**Dog Guide Handlers Australia Annual Report 2022**

Chairperson’s Report: Kevin Murfitt

The 2021-2022 financial year has seen important growth and development of DGHA since our 4th National Conference in June 2021.

We continued with our member tele-conferences with guest speakers from Blind Citizens Australia, Vision Australia, and Guide Dogs NSW and ACT. Topics included the Canine Court Companion Program and ride share and taxi issues. Thanks go to the presenters for giving their time and valued information to our members.

Our quarterly DGHA Newsletter continued to provide another source of information and stories of interest to dog guide handlers. Recordings of the members’ teleconferences and copies of the newsletters are available on the DGHA website

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

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

Our Facebook group continues to grow, and the DGHA Committee takes note of issues raised on Facebook and responds where appropriate or develops the issues as potential topics for our member teleconferences and the DGHA Biennial Conference.

During the 2021-2022 financial year we also launched our Facebook Business Page to provide more general public information about DGHA, in addition to our Facebook group which focuses more on interaction and peer support between dog-guide handlers and allies.

Another important issue we worked hard on was dog guide refusals, especially regarding ride share, taxis, and access to restaurants, accommodation, and other premises. We launched the Dog Guide Refusal Form on our web site ([www.dgha.org.au](http://www.dgha.org.au)) to gather information on members’ dog guide refusal experiences. We also submitted an application for a hearing on this and other access issues to the Disability Royal Commission. Our work in this area continues.

DGHA also gave feedback to the Aviation Technical Advisory Committee for a new training package called AVIO0004XY, to facilitate screening of people with special circumstances. Our feedback was relevant to the training of airport security staff in regards to interacting with Dog Guide Handlers. Although this feedback alone will not solve the ongoing issues Dog Guide Handlers face when passing through airport security, it is a positive step in the right direction and we plan to do more work in this area in the future.

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. Annette Ferguson, Greg Madson, John Hardie, Erika Webb, Ros Matthews, Francois Jacobs, Jamie Kelly, Bronwyn Drew, Kirsten Busby, and Stacy Hipwell. I would like to also thank Claudia Stevenson who finished her role as Deputy Chairperson at the 2021 AGM.

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, and guest speakers you’d like to hear from. 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](mailto:dgha@dgha.org.au)

Yours sincerely,

Dr Kevin Murfitt AM

Chairperson DGHA

TREASURER’S REPORT: JOHN HARDIE

**DGHA Financial Statement 1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022**

**ANZ ACCOUNT**

Balance of ANZ Account as of 1 July 2021: $9,420.95

**ANZ Account Incoming since 1 July 2021:**

Memberships: $240.00

Guide Dogs Victoria Conference Grants: $5,000.00

Donations $20.00

Total Income into ANZ Account: $5,260.00

**Outgoing from ANZ Account since 1 July 2021:**

Website & Domain Fees: $179.00

Conference Expenses: $4,242.01

Dropbox: $184.67

Zoom: $230.89

Total Outgoing from ANZ: $4,836.57

Balance of ANZ Account as of 30 June 2022: $9,844.38

**PAYPAL ACCOUNT**

PayPal Account Balance as of 1 July 2021: $3,902.85

**Incoming into PayPal Account since 1 July 2021:**

Memberships: $100.00

Total Income into PayPal: $100.00

**Outgoing from PayPal Account since 1 July 2021:**

PayPal Fees: $3.80

Zoom: $61.60

Total Outgoing from PayPal: $65.40

PayPal Account Balance as of 30 June 2022: $3,937.45

**Total Balances for Accounts as of 30 June 2022:**

ANZ Account: $9,844.38

PayPal Account: $3,937.45

Total Balances: $13,781.83

John Hardie

Treasurer