**Dog Guide Handlers Australia Annual Report 2021**

Chairperson’s REPORT: Kevin Murfitt

The 2020-2021 financial year has been a challenging one for members and the general community with the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. As I write this, Melbourne has just come out of lockdown, joining NSW with full vaccinations going over the 80% mark, so thankfully Australia is starting to open up again. the 2020-2021 financial year has also seen important growth and development of DGHA, culminating in our 4th National Conference in June 2021.

We also celebrated DGHA’s 10th Anniversary at the conference.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions the conference was held completely on-line via Zoom. In total, we had 10 sessions over 2 days, which included sessions on new dog guide training techniques, travelling with your dog guide, dog guide refusals in taxis and ride share, NDIS and My Aged Care re; dog guides, tips and tricks caring for your dog guide, emotional wellbeing, and the role of puppy carers.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of our Judith Killen Golden Harness Award to John Gosling AM for outstanding service to the dog-guide community.

Approximately 55 people attended the conference, made up predominantly of dog guide handlers and their dogs, but also some dog guide trainers, family, and friends were in attendance.

After the conference, we circulated a survey to conference attendees to gather feedback to assist us with organizing our next bi-annual conference. While members are looking forward to returning to a face to face conference, many felt the information presented and the opportunity for peer networking was excellent at this year’s conference.

We also continued with our member tele-conferences with guest speakers, and our quarterly newsletter. Recordings and copies are available on the DGHA website

[www.dgha.org.au](http://www.dgha.org.au)

Thanks go to our newsletter editor Bronwyn Drew for her great work.

Our Facebook page continues to grow, and the DGHA Committee takes note of issues trending on our Facebook page to respond on Facebook where appropriate or record as potential topics for our member teleconferences or the DGHA Biennial Conference.

I would like to sincerely thank DGHA members for their ongoing willingness to contribute to DGHA’s pursuit of its principal objectives advocating for all of us as Dog Guide Handlers.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work that the DGHA committee has done in this past year. Claudia, Greg, John, Erika, Ros, Francois, Jamie, Bronwyn, and Annette.

It is important to note that all of the DGHA Committee members are volunteers and therefore we often need to make hard decisions regarding the work we do which is often constrained by our limited resources.

There are a variety of ways you can provide further support and momentum to your Organisation. Committee participation is a good opportunity, and so is simply providing feedback, suggestions, topics for consideration, guest speakers you’d like to hear– the ways you can add value for all of us are boundless. In short, by getting involved in whatever way you can, strengthens our organisation and benefits us all.

Our contact info is on the [www.dgha.org.au](http://www.dgha.org.au) website or you can email to dgha@dgha.org.au

Yours sincerely,

Dr Kevin Murfitt AM

Chairperson DGHA

TREASURER’S REPORT: JOHN HARDIE

**DGHA Financial Statement 1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021**

**ANZ ACCOUNT**

Balance of ANZ Account as of 1 July 2020: $2475.11

**ANZ Account Incoming since 1 July 2020:**

Memberships: $230.00

Conference Grants: $12,000.00

Refunds (ANZ and Department of Commerce) $142.95

Total Income into ANZ Account: $12,372.95

**Outgoing from ANZ Account since 1 July 2020:**

Website & Domain Fees: $165.00

Conference Expenses: $5077.44

Dropbox: $184.67

Total Outgoing from ANZ: $5,427.11

Balance of ANZ Account as of 30 June 2021: $9,420.95

**PAYPAL ACCOUNT**

PayPal Account Balance as of 1 July 2020: $4093.47

**Incoming into PayPal Account since 1 July 2020:**

Memberships: $140.00

Total Income into PayPal: $140.00

**Outgoing from PayPal Account since 1 July 2020:**

PayPal Fees: $6.34

Zoom: $324.28

Total Outgoing from PayPal: $330.62

PayPal Account Balance as of 30 June 2021: $3,902.85

**Total Balances for Accounts as of 30 June 2021:**

ANZ Account: $9,420.95

PayPal Account: $3,902.85

Total Balances: $13,323.80

John Hardie

Treasurer