given in accordance with what information has been supplied to me by NZKC and various clubs at the time of writing. For this reason, an at least four month forecast is given, but subject to change.

### January 2012

21/22 January Southland Dog Training Club

21/22 January Southland Dog Training Club

21 January Canterbury Canine Obedience Club

28/29 January Otago Canine Training Club

Championship Obedience

Championship Rally-O

Ribbon Trial

Championship Obedience

28 January Otago Canine Training Club

CD

**February 2012**

4/5 February Otago Canine Training Club

Championship Rally-O

18/19 February Christchurch Dog Training Club

Championship Obedience

**March 2012**

3/4 March Southland Dog Training Club

Championship Obedience

3/4 March Southland Dog Training Club

Championship Rally-O

3 March Nelson Dog Training Club

Ribbon Trial

Rally-O Ribbon Trial

4 March Blenheim Dog Training Club

Ribbon Trial

10th March Canterbury Canine Obedience Club

Champ Rally-O Trial

10/11 March Canterbury Canine Obedience Club

Championship Obedience

17/18 March South Canterbury Dog Training Club

Championship Obedience

17 March South Canterbury Dog Training Club

CD/CD Silver/ CD Gold

24/25 March Obedience Trials Association

UD/WD/TD (Southland)

25th March Southland Dog Training Club

Ribbon Trial

**April 2012**

14/15 April Christchurch Dog Training Club

Championship Obedience

14/15 April Christchurch Dog Training Club

Championship Rally-O

21/22 April Otago Canine Training Club

Championship Obedience

28 April Nelson Dog Training Club

Championship Rally-O

28 April Nelson Dog Training Club

Ribbon Trial