

CGC ASSESSMENT DAY 10TH APRIL 2016

Sunday 10th April 2016, a day in the history of the Huntly & District Kennel Association. Why you may well ask? H & DKA is the only conformation club in New Zealand that is a recognised CGC provider and able to hold CGC Assessments.

Okay, so we only had 6 candidates for Foundation and possibly Bronze, a bit disappointing bearing in mind the number of Dog Training Clubs in the Waikato and Auckland areas. Never mind, mighty oaks grow from tiny acorns; Huntly has put its mark on the Canine Good Citizen scene and has entered into the spirit of the scheme.

The day dawned; thick mist everywhere but once the mist had lifted the day was bright and sunny, no need for waterproofs and umbrellas, we were at The Point in Ngaruawahia, on the banks of the mighty Waikato River, we had the candidates milling around with their dogs, rent-a-crowd and the distractions had been briefed, the assessors were ready, the props had been laid out ready, including a stand-alone gate, kindly loaned to us by Manukau DTC, and 10.00 o'clock the assessments commenced.

The assessors, Christine Nielsen and Brian Baker had been involved in the training of some of the candidates and were therefore assessing each other's efforts. So there were three candidates for each assessor. Brian had a hiccup with one handler and dog without a registration tag and Christine had to not pass one handler and dog with return to handlers and lead walking problems. So we had four passes and two failures at Foundation. Even, rent a crowd and the other distractions were enjoying the day.

So after a brief break, ribbons and interim certificates were presented to the successful participants by Pam Douglas, Club President. Now onto the Bronze Assessments with four participants and their handlers. So after a pleasant walk through the grounds of The Point, up and down the band stand steps and back to the Clubhouse after hopping in and out of handlers vehicles, for some food manners, recalls and stays we found ourselves with four passes for Bronze. It was good to see that the helpers from the Foundation Assessments earlier in the day stayed on to provide support and encouragement for the Bronze assessment.

Lastly but not least and big, big thank you to everyone that took part in some way, our two assessors, members of the Huntly & District Kennel Association and those handlers with their canine partners who offered themselves up for assessment, Kim, Sally, Roena, Jenny, Denise, and Jill. Congratulations all round. Thank you for making our first Canine Good Citizen Assessment day a success.

Huntly is the only conformation listed as a CGC Provider on the Kennel Club website and there are some 230 conformation clubs listed in Dog World who are not CGC Providers. If only 10% of those Clubs took up CGC we could see a large expansion of this program across New Zealand and perhaps a reduction in "dog incidents." Remember, you do not have to be an NZKC member to be assessed for CGC.