

Letter to Members

Resignation as an Executive Councilor

I recently resigned from Executive Council following the July EC meeting. Given the high level of support I received from the membership for my election I feel an explanation for my early departure is necessary. My decision to resign is due entirely to the limitations that are imposed upon EC members by protocols that exist for executive councilors. Members may not be aware that EC members cannot enter or show at our National and this restriction applies to their family or those who live on the same property, regardless of ownership of their dogs. You are not made aware of these protocols prior to your nomination, a process that EC has now agreed to address for future elections. During the past year a further protocol has been introduced which prevents EC members from showing dogs to other EC members.

I attempted to have these protocols reviewed during the past year so that EC members and their families could show at the National by excluding themselves from any planning or management involvement with the National event. I also attempted to have the limitations on EC members showing to each other removed. These amendments were defeated by the majority vote of the current Executive Council. Members will be interested to know that these limitations are a relatively recent introduction and many past EC members did not have to abide by the current level of limitation.

Carolyn and I have both dedicated most of our adult life to the pursuit of excellence within our respective breeds. We have both bred dogs that have won BIS at our National Dog show along with many other significant National Dog Show awards including Best of Group and In Class in Show awards. I have recently been through a significant health scare from which I am currently recovering and although my outlook is currently positive I simply have no idea how long I will be able to pursue my passion for our sport. I intend to focus my energy on enjoying our sport for as long as I can and not allow this to be restricted by my desire to volunteer to assist DogNZ by being an EC member.

In my view our sport faces many challenges and the road ahead will require bold leadership and clear strategic thinking and actions. The imposition of restrictions that limit those willing or able to participate in shaping our future is, in my opinion, seriously flawed.

Paul Robinson, BEM

DNZ Member