



GOLD COAST SPORTDOG CLUB INC.

2006-2007 END OF YEAR CLUB REPORT

It has been a tumultuous year for the Gold Coast with structural and membership changes putting more pressure on those having to get the logistics in place for hosting several club trials in 2006, as well as a Helper and Training seminar with SV Teacher-Helper and Judge, Raino Fluegge. By far the largest trial was also our club's first event as a member of the (then) newly formed national organization Working German Shepherds Australia Inc. Many thanks to the trial's sponsors as well as our local and international well wishers, including the National German Shepherd Working Dog Association of Ireland, the Kirschental Kennel of Karl and Marion Fuller in Germany, the German Shepherd Dog Club of America/Working Dog Association, Cara Kennel of former AWDF President Ray Carlisle, David and Rhonda Payne of Videx, John & Colleen Holliday of Innotec Australia, and Kurt Wehner from Dogquip Prodog Australia. To name just a few, with apologies to those I not mentioned.



The club has had a strong membership boost over the last months; fresh and talented people with equally fresh and talented working line puppies, all seeking assistance with their own as well as their dog's development and training. We welcome Angela Burke, Chloe de Fraine Eady, Karen Moore, Steve Cannon, Michael & Peta Chong, Karen Eaton & Winston White, Vanessa Cowling, Andrew Casey and our latest Gold Coast member to sign on, Mark Murray. Mark doesn't need much introduction to dogsport people; he's been around for a long time as a successful trainer and says he's keen to get back onto the competition trail. Mark, together with other GC members Vanessa Cowling, Andrew Casey, John Embling and Istvan Lakatos, all live in Melbourne. Vanessa and Andrew are training with the Eagle Heights club, with strict instructions to steal their training secrets and relay them, via carrier pigeon, back to fellow members here on the Coast. Just don't tell Eagle Heights.

Other out-of-state Associate members are Sharon and Gary Campbell from Adelaide, Karen Eaton and Winston White - both in Sydney, and Dennis Gallacher in Perth. Needless to say we miss seeing the out-of-state members on the training grounds each week, but we will be catching up with many of them shortly - either in January at our six week training and helper seminar with Michael Kurz from Germany, or at the Queensland State Championship Trial in February, judged by Paul Achten from New Zealand.

In the New Year period the Gold Coast will also be hosting a Judge's College and I want to take this opportunity to welcome WGSA's newest apprentice judge, Luc Cendak, who will be attending the event. This Organization is lucky to have so many members who have titled multiple dogs to SchH 3 and FH levels to choose amongst for taking up judging apprenticeships. With the latter, the Gold Coast used to be "industry standard" in this country when it came to its Meister level tracking degrees, but Eagle Heights is getting ambitious in this area with a number of new FH titles amongst their membership this year, including a fantastic 100 point FH track done by Noni and Chiller, under SV Judge Raino Fluegge. Watching Chiller's track live or on video later was like looking at a textbook study for this discipline. Well done Noni, even if you are born south of the border and can't help that, at least your dog was born on the Gold Coast!

Another 100 point FH track requiring special congratulations is that of Theresa Friis and Grazie v.d. Talka Marda, for their IPO-FH tracking title. This was the first ever IPO-FH done in Australia (or New Zealand) and Grazie, already the most titled dog in the country (IPO3, VPG3, SchH 3, FH2, IPO-FH, CD, CDX, HIT at 2002 National, National Champion FH in 2003 and 2004 plus other Kennel Club obedience and tracking titles) did two outstanding FH tracks for her new title; the first day scoring 97 points and the second day with a 100 point track under WGSA Judge, Jim Duncan.

Gold Coast is lucky to have three judges amongst its members, namely Jim Duncan, Jens Kollenberg and Alison Kollenberg - all whom provide a solid mentoring base for up and coming trainers in the club. Gold Coast have a number of competitive teams ready to contend for National and club titles in 2007, and congratulations to members who earned titles in 2006, starting with Jens and Zita (FH, VPG3, SchH 3), at only 15 months of age the three siblings of the teams of Sue and Halina (BH, TR2), Alison and Hannah (BH,TR2) and Ben & Aussie (BH, OB1) all earned their first titles, and a great effort by Robert and Casey for FH2 - the second only FH2 for this country, with Gold Coast leading the way. Others in the titles in 2006 were Joan & Odin (SchH 3), Vanessa & Robbie (IPO2), Tammy & Freya (BH, OB1), Jim & Jagger (SchH 3), Cassie & Fandango (BH), Brett & Elza (BH, SchHA), Ros & Murphy (BH, SchH A), Ken & James Bond (BH), Tabitha and Enzo (BH, SchHA) and Karen and Bailey (BH). Jim, Robert, Karen and Vanessa will be trialling their new, young dogs in 2007 and we look forward to some hot inter-state competition when the "Mexicans" from south of the border come up to show us what they reckon we don't know how in February, kicking the trialling year off for WGSA for 2007.

The Working German Shepherds Australia affiliates have busy schedules for 2007, starting with a name change to Schutzhund Australia Inc. As well as Training and Helper seminars with international trainers, including a Gold Coast seminar on the proper use of the electric collar by the famous Bart Bellon, there are a number of inter-club trials scheduled for early 2007, with WGSA and international SV/WUSV judges, and not to forget the WGSA Australian National Championship Trial set for June. World Champion, Haruo Masuda (Japan) will be officiating at this event, and to honour him we are expecting the largest line up of SchH 3 dogs ever to trial at one event in Australia. Onward and upward!

Time is flying and in only a few weeks time we will welcome Michael Kurz from Germany to train with us for 6 weeks. To make the most out of it for everybody, Gold Coast will make two separate trials on the weekend of the State Championship. Namely, on Friday and Saturday 2+3 February, we will hold the open WGSA (Schutzhund Australia Inc) Queensland State Championship trial, and on

Sunday 4 February we will hold a one-day trial. For those coming up for the seminar before the trial, you are welcome to participate at the training with Michael, Ben, and Steve although a small seminar fee will be asked for non-Gold Coast members.

Michael is a very successful helper and participant at German Meisterschaft trials. His club brings 2 to 3 participants to the SV State qualification trials every year, as well as sending participants to the German Police Championships. For many years Michael has been a neighbour and protégée of the (late) famous Reinhard Lindner, which has established him a very solid knowledge base for him to be able to help others. At 31 years of age he brings with him a lot of experience. Left are two photos showing Michael in action.



Also included is a photo (insert right) from Raino Fluegge's visit last April, and we hope it will spur Angela to join him again on his second trip to Australia in 2007.

These and other photos



also have been part of our WGSA "news-service," originating from the hand of WGSA Chief Judge, Jens Kollenberg, which already reaches more than 70 members as well as a number of sport friends at home and abroad. The News Service provides up-to-date news and photos from WGSA training and events around the country and interested members not yet on Jens email list, please contract him.

Last night was a very productive training session and the last one for 2006. As a number of members are going away for Christmas the Gold Coast Christmas party will be held in January, whereby enabling Michael Kurz to also attend. We will now move onto a month's break before he arrives. Everybody can go home happy with the work and though that Ben & Steve are putting into the protection training.



**Photos left & centre: Michael Kurz at Gold Coast and visiting RAAF dog school.
Photo right: Michael Kurz and Ben Geurts at GCSC grounds.**

Ben's natural talents are enhanced by a skills-based education from working with world class Helper mentors; from our own highly experienced local expert, Luc Cendak, a WGSA/Schutzhund Australia Class 1 Teacher-Helper (and a regular visitor to our club) to well known visiting international notables, such as Bert Aerts, Raino Fluegge and most recently Michael Kurz, as well as Dr. Stewart Hilliard earlier in the year when Ben had been fortunate enough to visit the Lackland Air Force base in Texas to select dogs for the Royal Australian Air Force. A reciprocal visit to Amberley Australian Air Force Base in Queensland was arranged for 2006, allowing Ben the opportunity to confer with Steward once again.)

Thanks to the irreplaceable efforts of Luc, Ben and Steve, and assisted by Michael Kurz, the GCSDC has a well-prepared team ready for the 2007 trial season, beginning in February with our Queensland State Championship Trial and our Summer Tracking Trial, both with New Zealand judge, Paul Achten. We look forward to it.

“Ve ‘Ave ‘Vays”