DGHA Chairperson’s Report 2024

2023, with our fantastic Brisbane conference, was a hard act to follow but we’ve managed to have some very productive outcomes in our ‘off conference’ year in 2024.

Thank you to our committee – Vice president, Murray Stone, Treasurer, John Hardie, Secretary Greg Madson, general committee members Margaret Booth, Francois Jacobs, Angella Allen, Ros Matthews, Stacey Hipwell and Jen Nichols, and social media manager and lots of other stuff manager, Erika Webb for your support in engaging with members for some great achievements this year.

Thank you also to Francois Jacobs, Ros Matthews and John Hardie who have completed their six-year term on the DGHA committee. Your commitment is very much appreciated.

We had a great meeting with Sydney Airport toward the end of last year to give feedback on accessibility. At a Member Teleconference on International Guide Dog Day we decided on Perth as our next conference venue for 2026 (yes, we’ve skipped a year). We also had some good workshop teleconferences where we came up with messaging for some educational posters members can share in their communities. I love these posters because they really are ‘from the horses’ mouth’, and not aligned with anyone else’s branding or fundraising agendas. We’re also now in possession of some access cards for members to order to use in educating those who refuse access to our dogs.

We’ve developed a relationship with Oh Crap which brings in a small amount of profit from sales of poo bags.

Our Facebook page has continued to be active and engaging and our membership numbers continue to steadily grow. We appreciate all input to Facebook Group discussions from Members, Associate Members and non-members.

We’ve engaged with most of our schools across Australia this year who have generously shared our invitation to join DGHA with their Handler Clients. Having this formal invitation is also an achievement for us, as it has been in the pipelines for several years.

We are very well resourced now with posters, access cards and invitations.

I’m a little bit regretful that I need to step down from the chairperson’s role right now, as I have some things I need to achieve in my life and I’m just not able to give DGHA the attention it deserves right now. So, I’m hoping someone will step up and take this opportunity. I’m not going anywhere, I’ll still be around and am more than happy to support someone who might like to give the chairperson’s role a go.

Thank you for the opportunity to help the Handler community grow and make some progress.

Stacey Hipwell has stepped up to the Vice Chairperson’s role and will be acting Chairperson until we find a new one.

Annette Ferguson

Chairperson, DGHA.

Treasurer Report: on behalf of John Hardie

**DGHA Financial Statement 1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024**

**ANZ ACCOUNT**

Balance of ANZ Account as of 1 July 2023: $11,189.73

**ANZ Account Incoming since 1 July 2023:**

Memberships: $180.00

Donations $0

Transfer from PayPal account $3,990.00

Dept of Social Services (Funding) $3,300.00

Guide Dogs Victoria Conference Grant: $3,000.00

Conference Registrations: $3,475.00

Welcome Function Donation $3,000.00

Auslan costs Donation $5,000.00

Raffle Income $830.00

Incorrect payment (in) $400.00

Total Income into ANZ Account: $23,175.00

**Outgoing from ANZ Account since 1 July 2023:**

Funds to participants for Conference: $3,000.00

Royal on the Park Conference Venue: $14,876.40

Auslan Interpreters $5,362.50

Braille $127.00

Raffle Tickets (created) $847.00

Conference Merchandise $2,216.76

DGHA Trophy $130.00

Website & Domain Fees: $325.67

1Password subscription: $102.99

Dropbox: $184.67

Zoom: $230.89

Incorrect payment (out) $400.00

Total Outgoing from ANZ: $27,803.88

Balance of ANZ Account as of 30 June 2024: $6,540.90

**PAYPAL ACCOUNT**

PayPal Account Balance as of 1 July 2023: $4,033.35

**Incoming into PayPal Account since 1 July 2023:**

Memberships: $0

Donation $10.00

Oh Crap sponsorship $149.57

Total Income into PayPal: $159.57

**Outgoing from PayPal Account since 1 July 2023:**

Transfer to ANZ $3,990.00

PayPal Fees: $15.34

Total Outgoing from PayPal: $4,005.34

PayPal Account Balance as of 30 June 2024: $187.58

**Total Balances for Accounts as of 30 June 2024:**

ANZ Account: $6,540.90

PayPal Account: $187.58

Total Balances: $6,728.48