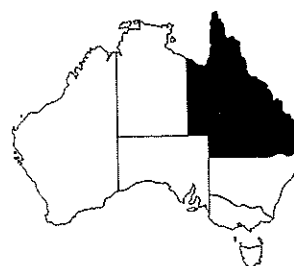


THE CANINE CONTROL COUNCIL, QUEENSLAND



BY D.W. ARMSTRONG

PRIOR to 1948 the organised Dog World as we know it today just didn't exist in Queensland. The leading Club, the Kennel Association, which had been formed in 1921, exercised a fair amount of control, particularly in South East Queensland and had already established a working relationship with the Controlling Bodies in N.S.W., Victoria and other Southern States. The Kennel Association had a number of affiliated Clubs which conducted Shows under Kennel Association Rules and Regulations. The Association also issued Challenge Certificates, maintained a Stud Register, registered dogs and carried out many of the other functions of a Control. However, two other Clubs with similar functions also existed and ran in parallel rather than in conjunction with the Kennel Association, running their own Shows under their own Rules, issuing their own Challenge Certificates, maintaining their own Stud Books, registering their own dogs, licencing their own judges and so on. Whilst this tripartite arrangement may have been suitable for the needs and conditions of the 1930's and early 1940's, the rapid growth and interest in the fancy that took place from 1946 onwards revealed the weakness of a system that could ultimately only lead to chaos.

In the meantime the dog Controls in both N.S.W. and Victoria were already enjoying the many advantages of a unified close association with their respective "Royal" Societies. After one or two false starts, the "Big Three" of the Queensland Clubs eventually held a Meeting of what was termed a Unity Council, with the aim of bringing together under the one

roof all the separate requirements that then existed and for an approach to be made to the Royal National Association to assume full responsibility for all dog control in Queensland. This momentous meeting took place in December 1947 and included delegates from the Kennel Association, the Board of Control, and the Queensland Kennel Council. The major partner of the Unity Council, the Kennel Association, already enjoyed a working relationship with the Royal National Association through the conduct of their Shows in the old dog pavilion in the Exhibition Grounds and through their assistance in the conduct of the "Royal" dog shows. This working relationship did much to pave the way for the discussions that were to follow between members of the Unity Council and representatives of the Royal National Association. However, the Royal National Executive, while sympathetic to the needs of the dog fancy, were not immediately enthusiastic to assume any responsibility for what was still in effect a fragmented association of dog enthusiasts. They suggested that the position be reviewed at an unspecified time in the future and in the light of the success or otherwise, achieved by the Unity Council. At this stage of the proceedings, what was being asked was for the Royal National Association to accept full responsibility for the conduct of all Canine Affairs in Queensland, together with the not inconsiderable administrative machinery this would entail. The reluctance of the Royal National Association to accept this concept is perhaps not surprising.

A further meeting of the Unity Council was held towards the end of January 1948, when it was agreed by two of the three major partners to form a new unified organisation to control and regulate all aspects of canine affairs, from the registration of puppies to the appointment of Judges, the regulating of Shows, the issue of Challenge Certificates, closer liaison with inter-state and international Controls and so on. The new organisation was to come into being on 1st March 1948, and the name decided upon was to be Canine Control Council (Queensland). It is from this date that canine affairs in Queensland began to assume some semblance of order, throughout the whole range of activities.

The Kennel Association and the Queensland Kennel Council each contributed £300 (\$600) to help set the new organisation on its feet and from rented offices in the city the Canine Control Council, operating initially with honorary and part time clerical staff, began to pay its own way from membership fees, registrations, prefixes etc. — basically the same sources as present day revenue.

One of the first priorities of the new organisation was to frame a Constitution. Bearing in mind that the ultimate aim was still to become an integral part of the Royal National Association, the fledgling C.C.C. largely adopted the Constitution of the Kennel Association with amendments as required. This became known as the Interim Constitution and was formally adopted in 1950, along with an interim set of Rules.

The formation of the C.C.C. at this time coincided with an acceleration in the interest being shown in the pure bred dog. However, operating funds were still meagre and the rented office was soon vacated and the day to day business carried on from the private homes of the Hon. Secretary and some of the other part time workers, while Council Meetings were conducted in Meeting Rooms rented for the purpose.

The stability of a single control coming at a time of awakening interest was most fortunate and in those early days the C.C.C. managed to grow apace with the increasing business of dogs and their requirements. The home-cum-office system functioned satisfactorily for a number of years, but by the middle part of 1954 it was obvious that the administration involved in the overall control of dog activities had become something of a problem. Home-cum-office space had become quite inadequate for the needs of the moment. More importantly, the time had clearly arrived to do something about the engagement of a full time paid staff, not only to relieve the pressures on the volunteer workers, but also to ensure the long term continuity of experience, so essential to maintain an efficient back-up to a very specialised sphere of activity. Accordingly it was decided that the time had come to make another approach to the Royal National Association, with the request this time that the Association assume full responsibility of providing the staff and office facilities etc. to conduct the C.C.C. business for an agreed annual fee. The meeting between the C.C.C. and the Royal National Association Officials took place in November 1954 during which agreement in principle was finally reached, providing certain conditions were met by the C.C.C. The main points of the agreement were that:-

- (a) a new Constitution approved by the Royal National Association would be necessary and any future amendments to this Constitution be also approved by the Royal National Association.
- (b) the Royal National Association would reserve the right to appoint the C.C.C. Council who would receive no remuneration for their services on an annual basis.
- (c) the Council would control its own funds.
- (d) the Royal National Association would provide office space and meeting rooms on a rental basis and
- (e) that a Royal National Association representative would at all times be a member of the C.C.C. Committee.

The Royal National Association also offered to borrow, some time in the future, any C.C.C. accumulated capital, on which interest would be paid to provide a "headquarters" if this were ever deemed necessary.

The Canine Control Council met again on 13th December 1954 and 10th January 1955, to discuss and consider the draft of a new Constitution suggested by the Royal National Association which had been prepared jointly by Judge Mitchell of the Victorian Judiciary and Sir Douglas Wadley. This Constitution was based largely on the one already adopted by the K.C.C. in Victoria prior to their closer association with the R.A.S. in that State. At the January 1955 Meeting the Chairman gave Notice of Motion to repeal the interim Constitution at the next Meeting and to adopt the new Constitution. The matter was put to the vote on 24th January 1955 and was carried unanimously.

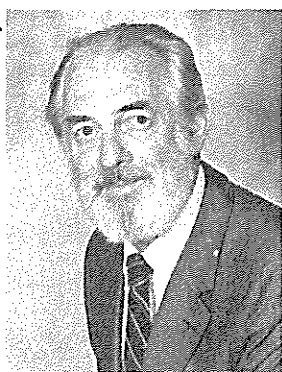
The road was now clear to vacate the makeshift offices and move into the Royal National Offices then situated in Creek Street, Brisbane, with future paid staff being employees of the Royal National Association rather than of the C.C.C. The moves were put into effect immediately and, from the financial viewpoint, backdated to 1st January 1955.

In those early days C.C.C. finances fell far short of the enthusiasm of its members, and, being aware of this situation, the Secretarial fee asked for by

C.C.C. COUNCILLORS 1987-88



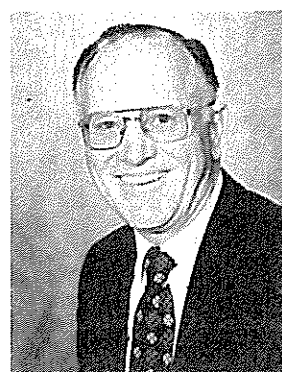
RAY UNDERWOOD



LEN BRIGHT



RALPH CARY



DON CHEVERTON



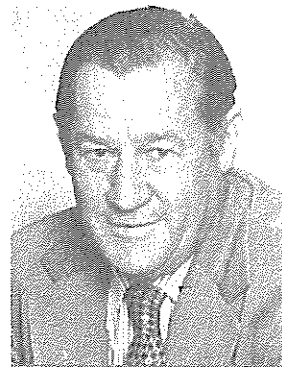
PETER COUSINS



IVAN DOMJAHN



BILL DORR



HERB FIELD



LYLE GEARSIDE



LLOYD INGRAM



VIC JONES



JACK OHLRICH



PETER THOMSON



DAVID WOOLCOCK



C.C.C. Boardroom, showing
Councillors' Honour Roll
in background.

the Royal National Association was so modest it did not even cover the wages of staff it was proposed to engage on C.C.C. business.

As the C.C.C. became more affluent and inflation began to bite into the economy, so the Secretarial fees increased at irregular intervals. During the whole of the period 1955-1987 at no time have Secretarial fees matched salaries and wages paid out and at no time have any charges been raised for office space, lighting, office equipment, furniture and all the various hidden expenses that have to be met in the running of a modern office. The advantages thus gained by the C.C.C. in our 32 years association with the R.N.A. are many and to some extent intangible, but in hard cash alone the advantages have been very substantial. At the present time our Secretarial fees are by far and away the lowest paid by any Control for the services provided and as in 1955 still fall short of actual expenditure.

With Secretarial services safely out of the way, the C.C.C. Council was now free to devote their uninterrupted efforts towards the improvement and expansion of the more practical side of the fancy. There was an immediate closer liaison with other State Controls which led ultimately to the formation of the Australian National Kennel Council in 1960. Judges Training Schemes were started, a monthly magazine was introduced, and all the time more and more clubs throughout the State were being formed and becoming affiliated. Bigger and more successful shows were being held to the general advantage and satisfaction of more and more members. The first Obedience Club was formed in 1961, followed by the first Field Trial Club in 1976 and, most important of all, everyone was now operating under one set of rules and procedures which by this time had become second nature to all concerned, whether they be judge, show, official or exhibitor. This was all a direct result of the uniformity, continuity and stability that was first mooted at the Unity Council Meeting in 1947, and given the opportunity to firmly take root after 1955.

It is of interest to note that the 38 Affiliated Clubs of 1955 has grown to 101 in 1987. It is also interesting to note that 11 of the 1955 Affiliates have disappeared in the meanwhile into oblivion, although no doubt many members of the now defunct clubs were absorbed into some of the newer Clubs. It has been said, with more truth than fiction, that with the exception of the hard core of true dog enthusiasts, financial membership of canine bodies throughout the world experience a 100% turnover of membership every three years and the proportion of clubs that went into liquidation between 1955 and 1987 almost seems to bear this out. However, these were early clubs formed in the days when affiliation was easy to come by and without too much thought being given to their potential. As the organisation grew, a firmer policy concerning affiliation was adopted and we are not likely to ever again see a turnover of this magnitude.

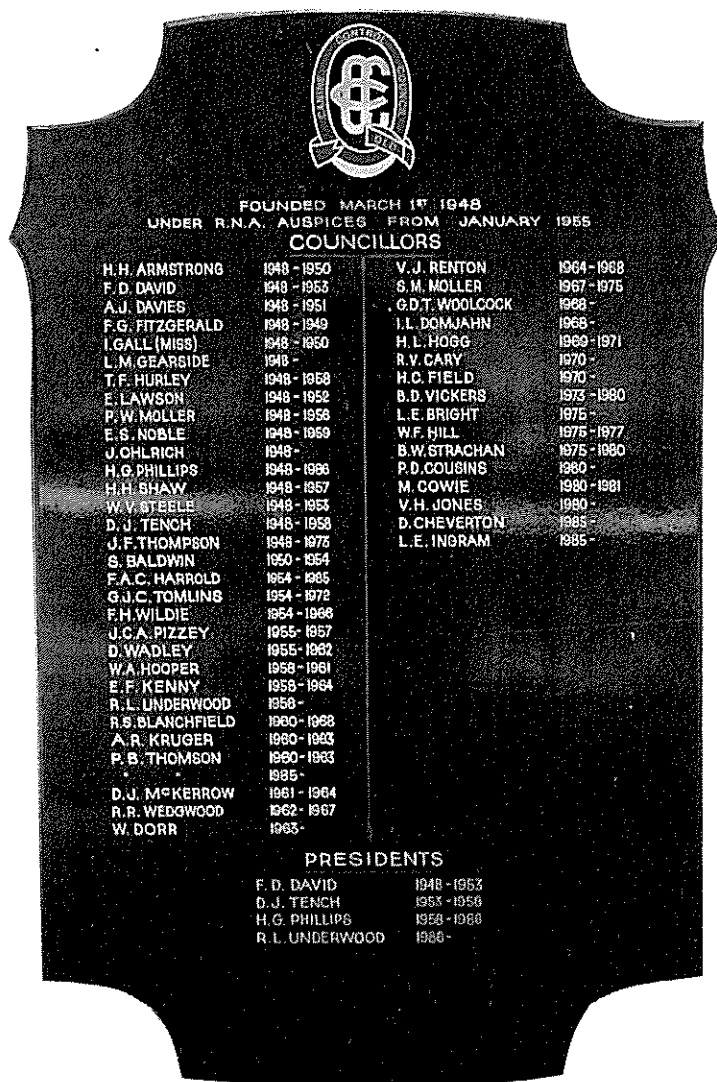
Another comparison of interest between the early days and the present is in the sphere of finance. In 1953, income and expenditure figures were £1,503 (\$3,006.00) and £781 (\$1,562.00) respectively. Comparable figures for 1986 are \$544,238.00 and \$277,046.00. Even allowing for inflation and the very high return we have enjoyed on some of our investments, this is a most impressive growth for an organisation that started with nothing but enthusiasm.

It should not be thought however that the success of the Canine Control Council came about as a matter of course, with no problems to overcome. Some of the problems came from within the organisation itself, while others stemmed from the obdurate stand sometimes taken by Shire and Government Agencies concerning dogs themselves. It is not generally remembered these days, for instance, that in the late 1940's Queensland dogs or interstate dogs visiting Queensland were not by any means as free to move to and fro as they are today. All dogs moving from the Brisbane area, including visitors, were required to be disinfected at the Department of Agriculture & Stock premises situated in William Street, and to obtain a certificate of movement as proof, whilst no dog which had been within a fifteen mile radius of the Shires of Boonah, Moreton, Rosewood or the Municipality of Ipswich was permitted to move into the Southern States at all, until such time as they had undergone a six month period of "quarantine" within Queensland and outside this fifteen mile radius barrier. One can only speculate as to the effectiveness or otherwise of this particular regulation, but until it was eventually repealed it caused a great many problems for show dogs and their owners, who even in those days were great travellers.

During the years 1955-1973 the growth of the C.C.C. was steady rather than spectacular, but then came the second explosion in our history. Membership climbed from 4,437 to over 9,000 in the next six years whilst registrations of puppies increased from 12,000 per year to over 16,000 per year during the same period. Fortunately, a number of important steps had already been taken to absorb this dramatic increase in numbers, without putting too much strain on the existing organisation.

Long before these increases occurred, a brand new dog pavilion had been built by the R.N.A. in the Exhibition Grounds, with some financial assistance from the C.C.C. This building, started in 1963, was completed almost exactly a year later at the cost of approximately \$65,000 and officially opened by the Royal National Association President, Sir Douglas Wadley on 14th March 1964. Most appropriately the new building was named the Douglas Wadley Pavilion in honour of the man, who, more than anyone, had been instrumental in bringing the C.C.C. under the auspices of the Royal National Association. Further extensions and additions were made in 1968/69, followed by a major rebuilding programme in 1978/79, during which the second storey and the C.C.C. Council Meeting Room were added. On completion of this 1978/79 rebuilding, to which the C.C.C. contributed \$150,000, the Council, for the very first time, had a proper Meeting Room of its own, and the days of ad hoc arrangements became a thing of the past.

Whilst the greatest expansion as far as actual numbers were concerned had been concentrated in the South East corner of the State, the middle and the far North were also on the move. Various schemes were introduced from time to time to try and assist the country areas in ways that would not have been appropriate to Metropolitan and near Metropolitan Clubs. One scheme aimed at subsidising travel to and from Brisbane for exhibitors in each of a number of zones who had been successful in a regional version of the old C.C.C. Guinness Class. Another Scheme, also operating by zones,



*Honour Roll detailing length and continuity of service of
C.C.C. Councillors.*

ENTRIES FOR THE ROYAL NATIONAL A. & I. ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND - DOG SECTION

1967	—	1,845
1972	—	2,373
1977	—	3,927
1982	—	3,792
1987	—	4,073

CANINE CONTROL COUNCIL (QUEENSLAND) MEMBERSHIP/REGISTRATIONS

YEAR	MEMBERSHIP	REGISTRATIONS
1973	4,437	12,083
1977	8,506	16,895
1981	8,136	14,965
1985	8,668	15,941
1986	9,445	17,504

made cash grants to the Club within each zone which showed the biggest increase in numbers of entries taken on a percentage basis over the same show in the previous year. The most ambitious scheme of all is the present Self-Help Scheme whereby a grant of up to \$8,000 will be made to Country Clubs on a dollar for dollar basis to assist in establishing their own home show venues. Most Country Clubs are fortunate in their show venues through close association with their local Agricultural Society or Shire Councils which provide suitable facilities for sporting bodies. Hence their additional needs in this regard are perhaps not as crucial as the position faced by some Metropolitan Clubs securing venues for staging the larger shows.

Another innovation aimed at assisting Country Clubs, this time by discussing their problems and aspirations first hand, was the introduction of a tour of major centres every second year by a delegation of Councillors to appoint new Parade Judges from the area, conduct Stewarding lectures and make on the spot decisions on matters of policy affecting country areas. These tours have proved to be a great success and have brought home to Country Clubs that they too are part of the growth and stability of a uniform dog control in Queensland as part of the larger Australian and world wide uniformity.

The C.C.C. through its membership of the Australian National Kennel Council is now recognised wherever dogs are shown as a hobby. Our Championship Judges are eligible to accept judging appointments worldwide, our Canine documents are accepted worldwide, and our strict Canine registration regulations, maintained over the years in the face of some isolated and individual pleas for some relaxation, have obtained an accuracy of records second to none. We are also very proud of the fact that the combined Certificate of Registration/Pedigree, now in general use, stems from a detailed submission placed before the Australian National Kennel Council by the C.C.C. in 1985 and progressively adopted by the various controlling bodies between 1986-87.

This accuracy of records was commented on most favourably by the team of experts who were engaged in transcribing the information in order to implement the second important decision that had been taken just prior to the second rapid increase in our activities. This was the decision to computerise all registrations, membership and other basics, which came into effect from 1st January 1975 and which paradoxically led to an actual decrease rather than to an increase in office staff employed, just at the very beginning of the greatest surge forward in the number of services requested by members. Had this most important decision not been taken at that moment, one can now only speculate as to the number of additional staff that would have been required to meet this increased demand and to imagine what effect this would have had on long term operating expenses.

Thus, for the second time since it came into being, the purely administrative sector of the C.C.C. was again free to concentrate on the more practical side of canine affairs.

With increasing revenue from the escalation of all aspects of the business, coupled with the holding of expenditure, the overall financial position of the organisation improved rapidly and opened the way for considerations being given to the purchase of a suitable parcel of land in

the general Metropolitan area for eventual development into a complete self contained Dog Showring Complex. Perhaps in a way this was the "headquarters" that the Royal National Association had suggested during the early discussions of 1954, although in the intervening years the reasons for wanting our own "headquarters" had changed considerably. In 1954 Council had no permanent meeting room of its own, the computer was undreamed of and the administrative day to day business of the organisation being undertaken by the Royal National Association was only just about to begin and something still to be tried.

Thirty years later the reason for wanting land or our own "headquarters" are very different from what may have been envisaged in 1954. In 1978, when land purchase was first seriously discussed, the objectives were twofold.

Firstly, but not necessarily more importantly, there was the long term investment objective. Nothing ever remains exactly the same as in the past and no firm guarantee can be given as to what may or may not happen in the future, no matter how far distant this future may be. The complex at Durack is now part of the C.C.C.'s future and, if for no other reason, represents a very valuable piece of real estate in the unlikely event of really hard times to come. Of more immediate necessity was a centrally located show venue for Metropolitan and some near Metropolitan Clubs many of whom were either not finding it easy to hold on to venues used in the past or were using venues unsatisfactory to both Clubs and exhibitors alike. Often deficient in parking areas, toilet facilities and/or reasonable catering facilities, there was also the underlying fact that many venues had no guarantee of tenure and could be withdrawn with little or no prior notice, as did in fact happen on more than one occasion. The Douglas Wadley Pavilion alone was becoming stretched to accommodate all the Clubs wanting to use it and even in the wide spaces of the Exhibition Grounds, car parking posed some problems on those occasions when dog shows coincided with other public exhibitions and/or shows that are held regularly throughout the year.

Finding a suitable area of land in reasonably close proximity to the centre of population at a price we were prepared to pay proved a very thorny proposition indeed. If land was suitable and available then the requirements of the local authority for its development were impossible and prohibitively expensive. For these and other reasons a number of potential sites were inspected, considered and discarded in the early months of 1978 before, almost out of the blue, Durack appeared on our horizon. Here, well within the city limits was a truly magnificent 52 acres on the market at a price we could well afford, but with the almost inevitable problem: the land was zoned 'non residential urban', which in effect meant 'a green belt' within the city. Some very persuasive arguments were required to convince the City Council that to all intents and purposes a dog showground such as we had in mind would remain 'a green belt' for about 300 days per year. With this repeated argument the case was eventually won and the purchase finalised in March 1979. Since that time, inclusive of purchase price, some \$650,000 has been spent at Durack with another \$500,000 earmarked for a new building scheduled for 1988. All Metropolitan and many near Metropolitan

Clubs now hold their shows at Durack, with the exception of one or two Parades which are still held in the Douglas Wadley Pavilion.

The C.C.C. Complex at Durack is one of the best venues in the world devoted to the exhibition of pure bred dogs, and this, coupled with Brisbane's almost ideal climate, never fails to generate expressions of appreciation from interstate and overseas exhibitors and visitors.

The government of the C.C.C. is controlled by a President and an average of 13 Councillors, two of whom have served the organisation since its inception. There has been a total of 47 Councillors since 1948, including the present incumbents, and there have been 4 Presidents during the same time span. Many Councillors in the early years held office for only short periods. However, amongst the present Office Bearers, in addition to the two foundation Councillors, is one with 30 years unbroken service, one with 25 years unbroken service, two with 20 years unbroken service, and two with 18 years unbroken service. We feel that this wealth of continuity has been a major factor in maintaining the harmonious efficiency we enjoy today.

The Central Council is most ably assisted by a number of Sub-Committees, all of whom are chaired by a Councillor and who report to Council through their respective Chairmen, while the decisions of Council are put into effect by an office staff of one male (the Assistant Secretary), three senior female (one being Secretary/Stenographer to the Assistant Secretary) and two junior female clerks. (N.B. In accordance with the C.C.C. Constitution, the Secretary of the organisation must be the Director of the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland, but in practice the Chief Executive Officer of the C.C.C. is the Assistant Secretary).

Aerial view of C.C.C. Complex, Durack, with a Show in full swing.

