



ADcv

Agility Dog Club of Victoria

***Celebrating 25 Years
1996 - 2021***





Agility Dog Club of Victoria

The Agility Dog Club of Victoria was incorporated on 17 July 1996.

Agility Dog Club of Victoria

25th Anniversary

Registration number A0033493S

ABN 48254211634

adcv.com.au

25 years anniversary on 17 July 2021.

Front cover photo:
Ruby achieved first place in Master Jumping at ADCV Agility Trial
on 14 September 2019, handled by Paul Gavin.
(Photo by Tehya Spencer)



Agility Dog Club of Victoria

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FOREWORD

The Agility Dog Club of Victoria (ADCV) was formed in 1996 by a group of Dog Agility enthusiasts with a vision of creating a club solely dedicated to dog agility. Since its inception ADCV has provided a platform for dogs of all shapes and sizes to participate in agility through training programs and trials hosted by the club.

In providing twenty-five years of service to members, there have been many dedicated Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries, General Committee, Trial Secretaries, Instructors and numerous other volunteers who have given freely of their time and energies to promote dog agility and to administer the many facets of the club.

May the same passion and ethos that was shown by club founders and earlier members continue with the next generation of members willing to support and actively participate in the ongoing development and growth of the club. This will allow ADCV to prosper into the future and continue to provide immense pleasure and enjoyment to all those who participate in the game we all love with our dogs – Dog Agility!

Gary J Stockman

PRESIDENT

Agility Dog Club of Victoria Inc



Tai was the second 600 dog in Victoria to attain the Agility Champion title

Agility Dog Club of Victoria

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN THE COMMUNITY

PREFACE

The ADCV Club History Project was initiated by Paul Gavin in an endeavour to bring together the successes of ADCV and its members over its first 25 years. The project coincides with the completion of the new Pavilion by Hobsons Bay City Council, with funding from the West Gate Tunnel Project.

The ADCV History Project recognises the contributions of members over the 25 years. Members of ADCV have helped shape the sport of Agility in Australia, over the last 25 years which has seen monumental changes in every direction.

Training dogs is a lot of work, especially for Agility. And each dog has its own issues to resolve to be able to compete successfully. The ability we develop to communicate with another species, shows a high degree of communication skills.

Paul Gavin CA

Vice President



Ruby with her tail in the air

Origins of Agility

The history of dog agility can be traced to a demonstration in the late 1970s in the United Kingdom. It has since spread rapidly around the world, with major competitions held worldwide. Agility draws its origins from equestrian show jumping.

The first widely documented appearance of dog **agility** was as entertainment at the **Crufts** dog show in 1978. John Varley, a committee member from the 1977 show, was tasked with coming up with entertainment for the audience between the obedience and conformation competitions in the main ring. Interestingly, the Dog Walk obstacle was originally called the “Cat Walk” - how appropriate!

“Agility is a dog competition open to all dogs.”

The aim of this competition is for a Handler to direct his dog around a course of different obstacles to assess and enhance the ability of the dog and Handler to work as a team. It is an educational and sporting activity intended to improve the dog's integration into society. The sport requires a good rapport between dog and Handler, which results in perfect teamwork. Whilst speed of the dog is to be desired, steadiness of work is essential to a faultless performance of the course.”

Source: ANKC Agility Rules

The first Agility Trial in Victoria

The first Agility Trial in Victoria was held in 1987 by the Geelong Obedience Dog Club. Mrs Ute May judged the registered dogs and Digby Kelley judged the associate dogs. The number of entries were restricted to only 30 in each class as being the first trial no one had any idea of how many entries they would get nor how long the Trial would take.

One of the requirements was that your dog had to have its Companion Dog title to be eligible to enter the first Agility Trial. Years later, people misunderstood that this was a condition of entry to all Agility Trials.

Rainie McKay

In 1987, Rainie McKay was one of the original Agility Judges in Victoria. At the time, the Victorian Canine Association required Agility Judges to have an Open Obedience judging licence.

Rainie said she formed the first Agility Dog Club of Victoria in 1987-88, and achieved the first Agility Dog title with *Jackie*, her Miniature Poodle at Knox in April 1988.

Rainie is proud of all the work that she did to get the sport of Agility started in Australia, travelling around the various States, with her own set of Agility equipment on a trailer, demonstrating Agility, and getting clubs interested in Agility.

Agility Dog Club of Victoria Inc

In 1996, ADCV was the first Agility Dog Club to affiliate with Dogs Victoria.

Dogs Victoria (Victorian Canine Association) is the peak body representing owners and breeders of purebred dogs in Victoria and has a history dating back to 1877. Dogs Victoria is a member of the Australian National Kennel Council Limited (ANKC).

The original people who formed the Agility Dog Club emanated mostly from Altona Civic Obedience Dog Club. Murray Tyler led these people and negotiated with Hobsons Bay City Council to use Crofts Reserve on Blackshaws Road, North Altona, to train on “Friday nights, under lights”. Surviving members include Murray Tyler, Colin and Rhonda McInnes, Olive O’Brien, Lydia Whiteway and Gerard Lee. Paul Gavin advised Murray Tyler to register a Business Name to reserve the name for the club, and Agility Dog Club of Victoria was registered as an Incorporated Association.



Murray Tyler judging at ADCV Easter 2008

ADCV Membership

ADCV has a membership base of 54 people at 30 June 2021, of whom 7 are Life Members, and a further 9 people are Foundation members. The club has 75% female membership.

ADCV Life Members

Murray Tyler	2004
Olive O’Brien	2005
Colin McInnes	2007
Tara O’Brien	2009
Gerard Lee	2012
Sandy Stockman	2015
Sharryn Hutton	2016

ADCV Committee**2020-2021****2021-2022**

President	Gary Stockman	Gary Stockman
Vice President	Paul Gavin	Paul Gavin
Secretary	Sandy Stockman	Lucy Yuna Liang
Treasurer	Jane Davey	Sandy Stockman
General Committee	Colin McInnes	Colin McInnes
	Terry Pyke	Terry Pyke
	Andrew Macdonald	Andrew Macdonald
	Sharryn Hutton	Lydia Whiteway
	Lucy Yuna Liang	Steve Macdonald
	Lydia Whiteway	
	Yvonne Ross	
	Carole Geddes	
	Steve Macdonald	



Paul and *Ruby* competing in 2014

Agility Champions

Gary Stockman and *Tai* 2017

AG CH 600 Kiwimatai ADM ADO JDM JDO GDX SPDM SD PT

Cathy James and *Heidi* 2018

TS. GRAND CH, T.CH, AG CH 400, RO CH HEIDI LITE CD RAE RM ADM JDM
JDO SDX SPDX GD FS.A ET

Sandy Stockman and *Jet* 2018

AG CH 500 Jeti Knight ADM JDM JDO GDX SPDM SDX PT

Terri and Steve Rose and *Flame* 2019

Ag Ch 500 Brescot Eternal Flame ADM JDM ADO JDO GD

Paul Gavin and *Ruby* 2019

Ag Ch 500 No Fear in Love ADM JDM ADO JDO SDM GDM SPDM

Katie Baird and *Brightly* 2021

Ag Ch 300 Belesha Bright Star CD JDM ADM JDO GD HTM.S SPD SD TK.S

Agility Champion

A dog will be eligible for the title of Agility Champion 200, 300, 400, 500, 600 when they have attained 1000 points, these can only be gathered at the completion of the Masters title by competing in either the Master or Elite in each category of which 10 points from Agility and 10 points from Jumping must be after 1st January 2021.

To achieve the title, at least 500 points must be earned from qualifying runs only in each of Agility and Jumping, from the Master or Elite Classes.

Source: ANKC Agility Rules apply from 1st January 2021 (with rule clarifications).

ANKC TOP DOG FINALISTS

Paul Gavin

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------|------|------|
| • <i>Bluey</i> | Agility | 1998 | 2000 |
| • <i>Bluey</i> | Jumping | 2002 | |
| • <i>Ruby</i> | Agility | 2019 | 2020 |
| • <i>Ruby</i> | Jumping | 2020 | |

Gary Stockman

- | | | |
|---------------|---------|------|
| • <i>Tai</i> | Agility | 2017 |
| • <i>Tai</i> | Jumping | 2017 |
| • <i>Lani</i> | Jumping | 2021 |

Cathy James

- | | | | | | |
|----------------|---------|------|------|------|------|
| • <i>Heidi</i> | Agility | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2021 |
| • <i>Heidi</i> | Jumping | 2021 | | | |

Terri Rose

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------|------|------|
| • <i>Flame</i> | Agility | 2017 | 2021 |
|----------------|---------|------|------|

Steve Rose

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------|------|------|
| • <i>Flame</i> | Jumping | 2019 | 2021 |
|----------------|---------|------|------|

Katie Baird

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|------|------|
| • <i>Brightly</i> | Agility | 2020 | 2021 |
| • <i>Brightly</i> | Jumping | 2020 | 2021 |

Sandy Stockman

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------|------|
| • <i>Dexter</i> | Jumping | 2021 |
|-----------------|---------|------|

NADAC

Sandy Stockman *Sam* first NATCH title in Australia 2007

ANKC

National Agility Champion

Katie Baird *Brightly* 300 Novice 2018

State Champions in Victoria

Gary Stockman *Tai* 600 2017

Cathy James *Heidi* 400 2018 2019 2021

Katie Baird *Brightly* 300 2020 2021

State Champion in South Australia

Paul Gavin *Ruby* Master Strategic Pairs 2019



AG CH 600 Kiwimatai ADM ADO JDM JDO GDX SPDM SD PT



Tai attacking the Weaving Poles

Gary Stockman

My first involvement with ADCV was back in late 2007 when Sandy Stockman (then Sandy Bailey) introduced me to the Club. Having had a taste of dog agility back in the early 2000's when I lived in Brisbane, I realised that 'doing' dog agility required more than just an expectation that *Lucy* my Labrador I owned at the time, would happily jump and run through tunnels on the basis it would jump on the lounge and run with no fear around the house. How wrong I was!

It wasn't until moving to Melbourne and met Sandy that I rekindled my interest in dog agility and joined as a member of ADCV. Sandy had been doing dog agility for many years and had three experienced dogs. As a novice handler, I began to work on training techniques and relationship building with the dogs in order to learn what it takes to train and run an agility dog.

On Friday night club training, I would 'borrow' one of Sandy's dogs and participate in class. I am not sure how *Ben* - a decorated Masters dog (Shetland Sheepdog) felt about doing Foundation class with an inexperienced novice handler but it taught me the fundamentals required if I was going to be successful in this sport.

In my early days at ADCV, I watched in awe of some of the handlers and dogs training and running in Class 4 under the instruction of Murray Tyler and thought that I would never be able to get to that level.

Between 2007 and 2009 I spent most training nights at Club training with either *Ben*, *Benji* (both Shetland Sheepdogs) or *Sam* (Kelpie). With all three dogs being experienced, I learnt that every dog is very different to run (even the two shelties were different) and the key was to build a strong relationship, understanding and trust with each dog. The environment at ADCV

provided me with the opportunity to build strong foundation skills and to test them at different levels.

My first competitive run was in a NADAC trial hosted by ADCV at Crofts Reserve. I was given the responsibility by Sandy of running *Ben* the Sheltie. With great excitement I strode to the first obstacle to set up – I took the leash off, waited for the judges OK to begin my run.... which *Ben* responded to by taking off at a rate of knots and left me at the start line. I took off in pursuit of *Ben* who was doing a good job of following the course despite my lack of involvement in the run. I learnt the valuable lesson that day of the importance of a start line stay!

In 2010, I began training my first agility dog who was imported from New Zealand. *Tai* (New Zealand Heading Dog) was the perfect dog for me – he was always willing to work, he had great obstacle focus and commitment, and importantly, he never shut down irrespective of how bad my handling or instructions were! He was also a large dog who measured at the ANKC 600 height – I have a soft spot today for all the 600 dogs as I have experienced first-hand, the unique challenges these dogs face jumping at this height.

I progressed through the Clubs Foundation class, then into class 2, promoted to class 3 and then I couldn't believe it when I made it into Class 4! I was now training and running courses in Murray's class with the same dogs and people I was in awe of only a few years earlier!

My agility journey with *Tai* was always a blast – at the first ANKC Nationals we attended in Sydney in 2012, *Tai* made it through to the Novice Agility Final. We finished 3rd and what was to become a recurring theme, my handling error cost us a higher place. We also progressed to the Novice Jumping Final where he had a great run but finished outside the placings.



AG CH 600 KIWIMATAI ADM ADO JDM JDO GDX SPDM SD PT *Tai*

Friday night club training with *Tai* was a highlight at the end of a busy working week. Our biggest obstacle struggle was always the see-saw, and I would try and have the see-saw set up outside the ring to practice as often as we could. In the end *Tai* would do the see-saw perfectly at training, but in a trial it was always a 50/50 chance of success.

My journey with *Tai* progressed with many ups and downs and culminated in 2017 which was our most successful year.

The first trial for the year we competed in was on 11 February 2017 at the K9 twilight trial at KCC Park. After numerous one fault runs in the previous year (mainly see-saw faults!) *Tai* achieved his last agility pass to be awarded the Agility Champion 600 title.

It was a magic way to kick off 2017 which continued through the year with *Tai* making it into Top Dog for both Jumping and Agility. *Tai* placed 11th in Jumping and 10th in Agility. While it was a real buzz and I thoroughly enjoyed competing in Top Dog, it was bitter sweet as *Tai* was not running smoothly that day and was later diagnosed with a lower back injury.

The 2017 year ended with *Tai* being awarded the Dogs Victoria 2017 State Champion (600). Every time I look at this award, I smile and think of the absolute enjoyment I had being *Tai*'s team mate and the journey which started in foundation at ADCV.



After competing in Top Dog, *Tai* was given a break to rest and after competing in one more ANKC trial, he retired from all ANKC competition. *Tai* continues to compete in NADAC at the veterans level and is very happy jumping at a lower height.

Tai achieved numerous titles at both the Masters ANKC level and the Elite NADAC level. As with most dog agility addicts, the journey never ends. I now train and compete with another New Zealand Heading Dog who was also imported from New Zealand.

Lani obtained her ANKC Masters Jumping title in October 2019 and we are working on our contacts to achieve the Novice Agility title.

Lani also competes in NADAC at the Elite level and has achieved many NADAC titles.



KIWILANI JDM JDO GD PT *Lani*

The latest addition to the team is a Border Collie puppy named *Chase*. He will also begin his Agility career through the ADCV Foundation program as soon as he is old enough.



Chase born January 2021

Apart from training and competing with my own dogs I have enjoyed a number of different roles at the club. I am currently in the role of President. Prior to this I was Treasurer for five years and I am also an Instructor.

Since I have been involved at the club, I have met so many fantastic and supportive people and their dogs. It is always great to share our successes and challenges, while helping each other achieve our goals in a supportive club environment.

I am also amazed and grateful for the amount of time and work many of our members voluntarily contribute to ensure ADCV continues to be a successful DOG AGILITY club!

Gary Stockman



TS. GRAND CH, T.CH, AG CH 400, RO CH HEIDI LITE CD RAE RM ADM JDM
JDO SDX SPDX GD FS.A ET

Cathy James

Heidi was a rescue. I'd bought her sight unseen off the internet, from a rescue group in Toowoomba, Queensland.

She was about 6 months old, noise reactive, scared of most people, very anxious and not dog-friendly. My origin was Obedience. Agility was not on my radar at all. And I never thought Heidi would have the temperament for it.

Heidi was 4½ years old when I was finally convinced to try her in Agility. She had mentally progressed heaps through Tracking and Scent Work, as well as learning tricks. I knew nothing of Agility, nor any idea where to start her.

A couple of my Agility Judge friends, James Browne* and Paul Gavin offered myself, and a few like-minded friends from Sunbury, some jumping lessons. I think I was hooked straight-away. Heidi was such a better dog mentally, than 4 years ago. I knew nothing of Foundation, or of Agility clubs, but I reckoned after not many lessons, I could wing it in a trial.

Heidi was mature-minded, and she hated touching bars, so she made sure she didn't. She was good. She earned her Novice and Excellent Jumping titles quickly. *Heidi* had a few confidence issues on the Dog Walk and Seesaw, but when she overcame those worries, gained her Novice and Excellent Agility Titles too, within her first Agility year.

(* James Browne competed in Agility from 1988 to 2006)

In Master classes, *Heidi* and I were hopeless. With no foundation behind us, and very limited skills, we were consistently way over standard course times.

I needed help. I joined ADCV. I met terrific people who had so much knowledge, and were FRIENDLY! I thank those instructors and club members so much for teaching us how to compete at Master level.

So now we had the skills, our running times improved, and *Heidi's* Master Titles came, and consistent qualifying scores.



Heidi hates touching bars, so she makes sure she jumps super high

Our Agility journey turned towards a Sports Rehabilitation Vet, who correctly diagnosed acute and chronic injuries in *Heidi*, through x-rays and ultrasounds; that I had no idea she had. *Heidi* was also born with a poor lower spine structure.

With time and a lot of dedication to rehabilitation, *Heidi's* injuries healed. And because she was no longer in pain, her dog aggression and anxieties hugely diminished. My sports vet

reckoned we could increase *Heidi*'s run times by up to 20%. But we have actually way surpassed the 20% increase in speed, consistently. I leant about warmups, cool downs, jump fitness, human fitness, and canine conditioning exercises. So much to learn.

TOP DOG AGILITY	2017	2018	2019
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STATE CHAMPION 400	2018	2019
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AGILITY CHAMPION 400 title	JULY 2018
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Quite the journey, for a little rescue dog with lots of issues.

There have been more injuries along the way, but I don't freak out anymore. I understand that Agility dogs are elite athletes, and just like elite athlete people, injuries are a part of that. What I absolutely know now is that the longer an injury goes without correct diagnosis and healing, the more likely the injury will result in the dog's retirement from sport. So, *Heidi* has just turned 11. She is fitter, more muscled, and faster than she's ever been.



Great commitment to the backside of the jump by *Heidi*

Heidi trains hard, she is checked by her sports vet every fortnight, and we rigorously work on her conditioning exercises most nights. (I am often sleep deprived!)

I know as soon as something isn't right, and my sports vet is straight onto it. Retirement will be when *Heidi* is ready, but as that doesn't seem to be any time soon, I can't wait for our next adventure.

Heidi is my Heart Dog, that incredibly special one, that comes once in a lifetime.

Cathy James



Cathy James and *Heidi* competing at Stratford 2021



Winners are grinners

Sandy Stockman, Life Member

In 2000, I relocated with work from Auckland to Melbourne. Arriving in Melbourne not knowing a single person I contacted ADCV to attend training one Friday evening. I felt very welcomed and joined as a member. Once my dogs arrived from New Zealand 6 months later, I continued on with my agility training at ADCV with them. I first got the agility bug in 1995 with my first Shetland Sheepdog and we travelled throughout New Zealand competing, and to this day I still love the sport.

Once my two Shetland Sheepdogs *Ben & Benji* arrived from New Zealand, I mainly competed in NADAC as they were older and could compete at a lower jump height. They achieved many titles and awards over the years. I also had a beautiful Black Kelpie *Sam* join my family soon after my relocation to Melbourne. *Sam* was very smart and loved agility. We achieved a number of ANKC and NADAC titles but my most memorable achievement was achieving the first NATCH awarded in Australia.



Sam with his wall of achievements and NATCH Pole

Sam was awarded Dog of the Year in NADAC for 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Over the last 21 years with ADCV, I have enjoyed various roles including Committee member, President, Secretary, Head instructor and NADAC Trial Secretary. All roles have allowed me to enjoy my hobby more, and work with and train with some great dogs and people. Agility is a sport that has developed so much over the last 20 years becoming a lot more technical, however this is for the better as equipment improves along with teaching more technique skills for the safety of the dogs. Our dogs give their all to their performance and love the sport as much as we do but it's important that handlers realise they become an elite athlete and therefore the importance of dogs safety and fitness is at the forefront.

Today, I am competing with two Black Kelpies - *Jet* who obtained his ANKC Agility Champion title in 2018 and has now retired from ANKC competing, but still competes in Veterans in NADAC. He is now 12 and is still enjoying his fun in the ring. My young black

Kelpie is *Ryder*, who is a 3 year old Rescue Dog, who because of COVID only competed in his first full trial in 2021.

I also compete with a 4 year old Tri Shetland Sheepdog called *Dexter* who is now competing in Masters.



AgCh 500 Jeti Knight ADM JDM JDO GDX SPDM SDX PT *JET*

Tisman My Manu JDM GD *DEXTER*

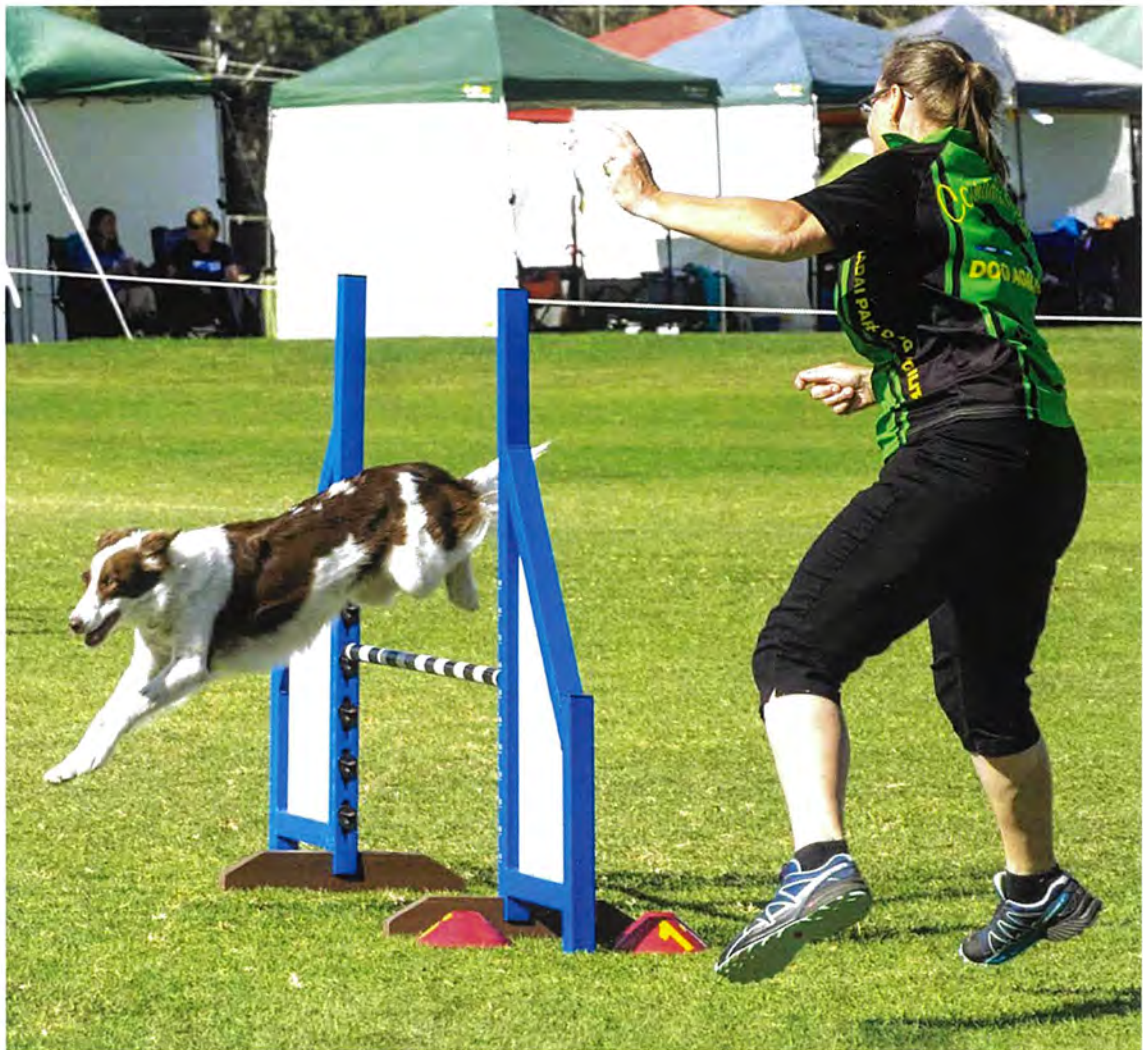


RYDER after his first full trial competing 2021. I am looking forward to many fun and exciting events together as we both develop our teamwork in the agility ring.

Agility has also allowed me to travel interstate on some great camping trips with friends from ADCV and compete at Australian Nationals and local competitions in NSW, SA and throughout Victoria.

I have met so many people over the years training and competing in this sport and developed lifelong friendships. While we compete against each other we also support and encourage each other. We celebrate each other's success and brainstorm and support each other in training.

Sandy Stockman



Sandy Stockman mid-air in competition with *Shay* at ADCV Agility Trial on 20 April 2019

Photo by Jill Shaw



One of our favourite interstate camping trials – Riverland SA

Steve & Terri Rose



Ag Ch Brescot Eternal Flame ADM JDM ADO JDO SPD GDX

Steve and Terri Rose competed with their Australian Koolie named *Flame* and gained the Agility Champion title in March 2019 at Warrnambool when they were ADCV members.

Flame is dual handled by Steve in Jumping and Terri in Agility. "Steve and *Flame* had their 500 points in early 2018, and I was following closely behind needing 40 points when I injured my knee, and couldn't run for 6 months.

Warrnambool was my first trial back, so it was very special. *Flame* was 5 years old at the time. And it was the last run of the day. I think I gave a little cheer and ran out of the ring with *Flame* to celebrate with Steve and our friends. You couldn't wipe the smile off my face, very proud of our little girl.

In 2017, I competed with *Flame* in Top Agility Dog, and Steve competed with *Flame* in Top Jumping Dog in 2019.

Previously, I have had four Labradors which competed successfully in Agility, two of them *Jett* and *Blaze* were also dual-handled with Steve.

Originally, I had been competing in Obedience with my Labradors and lived in Ballarat. In 1996, we started training our dogs for Agility, I remember James Browne taught us. Steve started training *Jett* in 2008, and we have both been competing since then."

Terri Rose

Paul Gavin



Bluey jumping through the Lollypop Tyre

Bluester ADM CDX ET JDM

I joined ADCV in 1996, about the time of incorporation, with *Bluey*, a Kelpie/Blue Heeler.

In 1997, *Bluey* gained the Novice Agility title in the morning, and the Companion Dog Obedience title in the afternoon at Myrtleford. Eddy Howden was the Judge of both classes. *Bluey* was the first dog at ADCV to achieve the Endurance Test in Victoria. *Bluey* achieved the Master Agility title in 1998 and competed in Top Agility Dog and Top Jumping Dog, and gained the Open Obedience title. *Bluey* achieved a total of 77 Master passes.

By 2000, I had started the trend for Judges to lean the Bar against the Jump when measuring courses. It seemed silly to throw something on the ground that you would need to pick up again.

In 2001, I qualified as an Agility Judge after intensive training. I had trained *Bluey* to tug the leash before entering the ring in competition. After I was approved as an Agility Judge, some Judges discussed having a quiet word with me to not continue with this practice. However, the Agility world embraced tugging, especially before and after competing with your dog.

In 2004, I chaired the ANKC National Agility Committee and with help from fellow Agility Judges, Clive Makepeace and Deb Carroll, totally re-wrote the ANKC Agility Rules book, and transformed the sport of Agility, from six to 17 competition classes, with the introduction of the Agility Games: Snooker, Gamblers and Strategic Pairs; and jump heights going down

from 3 to 4 to 5 Jump heights. Writing the modern ANKC Agility Rules, the Agility Games Rules, was my most important achievement in the sport of Agility.

The national reduction in Agility jump heights, went from 3 jump heights to 4 jump heights (no dog shall jump more than 25% above its height at shoulders), and achieved 5 jump heights - no dog shall jump more than 10% above its height at shoulders - thus enabling smaller dogs to compete in Agility. Agility Games are an integral part of the sport of Agility.

I chaired the Victorian Agility Committee in 2005-2006 and with the help of fellow Agility Judge Clive Makepeace, wrote the examination papers for all Agility Judges to judge Agility, and separately Agility Games, and the Answer Sheets.

In Australia, Agility had started on 1 January 1987 with the appointment of Obedience Judges, to judge Agility to provide the new discipline/sport with a solid base. I helped persuade the Obedience Judges to sit the modern Agility Rules examinations, thus placing all Agility Judges on an equal footing.



Paul directing traffic in the ring

In 2007, I pioneered the concept of attaining government grants for dog clubs. I was told people whispered I would never get a grant. But I have achieved dozens more than anyone else. I've achieved a total of 34 grants for dog clubs.

My second dog was Gogetta Know the Truth, *Nova*, a Working Kelpie. *Nova* gained her Novice Jumping Dog title and a second place in the Community Companion Dog Class at the National Obedience Trial held in 2008, but sadly passed away at 4 years of age.

Our dogs mean so much to us. And fill our daily lives with joy. They are our best friends and remain in our memories forever.

My next dog was No Fear in Love, *Ruby* another Gogetta Working Kelpie. *Ruby* was born two days after *Nova* passed away, and named for being precious, after losing *Nova*.

In the meantime, I qualified as an Obedience Judge with Clive Makepeace as my Mentor – I learnt so much from Clive. I was later appointed as a Rally Judge. I enjoy judging dogs but it trims the opportunity to compete with my dogs, build Agility skills, and gain passes, titles and Top Dog points. I've competed with *Ruby* in Top Agility Dog, Top Jumping Dog in Victoria and the Finals in the National Agility Trial (2016).

In March 2019, *Ruby* achieved her Agility Champion title in the competitive 500 height class, and in June 2019, at the South Australian State Agility Trial, was crowned State Champion in South Australia for Master Strategic Pairs, with Kerry Thomas's dog *Abby*. *Ruby* also qualified for entry into the Master Jumping Final, and *Ruby* achieved third place in the State Championships.

In the financial year 2018-19 *Ruby* achieved 106 passes in Agility, Jumping and Agility Games – far more than anyone else in Australia – 100 of them are Master passes, with a 50% pass rate. Pass rate is critical to the sport of Agility – you should be aiming for 50%. I've competed in a total of four National Agility Trials with *Bluey* and *Ruby*.

Ruby has gained all her titles in ANKC Agility, Jumping and Agility Games.



Ruby flying. Photo by Wendy Mitchell

Ruby and I qualified and were selected to compete in the 2020 Dogs Victoria Agility Top Dog, and the 2020 Dogs Victoria Jumping Top Dog events. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the competition did not occur.

Ruby has now retired from competition. I thank The Vet Practice at Whittlesea for their dedicated work in rehabilitating her injuries and getting *Ruby* in tip-top shape to achieve the Agility Champion title and compete in Top Dog and the South Australian State Championships.

We spend a lot of time with our dogs. I taught *Ruby* to down from more than 50 metres away. She'll wait watching the world go by until I go and collect her. And I train my dogs to turn

left and right, on command. The best advice I can give new people is to do your Agility homework, to help you and your dog progress, through regular training in classes. You should warm your dog up prior to class, and competition. Take your dog for a brisk walk for at least ten minutes. And cool your dog with a walk after. In training and competition, I want to always do the best I can, to help my dog clear the course.

One of the roles I took on for ADCV was the advocacy of a permanent home for ADCV within the new Pavilion at Crofts Reserve. Council had planned building us a shed some distance away from the new Pavilion. From the first meeting with Council, my idea was that ADCV should be part of the new Pavilion. Steve Macdonald supported the idea in meetings with Council, and the football and cricket clubs. The concern was that it would add to the overall cost of the new Pavilion. ADCV succeeded in gaining storage in the new Pavilion, twice the size of the inadequate remote storage, and Council officers named it the Agility Club Store.

The new Pavilion is scheduled to open in March 2022, with the Agility Club Store as part of the Pavilion, facing the new Oval 3, with modern LED tower lighting.

Paul Gavin



*Ruby competing at Warrnambool – featured in the Warrnambool newspaper,
The Standard, in March 2016*



Noonbarra *AZIA* in flight 2021

AZIA my Working Kelpie dog, achieved both the Novice Agility and Novice Jumping titles at Moorabbin ODC's Agility Trial on 11 April 2021. That's the third time I've achieved two titles in one day: *Bluey* in 1997 and *Ruby* achieved two Games titles some years ago.

Nova, *Ruby* and *AZIA* are all named from the bible, by registered name or pet name, and all include "no" - perceived bias of Judges for use of negative terms in the ring. *AZIA* also competed in the Snooker Agility Game on 17 April 2021 and gained her Novice Snooker title. *AZIA* has two passes in Strategic Pairs. Last year, *AZIA* achieved her Novice Rally title.

Numbers facing direction that dog and handler approaching dog. You must look to the intention of ANKC Agility Rules: the old 9.4 and new 9.5, if it's a backside jump, handlers should be able to see the obstacle number as they approach the obstacle - the same as the belated rule in Rally. Agility is not a memory game with hidden numbers.

History is an evolving concept and it will be great to see *AZIA*'s future successes when I write Volume 2 in years to come. There have been mammoth changes in Agility in the last 25 years, where is Agility going in the future?

Keep in mind that National Agility Trials are being held in even years, and there's the Olympic games to be held in Brisbane in 2032. The dogs that'll star will be born in the next 5 years. Imagine if Agility was picked as the Demonstration Sport for Brisbane. And the dash of elite athletes to Agility to handle your dog, for experience, and maybe compete in the Olympics.

Paul Gavin

Katie Baird

I joined ADCV in 2016 with *Brightly*, my first sports dog, a 3 years old German Spitz Mittel, and attended classes on Friday night, and looked forward to learning new Agility skills.

Brightly had already achieved the Companion Dog title in Obedience and in 2017, achieved third place in ANKC Top Dog Novice Obedience awards. He has a very solid work ethic, plus we had also completed Agility foundation training.

At ADCV, Murray Tyler became our mentor and helped build my confidence, and developed skills with *Brightly* as an Agility team. Murray was very encouraging and always had a joke to tell. We quickly progressed to the top class where we ran full courses on training nights. This was lots of fun and helped us prepare for competition in trials, and learn all aspects of Agility, not just the handling. And I watched more experienced handlers train their dogs.

I decided that our first trial would be the ADCV trial in November 2017. It was a great first trial and all of the ADCV members supported each other. We continued entering Agility trials and with regular training, became a better team. One trial in particular which really cemented our love for the sport was held in Warrnambool in March 2018. We had a fantastic trial - *Brightly* achieved 8 passes, all first places from the 9 runs for the weekend and achieved the Novice Jumping and Novice Agility titles. Our dedication and training that we had put in at the club paid off.



Brightly on track to a win

We were now ready for the 2018 National Agility Trial as a true Agility team to get a taste of what the Nationals are like - the largest Agility event held every second-year, alternating between States around Australia.

The Nationals was held over five days, you qualify through the heats to be able to run in the final. Just the anticipation of waiting to see if you've qualified, and running so many heats over three consecutive days regardless of what the weather throws at you, was a feat in itself. *Brightly* made the cut for the Novice Agility and Novice Jumping finals. To make the finals was a huge honour, and we were so excited with no expectations, and knowing we were competing against other experienced handlers that had been doing Agility for many years.

Brightly won the Novice Agility Trial, making him National Agility Champion 300 Novice. At presentations, upon receiving the rosette, was probably my proudest moment, and made me realise how much I enjoy Agility, and how my strong bond with *Brightly* had grown. I knew we had an amazing journey ahead of us, this was just the beginning. We have now been trialling for 4 years and achieved so much as a team.



Brightly competing in earnest

Brightly's achievements:

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2018 | National Agility Champion 300 Novice |
| 2020 | Victorian State Champion 300 |
| 2020 | Qualified in Agility and Jumping for the Victorian Top Dog |
| 2021 | ANKC Agility Champion |

The foundation of our achievements came from training at dog agility clubs, and ADCV played an important part in our growth. I am forever grateful to the members and instructors of ADCV for encouraging and teaching us "what it takes" to be a competitive and effective Agility team.

Katie Baird

Katie Baird

Boudica, a cream German Spitz Mittel, joined ADCV in July 2019. *Boudica* loves all things Agility and gets very excited when training and trialling. Her favourite Agility contacts are the A-frame and the Dog Walk. *Boudica*'s first trial was at KCC Park on 16th November 2019 where she received her a pass, and second place in 300 height.

Following an extended break from competition in 2020 due to the pandemic lockdown, *Boudica* continued her success in 2021 and gained titles quickly in both Jumping and Agility. At 3 years of age, *Boudica* has a bright future ahead, and with her enthusiasm and love for Agility we look forward to lots of fun times ahead.

Boudica has achieved 3 titles in 2021:

- Novice Jumping Dog (JD)
- Novice Agility (AD)
- Jumping Dog Excellent (JDX)

Katie Baird



Boudica jumping the Broad Jump for the Agility Dog title

Murray Tyler, Agility Judge, Life Member

Murray Tyler led a small enthusiastic group of people who were mostly members of Altona Civic ODC, to form the first Agility dog club in Victoria, to be approved as an affiliate of the Victorian Canine Association. He negotiated with Hobsons Bay City Council to train under lights at Crofts Reserve on Friday nights. Murray had gained his Open Obedience Judging licence, and after training, was appointed as an Agility Judge.

Murray built the first set of Agility equipment for ADCV and purchased a trailer to transport it to training, the occasional public demonstration, and the Royal Melbourne Show. Murray's aim was to provide a high standard of equipment for training and competition.

In the 1990s, Murray competed successfully with Cavalier King Charles Spaniels in Agility and Obedience. *Macca* achieved the Agility title. There's a video showing him competing successfully in Agility at the Royal Melbourne Show. In a tie, there was a runoff, Murray beat Adelle Smith (nee Hancock) for second place. Adelle was an original member of ADCV. Murray's next venture was a Kelpie from a farmer near Warrnambool. Murray named her *Dodge*. Murray said *Dodge* was his favourite dog, she was more than a handful, and taught him more about dogs, than any other competition dog.

I first met Murray Tyler at Agility Trials. He had a large sign advertising the club trained on Friday nights under lights, which was a novel time to train dogs. I subsequently joined ADCV in 1996. Murray was President of the club for many years, then Secretary and Chief Instructor for many years. Murray helped me considerably in the design of Agility courses, and his methods have stood the test of time, especially in the organisation of the trial ring.

Murray would often have a group of new members in class. It was the way Murray talked and pumped-up Agility, with such enthusiasm, it was as if these people could go out tomorrow and compete – with undoubted success.

Murray was Trial Secretary of ADCV for many years, and organised the Agility Trials. He was also the person assigned to liaise with the other clubs at Crofts Reserve and the local council. At times, it was difficult to gain cooperation from the other clubs, but Murray endured and as a consequence the interclub relationships have been cordial for a long time.



Deb Carroll, former Agility Judge and ADCV member, with *Zoe*, a Giant Schnauzer, at Sale

Murray campaigned to introduce the “See-Through Tunnel” as a viable new obstacle in Agility. However, the campaign was thwarted by the powers that be who gave spurious unsubstantiated comments, although the see-through tunnel gave a fascinating view of dogs as they maneuvered through the flexible tunnel at speed, especially when the tunnel was shaped in a curve.

Murray Tyler instigated the one number per dog system for Agility Trials, to replace the Obedience style of one number per class per dog. Initially, competitors frowned upon the new system because they were used to numerical numbering of Trial catalogues. The old system meant you had to change numbers for every class, rather than one number for each of your dogs for the weekend with Murray’s system.

Murray constructed modern Agility equipment, to the highest standards in Australia. Clubs lined up to buy Murray’s equipment. And Agility people bought Murray’s equipment to train at home, or provide tuition. Agility equipment built by Murray Tyler has been shipped all over Australia. However, the advent of rubberised Agility equipment for the safety of dogs, made steel equipment too heavy. Dogs were also competing at faster speeds which made Agility Judges focus on straight on approaches to contact equipment.

The plastic revolution has taken over in Agility Jumps, and aluminum is used for contact equipment to lighten the load of rubberised equipment.

Paul Gavin



ADCV Agility Champions 2019

Gerard Lee, Life Member

Gerard Lee said the push to form an Agility club was led by Murray Tyler. Gerard competed in Agility with his Border Collie named *Marino*. Gerard was the Treasurer of ADCV after Sharryn Hutton. Gerard is now retired and enjoys daily walks with his old dog named *Kymba*.

Sharryn Hutton, Life Member

The reason I started Agility was when I first moved to Melbourne from Sydney in 1997, I joined a local obedience club with my Collies *Missy & Kelly*, and got friendly with other people who had Collies. They introduced me to Agility, but we never competed.

Then I started competing with my Collie *Wade* in NADAC around 2003, but he really wasn't interested, only ran because I asked him to, and picked up speed on the home run. My next dog was *Te'a*, a Shetland Sheepdog who passed away at 14½ years in November 2020. She was a stress head, but we still competed in both ANKC & NADAC. She gained 2 passes in Excellent Jumping before I retired her due to injuries. Then came along *Britney*, another Sheltie 8½ years, currently competing in Novice Agility and Master Jumping, and *Sapphire*, at 3 years, yet to start competing.

I have always been involved with the club, first just helping out at trials and then being on Committee, on and off over the years. I also instruct in Class 2 and Foundation Class. With all my dedication to the club, I was elected as a Life Member in 2016.

My words of advice to those who are new to Agility, have fun, don't stress and take your time with training - the rewards will come.

Sharryn Hutton



Te'a striding to a pass



Colin competing at Keilor with *Jessie* - a Small dog had to touch the red zone. It appears *Jessie* was disqualified at this stage of the course, as the Judge is not taking any notice.

Colin McInnes, Life Member

Colin McInnes was a founding member of ADCV. He joined Murray Tyler who led a small group of people keen to start an Agility club. Local people were keen on conducting Agility Trials in Victoria, and the VCA informed the group they needed to form a club as an incorporated association, and affiliate officially with the VCA.

Over the years on Committee, Colin was President, and later Vice President. He instructed Agility training classes for many years. Colin built all sorts of Agility equipment and trolleys for the club, to haul Agility equipment from storage in the shipping container. Colin was instrumental in rubberising ADCV's contact equipment, making it safer for the dogs.

Over many years, Colin had a total of four dogs in competition:

- *Rose*, a Staffordshire Terrier competed in Master classes.
- *Jessie*, a Staffordshire Terrier competed in the Finals of Novice Agility at the National Agility Trial held in 2003 in Victoria.
- *Mani*, a black Koolie competed and achieved a "massive" number of NADAC titles.
- *Frances*, a red Koolie almost ran by herself and competed in Master classes and NADAC

Paul Gavin

Lydia Whiteway

At the age of 12 my parents adopted a gangly black puppy from the Lost Dogs Home to be our family pet. He was named *Ranji* after one of my mother's dogs she had while growing up. He was assumed to be a Lab X Kelpie Puppy but may have even been part Border Collie. In 1991, I decided I would join the Werribee Dog Obedience Club. It was here I was introduced to Agility. Michael Cowman began running an Agility class in the mornings and I was so excited to see the dogs running and jumping, and racing through collapsed tunnels. As a younger child, I often lured my previous dog to jump broom handles in the back yard and lay on the ground while my sister had him jump over me! This was obviously the sport for me! *Ranji* was also excited, he loved the tunnel doing zoomies all around the course after he came shooting out.

Ranji and I competed in both Obedience and Agility Trials between 1994 and 2000 with Michael and other club members often taking me to trials with them as I was too young to drive. I was assumed to be the daughter of many different club members by the trialling community. *Ranji* earned the titles of Companion Dog Excellent and Agility Dog Excellent often gaining Qualifying Certificates under popular judges such as Murray Tyler and James Browne. We competed in Open Agility and qualified at the Royal Melbourne Show in 1996.



Lydia and *Ranji*

I joined ADCV in 1996 and sat on the founding committee. By that time, I had also acquired my first Australian Shepherd *Dakota* CH Sugargum Texas Cowboy CD ADX JD HIT ET. With the committee developing the club, I volunteered my brother Justin Acciarito to design the Club Logo. We spent a lot of time going through dog books to find the perfect study of a nondescript breed of dog jumping. The triangle the dog is jumping is representing the State of Victoria. The club used this logo for over 20 years until its recent redesign.



Original



Agility Dog Club of Victoria

Modern

In comparison to today, the sport was very different, the majority of early competitors like myself had started in Obedience as this was one of the only sports available in the day. The majority of the course was run with the dog on the handler's left side, and often the dogs almost heeled around an Agility course. I remember the concept of side changes coming in, and the difficulty we had working our dogs on the right-hand side. Weaving was taught by teaching the dogs to slowly move "in" and "out" of each pole. In a trial, we had two runs of the same course. I was trialling both my dogs in Master Agility in 2000 when *Ranji* suddenly passed at the age of 10. I was heartbroken and lost momentum with Agility. Jumping class was introduced in 2001 and I titled *Dakota* in JD but discontinued shortly after.



Dakota airborne over the metal Spread Hurdle, set on the maximum 700 mm height of the old ANKC Agility Rules

I played a little bit of Agility with my next two female Aussies *Montana* FCH Sugargum Power N Panache CD ET HIT and *Denver* Blazintails Hi Fidelity CD at Werribee Obedience but I found the new handling and changing sides to be mind boggling!

I had entered the workforce full time and working weekends then moved interstate, was married and had two children. During these years I took a break from the dog training community all together. In 2015 *Phoenix* Hotoz Timeless CDX RM JD GD PT joined our family, Great Granddaughter of *Dakota* and *Montana*. We re-joined Werribee Obedience and ADCV in 2016 when *Phoenix* was 10 months old and began trialling in Jumping in 2017 at 22 months of age and earnt our JD over 18 months. We have struggled with Agility with *Phoenix's* fast speed. She loves to launch off contacts in the trial ring and has trouble collecting for our weave entries. She gained her first AD pass only this year at the age of 5.

We competed in the 2018 Victorian Nationals and are still slowly collecting JDX Quallies. In our house, she is affectionately known as the "one fault wonder" as she continually receives one fault only in her runs. Agility is not a forgiving sport but I do now love the technical side of it with all the multiple handling options. It is mentally and physically challenging for both dog and handler. It is now a unique sport in its own right. Many Agility competitors now only compete in Agility as it requires so much time and skill and training. I still continue to compete in multiple sports, taking on even more with *Phoenix* as there is more now available. We compete in Agility, Obedience, Rally and Herding.



Phoenix negotiating the Hoop at ADCV Agility Trial in 2018

Phoenix had a litter in 2019 and her daughter *Utah* Blazintails SilverDolla Concho and her son *Alfie* Blazintails SilverCity Sheriff are now up and coming members of ADCV, I am

excited about watching their careers unfold. In 2019, I began instructing with the club and in 2020 took on the role of Head Instructor. I look forward to seeing the club move into its next stage of history with the completion of our new club rooms and to watching all our new members who have become obsessed with Agility, develop their skills and relationships with their dogs and to celebrate their achievements along their journey.

Lydia Whiteway

Andrew Macdonald

Andrew Macdonald is an Instructor, and has been on Committee for years, was President for three years from 2017 to 2020. In that time, Andrew has provided strategic advice on a variety of issues, to keep the Club and the Committee moving forward. Andrew was also the Agility Trial Secretary for many years, and received support from his spouse, Donna Amey-Macdonald, an ADCV member and committee. Donna was formerly the ANKC Trial Secretary, Librarian and Membership Secretary of the club.

Andrew competed successfully in Agility with his Toy Poodles, with *Mysha*, attaining Master Jumping and Master Agility titles, and *Ollie* attaining Master Jumping title, and competed in Master Agility, and young *Archie* has attained his Novice Jumping title and is competing in Excellent Jumping.

Jan Radnell

Jan Radnell was an ADCV member for 5 years. She was the NADAC Trial Secretary for 2 years covering 4 Trials. Jan appreciated the help and support that she received from club members that ensured the Trials were successful. Jan competed successfully in Strategic Pairs with *Velvet*, a Border Collie, with Paul Gavin and *Ruby*, from Novice through to Master Class.

Glenys Barnes

Glenys Barnes joined ADCV in 2012 and trained 3 dogs but never competed in Agility. In 2014, Glenys was awarded the Lee Smith Perpetual Trophy for encouragement with *Pascal*. She served on the Committee for 3 years and was the Newsletter Editor in 2014, and wrote the minutes for the Committee meetings during that time.

Glenys has been feeding Judges, Stewards and hungry helpers at ADCV Agility Trials since 2014. The two servings of scones with jam and cream were a delicious highlight in the afternoon of the Trials for tired workers. Glenys says she's planning to retire, but wait until she checks out the Kitchen in the new Pavilion, with brand new appliances.

Terry Pyke

Terry Pyke has been a member of ADCV since 2018 and has competed in Agility with *Aiko*, an English Staffordshire Terrier in ANKC and NADAC. Terry is elected to the Committee, an Instructor in training, and the club's Equipment Officer. He is looking forward to the move from the shipping container to the Agility Club Store where he will have more storage space to store and maintain the club's Agility equipment.



Aiko in action

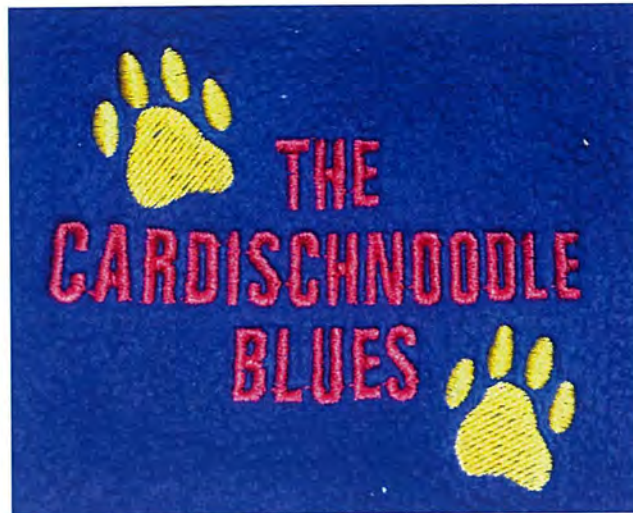
Ian and Jenni Staniforth

A benefactor donated a camping vehicle to former ADCV members Ian and Jenni Staniforth, to assist their trialling in Agility. They named it "The Pope Mobile", due to the very large viewing window on the rear. Ian would park it as near to the trial ring as possible, so you could join him, drink warm drinks, discuss performances, and the future direction of Agility.

Ian Staniforth as an Agility Judge led the movement to separate Agility from the control of the Obedience subcommittee of the VCA. The obedience subcommittee had controlled Agility since its infancy, so it was a major change to form a new subcommittee within the VCA. Ian led the newly formed Agility Committee that has guided the sport of Agility in Victoria since August 2000. It was Ian's idea that no dog should jump more than 10% higher than its height at shoulder, which has been the basis of the ANKC Agility Rules since 2006. The idea, coupled with metric measurements, is ideally suited to modern plastic wing jumps.

Ian had *Eva* a German Shorthaired Pointer, and achieved Agility Dog under the old rules then *Dancer*, a Standard Poodle competed in Master Agility. Ian once asked if I could run *Dancer* at a Trial he was judging at. We did training, but *Dancer* preferred Ian as her handler. Later on, Ian had *Biggles*, a Kelpie who was better at sheep work. Jenni had *Steffi* a Hungarian Vizla AD JD and later on *Chili* a Hungarian Vizla ADM JDM. They've retired peacefully to Bairnsdale and have *Flair* and *Honey*, Hungarian Vizlas competing in Tracking.

2003 National Agility Teams Challenge hosted by Berwick ODC



THE CARDISCHNOODLE BLUES was one of a number of intrepid ADCV teams officially entered in the **National Agility Teams Challenge** held in 2003. Some teams were very competitive. The Blues team competed for fun. Each member competed at their respective jump height, over two rounds.



Jan West and *Tigger* and *Chelsea*, Cardigan Corgis; Paul Gavin and *Bluey*, a Blue Heeler/Kelpie; Deb Carroll and *Zoe* a Giant Schnauzer and *Fonzi* a Miniature Poodle; in team colours, tops and scarves.

Colin McInnes competed with *Rose*, in the *RedHot N Reddy* team and *Jessie* in the *Flying Circus* team.

Olive O'Brien competed with Fingaul Wortha Fortune AD JD in the *Flying Circus* team.

Tara O'Brien competed with Shaeire She Who Dreams ADX JDM and Trebyan Charlie Brown ADX JDM in *The All Blacks* team.

Sandy Bailey competed with *Sam* as a member of *The All Blacks* team.

I once competed in Master Agility with *Fonzi*. Deb Carroll said to have a go, but we hadn't ever trained together. *Fonzi* took the course so fast, and only one fault, missing the down contact on the Dog Walk - *Fonzi* was such a good dog.

Paul Gavin



Paul and *Bluey* carefully negotiating the A-frame (before rubberised contacts)

NADAC

An alternative version to ANKC Agility which operates in every State and Territory of Australia, is the NADAC style – a softer version of Agility. NADAC stands for North American Dog Agility Council. Murray Tyler and Denise Agnew introduced NADAC in Victoria about 2000 and it has an ardent group of followers. Murray Tyler and Paul Gavin were two of the original NADAC Agility Judges in the Australian Division. They were trained by a Canadian Judge who travelled to Australia to help promote the new style.

ADCV plans two NADAC style competitions each year, so it gives our members the opportunity to compete in the familiar surroundings of their home ground, and provides a boost to club finances.

Sandy Stockman is a NADAC Agility Judge. Sandy said she achieved a number of ANKC and NADAC titles but her most memorable achievement was achieving the first NATCH awarded in Australia. The acronym NATCH stands for NADAC Agility Trial Champion.



Sandy Stockman and *Sam* achieved the first NATCH title in Australia in 2007

ADCV Instructors**2020-2021**

Lydia Whiteway

Training Manager

Andrew Macdonald

Sandy Stockman

Gary Stockman

Murray Tyler

Colin McInnes

Karen Millard

Janice Bell

Lucie Eadie

Steve Macdonald

Sharryn Hutton

Terry Pyke

in training

Yvonne Ross

in training

Jane Davey

in training

The Lee Smith Perpetual Trophy

Perpetual Trophy donated by family of Lee Smith, a member who passed away. Lee was a past Committee member and a good contributor towards the club. The Trophy is awarded as an encouragement award for members training in classes at club, on an annual poll of Instructors. The current holder of the Perpetual Trophy is Carole Geddes who trains her dog *Fergus*. Carole has been an active member of Committee for 3 years, and recently competed with *Fergus* and achieved his Novice Agility title. *Fergus* has already achieved several titles in NADAC.



Fergus in action

Prior year recipients are:

☐	2010	Louise Hall	
☐	2011	Terese Barber	
☐	2012	Jaqueline Rivett	
☐	2013	Kylie Hall	
☐	2014	Glenys Barnes	
☐	2015	Jacqueline Simmons	
☐	2016	Inger Keane	
☐	2017	Simone Daley	
☐	2018	Steve Macdonald	<i>Sapphire</i>
☐	2019	Carole Geddes	<i>Fergus</i>
☐	2020	Awarded to COVID-19	



Fergus in flight

Crofts Reserve

Crofts Reserve was officially opened in 1976, and named after the first Mayor of Altona City Council, Cr WLJ Crofts, in recognition of his service to the municipality. Crofts Reserve was previously the local rubbish tip which Council developed a football and cricket ground on Oval 1. It is one of the best training and trialling grounds in Australia due to the considerable efforts of Council staff over many years. The plan is for the grass surfaces of the new Ovals 2 and 3 to be superior to Oval 1.

The Agility equipment was stored on a large trailer which facilitated movement to training and demonstrations. ADCV has occasionally performed public demonstrations at community festivals. On one occasion, many of the club's members performed at the RSPCA Million Paws Walk with thousands of dog lovers looking on. Hobsons Bay City Council later gave permission to ADCV to install a large shipping container beside Oval 1.

Murray Tyler and Colin McInnes have been integral in the development of a comprehensive storage system for ADCV's Agility and ancillary equipment over 25 years, through an evolution in changing Agility equipment, to make things safer for people moving equipment and for dogs in training and competition.

Terry Pyke has taken over the role of managing the equipment, especially planning for storage in the Agility Club Store in the new Pavilion. ADCV members are lucky to have a full complement of modern Agility equipment, an initiative of the Committee which has annual clean ups to check, and store all equipment.

Agility Club Store

Hobsons Bay City Council is constructing a new Pavilion on Crofts Reserve, in a major redevelopment funded mostly by the Victorian State Government through the West Gate Tunnel Authority. The total cost of the new Pavilion, new raised Ovals 2 and 3, with LED lighting and car parks is \$7.5 million. The West Gate Tunnel Authority is managing the \$6.7 billion West Gate Tunnel Project (in 2017, when contracts were signed) which is Victoria's largest road project contract.

The new name will be the W.L.J. Crofts Reserve Pavilion, and will house the Williamstown Superules Football Club, the Western Jets Football Club, the Altona North Cricket Club and the Agility Dog Club of Victoria. The redevelopment of the northern playing fields will create two football/cricket ovals, with improved landscaping and play space facilities. The new training ground is due to be ready in December 2021. Crofts Reserve will look amazing when it is finished.

The new Pavilion coincides with the celebration of the 25th year of incorporation of ADCV. ADCV received a grant from the local council to print the club history. ADCV acknowledges the support of the Hobsons Bay City Council and greatly appreciates the efforts of Council staff.

ADCV has stored its Agility equipment in a shipping container for about the last 20 years, and on completion, will move training and competition across to Oval 3 with its own dedicated Agility Club Store, as part of the new Pavilion. The new Pavilion for ADCV will potentially open up a different training night, and the prospect of twilight Agility Trials in the future, on one of the best training grounds in Australia.

Innovations in Agility

The original Agility Rules were approved by the ANKC on 24 September 1986. Over the years, there have been numerous innovations in Agility.

Elimination of the Second Round

The original ANKC Agility Rules provided for two competition rounds. You competed in the first round of Novice Agility, then the top half of the class had the chance to run in the Second Round which decided placings for the Class. To obtain a qualification, you had to finish in the top half of the Second Round, and must have completed a clear round in either the first or the second round of the Trial.

One catalogue number per dog

The one number per dog system for Agility Trials, to replace the Obedience style of one number per class per dog. The old system meant you had to change numbers for every class, rather than one number for each of your dogs for the weekend.

Split Walks

Split Walks were controversial initially, because only the 500 height, with huge numbers of competitors, compared to other classes, could drop from first walk to second walk, without affecting competition. Split walks suited people who had ring clashes, and those who forgot to walk on time. The National in 2018 put paid to any opposition, through obliging Assembly Stewards. Initially, Trial Secretaries split the walks by heights, and it took a while for the numbers in each large Class to be evenly split for each Walk.

Trial Table spreadsheet

The Trial Table spreadsheet was an initiative of ADCV member Helen McIntosh who designed a form with all the key information for every Class at an Agility Trial, complementing the Agility Trial Catalogue. In one A4 sheet, you can record the order for competing your dog(s) in every Class, rather than print or buy the Catalogue – a worthy sustainability initiative.

Clive Makepeace observed how long it took to judge Agility, and calculated average times for each dog in Agility and Jumping. A Trialler can use these figures to calculate when they are likely to be walking the course for each class, when they are likely to be competing in each ring, and warm up their dog ready for competition, being aware of potential clashes. You can also estimate when judging is likely to finish, and plan your trip home.

Dog Jump Heights in Australia

Competitors were concerned around 2000 that the jump heights were too high for some dogs. Motions were put up to expand from three jump heights and four jump heights were subsequently approved by the ANKC National Agility Committee in 2005. The Victorian State representative on the Committee, Ian Staniforth led the national campaign to reduce dog jump heights on safety grounds, so that no dog shall jump more than 10% above its height at shoulder. At the following Conferlink meeting, the four jump heights rule was rescinded and the current five jump heights rule was approved, a watershed moment in the history of Agility. Voting was very close. It was a fortuitous move considering the plastic revolution in

Agility jumps in the future. Look closely at the table of heights to observe the changes. The value of the five jump heights, was that it provided a progressive increase in heights for all dogs, and at lower heights for dogs than the four jumps system. The 5 jump heights with the 10% rule are a much better deal for smaller dogs than the 4 jump heights with 25%.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>			<u>Heights (mm)</u>				
1987	2			400		700	(<450 >=450)	
1993	3			380	570	700	(<=380 380 <=550 >550)	
2005	(25%)	4	250	400	550	625	(320 440 570 >570)	
2006	(10%)	5	200 300	400	500	600	(270 365 455 545 >546)	

Transferring the current crop of competing dogs, and applying the 25% rule, would have seen a minimal number of 250 & 650 dogs, some 400, whereas 550 would absolutely dominate competition, far more than it does now; and the retirement of new 400 dogs if they could not manage the higher jumps. The four jumps height with 25% rule was a disaster in the making.

Dog jump heights have always been a contentious issue in Agility, as some people considered dogs were required to jump too high, especially for some dog breeds. The 2006 Agility Rules catered to smaller dogs competing in Agility. The 500 height class is the most competitive height class, as more than half the dogs competing in Agility are in the 500 mm height class, especially if tighter SCTs are taken into account, and the practical number of passes required to be attained for the Agility Champion title.

Changes in Agility

Elimination of Flag Stewards means you are being judged by a Judge, and not someone who may have had no involvement with Agility and has been roped in to help out on the day. The layout of the course, and Judges paths became more critical so that Judges could move around the ring and judge the dog performing each obstacle. In 2000, the advent of Jumping Classes meant Judges could judge the performances of each dog further away from the dog. There's the concept of statue judging even in Agility – enabled by changes to the Agility Rules providing larger contact areas, and the elimination of different size contact areas for each height of dogs. It used to be two contact areas for each contact, then three on the Dog Walk, until now we have the one large contact area.

Computerisation of trial entries has significantly reduced the time for competitors to prepare each entry, from completing a hand written form for each class, saves on postage sending entries and acknowledgement of receipts, with the click of a button for each Class.

Electronic Timing Gates remove the human factor of the Timekeeper using the Stop Watch and gives an accurate result for every competitor, and is fair to all competitors. Andrew Macdonald was the key person in ADCV's purchase of electronic equipment. We don't need a person in each ring, to perform the role of Timekeeper any more at an Agility Trial.



Lydia Whiteway with *Ranji* at the start line at Knox in 1998, with James Browne as the Timekeeper – he always clearly announced the run time. It was great for competitors. And following the demise of Timekeepers, James unsurprisingly, has the clearest signals when he is judging Agility. Ian Staniforth sitting observing proceedings.

Computerisation of results from ringside, mean Placings can be more quickly determined especially in classes with a large entry and lots of passes – it's much quicker and takes the pressure off the Judge to correctly decide Placings. But it still takes time to finalise Qualification Cards prior to Presentation. The Cards are accurate to the detail input to the computer by the competitor. And if the Card is smudged or marked in some way, it can be quickly reprinted.

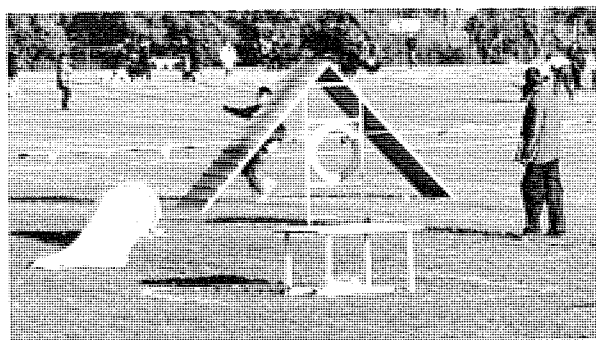
The net result is that we now only have the Judge in the ring, whatever the weather, sunny or wet and windy, plus the pole setters who are a godsend.

Some clubs have done away with Presentations and competitors can collect pass cards when they have been signed by the Judge, and means competitors can leave earlier – we all lead busy lives: family and work commitments, and many people travel long distances to compete at Agility Trials.

Elimination of Lead Stewards with the competitor retaining their own dog lead, as a health issue during the coronavirus pandemic, has reduced time between each competitor in the ring.

Use of the electronic Display Board showing the course time for each competitor is great for everyone watching the competition. Did I make Standard Course Time? Yes, I did, when you check the Display Board immediately after your run.

ANKC Agility Rules apply from 1st January 2021 (with rule clarifications).



Lydia Whiteway competing with *Ranji* in Agility at Knox, with Ray Ashman as the Judge

Note the use of the **Table** and the **Hoop** in Agility which were adjustable for heights of dogs, and the **Collapsible Tunnel** which was usually a 44 gallons drum with a 4 metres long heavy canvas sock.

Also note there was a one metre Exclusion Zone around the Table so competitors could not dominate the dog. Originally the course started and finished with the dog on the Table. And check out the size of the cleats on the A-Frame. The Collapsible Tunnel was banned for safety reasons. There was also introduced a 50 cm Exclusion Zone around the Weaving Poles, painted on the ground.

Table

The Table was used as the start line and the finish line in the original rules with 9 obstacles. And the dog had to remain on the Table in the middle of the course. Over time, with the introduction of Open and Master classes, the number of obstacles in an Agility course increased to as many as 20 obstacles. The pause of 5 seconds on the Table gave the competitor a breather midway on the course, and the Judge could use the time to relocate to the next judging position.

Table Timer

Former ADCV member and Agility Judge Ian Staniforth invented the electronic Table Timer to give a precise 5 seconds count on the Table in accordance with the Agility Rules. You pressed and held down a button on the Table Timer and it would give a synchronized indicator light, sound and vibration to manage the count. Most Judges would verbally count down the 5 seconds. Often dogs would jump off early (5 faults) and the dog would have to get back on the Table and restart the count. The vibration to time the count was best – you could watch the dog. Twenty years later, the Table Timer still works - they were well made.

If the Judge didn't use a Timer, or used a stop watch, then you could repeatedly say "Wait" in an endeavour to speed up the count, and keep the dog on the Table. Dogs were ready to fly off at the end of the count and continue the course. There were other changes in Agility.

The **Cross-Over**. A crossover was a contact obstacle. Picture a table (1x1 metre), 1.2 metres off the ground, with four ramps (one on each side) going up to the tabletop. The ramps are just like those of the Dog Walk. The Crossover was banned for safety reasons. One of the difficulties was the monstrous size of the obstacle: where will a Judge fit it in the course?

The **Triple Jump** was three obstacles in one – a Bar Jump then a Solid Jump followed by another Bar Jump, with varying (short) distances between each Jump depending on the size of the dog. The consensus was that the jumps were too close together, irrespective of dog jump height. A Judge's course might send you over the Triple Jump through a Flexible Tunnel, and back over the Triple Jump – it was a very long course at that time.

The **Spread Hurdle** originally consisted of three bars rather than two.

Agility as a sport has fundamentally changed in the last 25 years. Agility equipment has become more specialised, and is now very expensive, in the interests of the safety of people and their dogs. The ANKC Agility Rules were modernised in 2005-2006 with the expansion from 6 to 17 competition classes, and five jump heights. Consequentially, there's usually a number of classes you can enter your dog in at an Agility Trial, and the Trial is profitable for

he club because of the high number of entries - you're only in the ring for about a minute for each class.

Paul Gavin

Grants

Grants are a viable way of helping fund club operations, and prioritizing projects that clubs really need. In COVID 2020, ADCV achieved four grants totalling \$9,000. Paul Gavin has been instrumental in achieving 13 grants for ADCV in the period 2007 to 2021 totalling \$23,346. Paul has achieved a total of 34 grants for dog clubs in Victoria, including funding for Defibrillation Machines.

ADCV acknowledges the support of the Australian Government and Hobsons Bay City Council in approving grants to ADCV, and greatly appreciates the efforts of Council staff, and is grateful for receiving a grant of \$1,500 in 2021 from Hobsons Bay City Council through its *Make It Happen* Grants program for printing this history project.



Ruby competing at ADCV Agility Trial in 2019



Heidi ran and jumped the best in her career



Heidi, age 11 years, loving Agility



Cathy James designed the new logo of the club.

A huge thank you to Cathy James for her graphic art skills in designing the front and back covers, and the photo pages. And thanks to everyone who made the effort to write their stories on Agility, and other exploits in dog world.

Epilogue

At the silver jubilee of the incorporation of the Agility Dog Club, it will continue to blossom in to the future, holding Agility Trials, with members gaining titles and competing at the highest levels in Australia.

The history project has identified we have not taken enough (quality) photos of our dogs in competition. Photos are great to look back on. It would be great if Trial Secretaries would approve official photographers for each trial ring, and even shoot in the ring, with guidelines so that there is no interference with judging or competition, and at the discretion of the Judge.

There have been major changes in society in the last 25 years, in the way we live, especially with the advent of the Coronavirus pandemic which has directly affected our everyday lives. And those changes will continue, and the same applies to the sport of Agility.



Paul Gavin and *Ruby* competing in the Master Jumping Final of the
National Agility Trial in South Australia in 2016

Photo by Kathy Willis



Inspirational, the late Lynn Mussett and *BJ*, competing at ADCV Trial.



Jake owned by Glenys Barnes



Lani owned by Gary Stockman, high on the A-frame



Course walking at Friday night training



Jan Radnell's dog, *Velvet*



Blaze-ing the tunnel. Owned by Terri and Steve Rose

Friday class training



Easily cleared by Tara O'Brien's *Sparky*



Sharryn Hutton with *Britney*



Kodhi, handled by Karen Millard, owned by Barb & Noel Pownell



Majella, owned by Yvonne Ross



Sandy Stockman's *Bree*, with great focus



Lessons underway



Setting up ADCV Easter Agility Trial 2008



Keeping score
Olive, Yvonne, Glenys



**Teamwork
at it's finest,
at ADCV Trials**

Untangling a gazebo
caught in the wind

Filling the tunnel bags
with sand

Pole setting



Murray Tyler judging

*Frances handled expertly
by Colin McInnes.*



*Toffy competing in Touch and Go, with
Rose Emmett, at ADCV NADAC Trial*



Victorian State Agility Trial 20-21 November 2021

Top Dog and State Final key results

Cathy James and Heidi: Awarded State Agility Champion (400) 2021
Won Top Dog Jumping 400 and 2nd in Top Dog Agility 400
Won Heat 2 Master Agility 400 and Won State Trial Champion Final in Master Agility 400

Katie Baird and Brightly: Awarded State Agility Champion (300) 2020 and 2021
Won Top Dog Jumping 300. 3rd in Top Dog Agility 300
Won Heat 1 Master Jumping 300 and Won State Trial Champion Final in Master Jumping 300

Sandy Stockman and Dexter: 3rd in Top Dog Jumping 400
Won Heat 1 for Master Jumping 400. Won State Trial Champion Final in Master Jumping 400

Gary Stockman and Lani: competed in Top Dog Jumping 500 10th place

Katie Baird and Boudica: 2nd place in Master Jumping 300 in Heat 1. Won Excellent Agility 300 in Heat 3. 3rd in Masters Jumping Final. 2nd in Excellent Agility Final

Lucy Yuna Liang and Dino: Won Master Jumping 300 Heat 2, 2nd in Excellent Agility 300 Heat 3.
2nd in Master Jumping Final

Jessica Taylor and Dukino: Won Excellent Agility 400 Heat 1. 2nd and title in Heat 2. 2nd in Heat 3.
2nd in Excellent Agility Final

Jessica Taylor and Astrid: 2nd in Excellent Jumping 400 Heat 1

Carole Geddes and Fergus: 2nd in Novice Jumping 400 Heat 1. Won Novice Jumping 400 Heat 2
and title

Janice Bell and Lil'Patpat: Qualified in all 3 heats in Novice Jumping 200 and 3rd in Novice
Jumping Final



Dino expertly handled by Lucy Yuna Liang

Back cover photos:
Agility Dog Club Vic's first 6 ANKC Agility Champions:

Tai

Jet

Heidi

Flame

Ruby

Brightly

