

Secretary's Report

The 2019 STCV committee, which welcomed new committee members Danielle Goldsmith and Elizabeth Hedger, set a number of objectives at the start of this term which included; continued public breed promotion and awareness, organization of member-recommended social events, strategies to increase membership involvement in club activities and embarked on a mission to improve general awareness of inherited health problems in the breed. In reflecting on past year, the 2019 STCV committee not only fulfilled the regular activities of the club, but also achieved these objectives and much more throughout the year.

This year the 2019 STCV took every relevant opportunity to engage in public breed awareness and attended a number of events throughout the year which included; Scotts Day Out (Bendigo), Meet the Breeds Moomba, Ringwood Highland Games, Dog Lovers Show, Scottish Heritage Day (Dandenong), Melbourne Tartan Festival and Breeds Both Program at the Royal Melbourne Show. The STCV Committee were joined by general members and their Scotties at these events where they provided the public with the opportunity to meet the iconic breed and answer questions. At some these events the Scotties took part in the official opening or closing parade ceremonies which was incredibly popular and generated media interest and coverage of our club and attending Scotties. Promoting the breed through all these different platforms was made possible by the dedication and hard work of the 2019 STCV committee and the volunteer work of its members.

The 2019 STCV committee also ensured that all the regular and highly popular social events and activities continued throughout the year which included walks at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Aspendale Beach and Fairfield Boat House. Walks along Lake Wendouree (Ballarat) and the Warburton Rail Trail were also organized to include and accommodate for our rural members. Changes to the scope of the activities organized by our club could only be made possible by the 2019 STCV committee reaching out to members and from our members providing feedback. Hopefully this will be something continued and embedded in the culture of the future running of our club.

This year saw the appointment of our new show secretary, Danielle Goldsmith, that couldn't have come at a better time for our club. Not only did our club successfully host our scheduled 69th Championship show, but also the Lindsay and Helen Weale Memorial Championship Show. Huge efforts were also invested into the organization and return of the Black & White Match which some of you may have seen past snippets/highlights of browsing through our old newsletters in our online history archives. Our club, through the huge efforts of Danielle, also stepped in and made sure the Scottish Breeds Heritage Match was held for another year, despite the demise of the Scottish Breeds Dog Club of Victoria Inc. Huge efforts overall by Danielle Goldsmith and the 2019 STCV committee in organizing and hosting these shows periodically throughout the course of the year.

This year the 2019 STCV Committee were also suddenly faced with multiple Scotties requiring rehoming/rescue throughout the year. Our highly talented committee member, Lisa Thomson was able to very quickly take control of these very sensitive situations and have the Scotties surrendered to the care of Danielle Haywood at the All Westie Rescue where they have been medically and behaviorally evaluated and are currently undergoing medical treatment (where necessary) prior to being rehomed. We are highly grateful that we have access to such great resources and the professional help of Danielle. Even though we have raised some money through our lure racing event and made some donations to help with ongoing cost for the care of these surrendered Scotties, hopefully this will be an ongoing initiative of our club over the coming year. On the topic of fund raising, the STCV saw another year of record high sales of our highly popular 2020 STCV Calendar. The entire process of generating a final published calendar involves a lot of organization, planning and work which would not be possible without the hard efforts of our committee, in particular, Lisa Thomson.

In terms of memberships, we are currently going through the process of annual membership subscription renewals. This is usually quiet a long process and extends to the new year however we currently stand at the following numbers;

- 19 New Membership Applications (2018-2019)
- 111 Current Financial Members (not including any memberships paid via bank/cheque).
- 1 Memberships Cancelled (2018-2019).

In closing, we have seen many positive changes in our club over the past year. We have seen more engagement and feedback from our members, the committee have listened and made all attempts to incorporate the needs of its members in the type of events organized and the location of these events. The committee have organized events and included other Scottish breeds dog clubs in particular the Westie Club of Victoria improving overall engagement from both clubs and promoting healthy collaborations. Much thought and consideration has gone into the type of events hosted by our club resulting in a healthy mix of fun and educational events that caters to both pet and show Scotties. The timing and running of these events were held in line with other major dog events such the Royal Melbourne Show, which meant that we were privileged to have some of our interstate members attend our 69th Championship Show. Finally, it is only appropriate the term of the 2019 STVC committee is ended by our club hosting a special Christmas dinner this evening which will include a very special seminar on breed health related topics to be presented by experts in the field. Congratulations 2019 Committee on a highly productive year.

Tomris Mustafa (Secretary)