



## NEW ZEALAND UNITED SCHUTZHUND CLUB

### “On the Grapevine”

## 2008 END OF YEAR REPORT

### “Schutzhund Hawkes Bay”

Well another year has been and gone and one could ask where to? It only seems a short while ago that I was reading a summary of our 2007 year. For those newer members to Schutzhund



Australia, the New Zealand United Schutzhund Club Inc. comprises of three separate autonomous clubs, those being “**Schutzhund North Shore**” covering the Auckland areas, “**Schutzhund Hawkes Bay**” located on the East Coast of the North Island, “**Central Districts German Shepherd Schutzhund Club**”, covering the Lower North Island.

As with most clubs, membership has been a roller coaster ride, and for those of us who have been part of the club scene for a while, we are well aware of the time requirement needed in order to participate actively in our sport. This inadvertently sets its own limitations in growing our Sport. That aside, we are enjoying a degree of stability here in New Zealand, which I believe has the potential to deliver us improved performances on the trial field during the 2009 year.

The 2008 year was a *steady-as-she-goes* approach. After having Raino Fluegge here in April 2007, we wanted to implement many changes in our approach to training and to the Organisation in general. Many of those things are now part of our culture, which demonstrates the importance of not being too insular and always taking advantage of expertise when it comes our way.



Whilst I can say that there is a comfortable feel to the club and training sessions, we are not deluding ourselves that we are still very immature in the sport and plenty of scope exists to further improve our training techniques.

A couple of years back I made mention that we were excited by the prospect of new litters on the horizon. Now we can look back with some satisfaction and see these younger dogs participating at the entry levels of our sport. In fact the Woodie (Grazie vom Talka Marda) and Tar (Natz von Heisenberg) mating has seen five of her progeny go to sport dog handlers. A number of these dogs show good potential to achieve, and should be prominent trialists here in New Zealand. We also have three more of Woodie (Grazie vom Talka Marda) / Demon (Wyndova Vax) puppies in Sport homes as well.

2008 saw a number of personal success stories, some from handlers with little or no previous trial experience. Whilst many of us acknowledge that in some cases it did not pan out quite as expected on the trial day, it is important to celebrate our successes no matter how small. Apart from a congratulations to all those who achieved their BH, TR, and OB qualifications I would like special mention to Monique Verkade and her success with her Rottweiler, Kraftprotz vom Zorcha (Bruiser) for achieving his Sch.H.I title, Theresa Friis and Wyndova Yoko (Yoko) for achieving Sch.H.I and IPOI and Paul Achten and Coal von Achten for achieving his Sch.H.2 and Sch.H.3.



2009 is shaping up to be another busy year. Late April I will be attending the Schutzhund Australia Judges Seminar & Forum being held in Melbourne, and I look forward to catching up with some of you. This will be followed up by "Schutzhund Hawkes Bay" hosting a trial seminar with Uta Bindels from Germany, in early May. We are looking forward to having Uta here, and are now focusing our attention on the preparation of dogs for our first 2009 Trial.

Lastly, on behalf of New Zealand United Schutzhund Club Inc., I would like to extend our congratulations to all our Australian Sport friends who put their best foot forward at trials during the 2008 year.

We wish you and your clubs all the success during 2009.

Paul Achten  
**President NZUSC**

*In life the firmest friend, the first to welcome, the foremost to defend.*