



## EAGLE HEIGHTS SPORTDOG CLUB INC.

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AFFILIATED WITH SCHUTZHUND AUSTRALIA Inc.

### Eagle Heights Sportdog Club 2008 End of Year Report

The year 2008 flew by for Eagle Heights Sportdog Club. By popular demand, we held a combined Tracking and Helper seminar in April, which was very well attended and proved to be very inspirational. The boys from South Australia joined us on the Sunday and we were able to have some “hands on” in the blinds! The weekend was an outstanding success and left us thirsting for more. We are very fortunate to reap the benefits from two very astute trainers and helpers in Luc and Phil.

The Victorian State Championships were held in May, with SA Judge, Jim Duncan, from Queensland, officiating. Several of our members gained titles and valuable



Jiayin & Max in the blind



trial experience and then we were madly training for the upcoming Nationals on the Gold Coast.

Six of our members packed their dogs for the Gold Coast in Queensland and were later joined by the Cheer Squad. The Nationals proved to be very exciting, with keen competition amongst the teams and individuals.

At the end of the day, EHSC had a National High In Trial Tracking Champion - Dane Herbert with Malinoishund Aemon, a National High In Trial OB Dog - Robyn English with Vomkogelberg Baron (OB1), a National Champion Schutzhund 1 - David Sambel with Kizarhaus Caro, as well as the National Champion Schutzhund 2 - Theresa Brook with Nordenstamm Gunnar! Noni and Nordenstamm Chiller narrowly missed out on the overall High In Trial award, but gave the others a good run for their money.

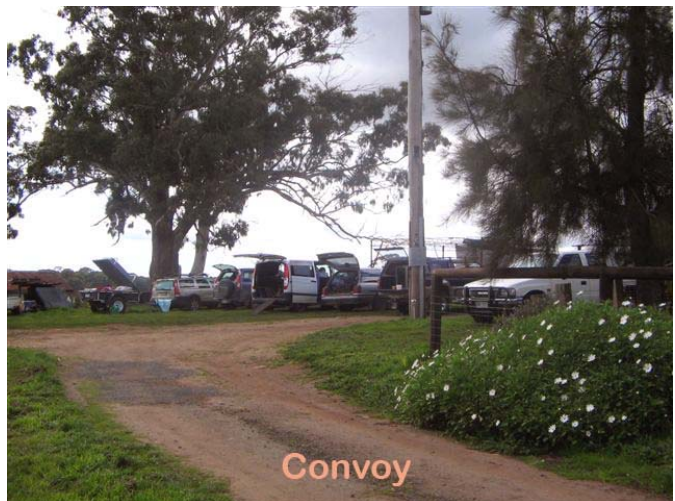
Our final trial for the year was held in November with 13 very creditable entries. Several milestones were reached in 2008. Dane Herbert and “J-J” gained their IPO-FH title and in the process became the first in Australia to do so - a huge achievement, which accurately reflects our club’s dedication to high tracking standards. Robyn English and “Red” gained their SchH1 and won the Best SchH1 prize into the bargain. Theresa Brook and “Luka” achieved SchH3, making it their third successive title in just three outings. Jiayin Zhao passed SchH 3 with “Aska” and went on to win the High in Trial. Congratulations also to Louis Spiridis and “Ollie”, and to David Sambell and “Max”, on their BH successes. Also cheers to Jay Balakrishnan and “Kobi” on their achieving WD1.



Sadly, the year ended with the unexpected and sad demise of Noni’s superb working champion German Shepherd Dog, her beloved “Chiller”, who passed away suddenly on December 9<sup>th</sup>. It came as a huge shock to all of us and on behalf of the club and sport, we extend our deepest sympathy to Noni. I think we all know how much “Chiller” meant to Noni, and to the club and the sport in this country - a much loved and much admired companion that will be greatly missed.

Last but not least, 2008 saw the launch of the new

Eagle Height’s website. A huge thank you to David and Marika, two of our most industrious and highly respected club members, for their tireless work and countless hours they have spent on this project. Kudos also go to Phil, who worked closely alongside them. The result is a fabulous and very professional website that does us all proud.



Continuing below is an insight into our club as seen through Marika’s eyes.

All the best for the New Year from Eagle Heights and the Class of 2008

**Theresa Brook**  
**EHSC Secretary**  
**January 2009**

It all started off for me in mid-February 2008. A friend of mine was going to take her Rottweiler puppy to a Schutzhund club going by the name of Eagle Heights Sport Dog Club (EHSC). I can safely say that this first introduction to the club, and it had me hooked from the word go. The members made me feel so welcome, introducing themselves and eager to share their passion for the sport. I was enthralled by the dynamics; dogs and

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handlers working together on the field in a very supportive and positive environment. I left that night on a high that I had not experienced in dog training before.

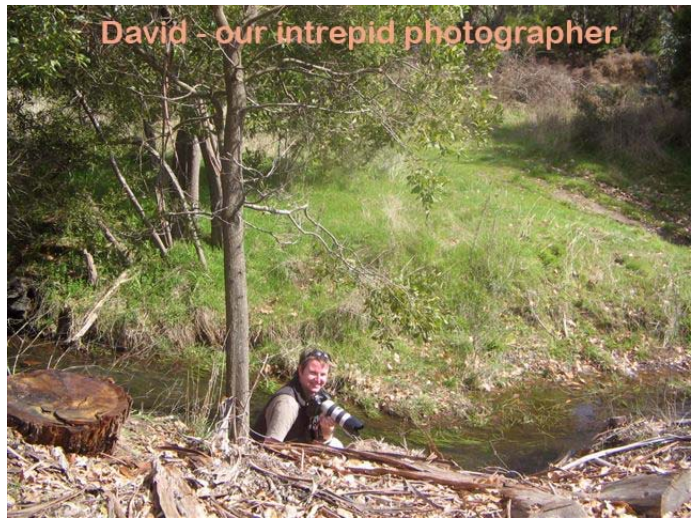
Thank you Luc and Phil - you both never cease to give of yourselves, whether it is on the training field with tips to improve our game, or off the field with ego boosts, or just a friendly chat. A club is only as good as its members, I strongly believe that each and every member has something of value to offer, but without Luc and Phil we would not be the fantastic and successful club that we are.



Following in Phil's footsteps

home, and the surrounding 80 acres she lives on, to EHSC members in order to run a tracking weekend. This was exactly what several members, particularly me, had needed to get a real grasp on the tracking and put our theory into practice. We did quite a few tracks over the course of the weekend, along with lots of eating, drinking and chatting as well. The weekend proved a great bonding time for all members and we left on Sunday afternoon having consolidated skills and fuelled up with even more motivation.

Thank you so much Theresa! I for one look forward to next year when we can all bundle up and do a character work weekend at your palace. A result of that weekend for me was to start searching for places to track in suburbia. I just don't see why I am not permitted to pull over on the green strip running alongside the freeway, where all that undisturbed, lush, grass is, and do some tracks.



David - our intrepid photographer

After my first seminar we were out putting our knowledge into practice and before I knew it - I was witnessing my very first Schutzhund trial! Finally, I could see how all the training and different styles fell into place to see the competitors achieve fantastic results while displaying some truly inspiring performances.

In July our National contenders packed up and took off to Queensland. And well done Queensland! From all accounts you put on a good show as did the trainers and judges, Uta Bindels and Hermann Geering, who had lots to offer our members and left them with a new motivation and a thirst for more of the same.

In September, Theresa was kind enough to open her



In November we welcomed Schutzhund Australia's Chief Judge, Jens Kollenberg, to officiate at what was named our Summer Trial, (which technically at the time, was a spring trial - but seeing as our web designer put it onto our website as our summer trial - that is what it remained.) Jens brought with him a wealth of trial experience, which he willingly shared with us. This was another successful trial and the hard work our members had put in certainly showed on the day. Luc also did another provisional apprenticeship towards his judge's licence. Congratulations Herr Luciano!

Mid December we had our Christmas and break up party. The atmosphere was one of fun and laughter, warmth and friendship along with the hard core dog talk, those who spent their time discussing the sport and the world of dog sport in general.

The year has been a fruitful one, with many new members joining and the more experienced members taking them under their wings. We have managed to combine people coming from many different walks of life into a tight knit community, who are always looking out for each other and ready to offer each other help and support.



**Marika Aisha Tamer**  
**January 2009**