



VALE - OENONE HIBBERT 1956 - 2011



Farewell Oenone

Losing a loved one is one of the most difficult things we can go through. No words can express what I am feeling right now and I'm sure only time can help me accept the fact.



Human life consists in mutual service. No grief, pain, misfortune, or "broken heart," is an excuse for cutting off one's life while any power of service remains. But when all usefulness is no longer possible or when one is assured of an unavoidable imminent death, it is the simplest of human rights to have a peaceful and easy death in place of a slow and horrible one.

I never thought I would be writing something like this but it just goes to show that life will always surprise you so never forget how special and short our time is.

I know you're still out there, probably with your thumbs in your pockets and pushing out your belly showing how Australian and countrified you are. All you needed was some grass between your teeth and you would fit into any central Australian farm while foreigners would quizzically smile or frown and have no idea of what you're on about. In the brief 13 years I have known Oenone you could write a book about the adventures of this woman. Oenone never forgot her dreams and strived to achieve them no matter how difficult or far they appeared because as long as you worked hard made the commitment and learnt from people who had the knowledge or experience you will always get there. I can still remember when Helmut Raiser was working Oenone and her new dog at the time Nina. Helmut said you may never get this



dog to bark which only motivated Oenone and she achieved Sch3. Oenone wanted to develop her tracking skills through experience so she would take her dogs everywhere with her including work and track every day. I was not uncommon for Oenone to run track along a nature strip at 6 am in the morning on her way home from work. And I must have paid off as she was the first person to achieve 100 points in FH under Mr Raino Fluegge.

You lived life to the fullest with only your kind of flair and no matter what you always left an impression. For a friend you drove me nuts, and you were so happy to keep provoking but that's what life's about and you need to push and keep moving forward. I

loved the peace and quiet when you would go back home but I also missed the life you brought whenever you were around. You loved your animals and had high expectations of yourself and your training. So it kept us on our toes and taught us how resilient dogs and people can be because after you crashed and

burned you sat back had reflection and started again. There are some amazing stories of Oenone's expectations for example when she drove from Melbourne to Brisbane for trial on her old Toyota Troup Carrier Ute arriving half an hour before the trial, pulling Nina out saying good day and competed. There were some crazy situations like when Lance Collins came out to judge the AUSC inaugural National Trial in QLD. Lance had said to us how he would love to see a kangaroo and could not believe that they can be relatively easily seen in most of the fringe areas of the outer suburbs. So to reassure Lance the very next morning Oenone and Alison Kollenberg delivered a fresh road kill of an adult gray kangaroo. Naturally I don't need to expand on how that situation transpired.



You had a heart of gold that I will forever respect and appreciate

and I can only aspire to be able to give and share how you did everything for all of us. You were like a bee in a bottle and maybe you knew that life was to be lived and didn't want to waste your second chance. You always had special words and thoughts of Terry and



life can be so tragic separating the two of you so early in life and marriage. I hope you are now at peace and finally side by side again doing what you both loved. Who knows they may have an annual muster up in heaven?

Punctuality was not your signature but at least I learned to gain patience by waiting however this was part of who you were, and if

you weren't late then you were not living life to the fullest. There is a saying that if you're not on the edge then you're taking too much space and this typifies this courageous lady.

Thank you for the life and happiness you brought to my life, your kindness and the memories will always last. Work hard, play hard and don't sweat the bills, at least you had fun and did what you wanted. You showed Australia anything is possible and you achieved your dream of being the first Australian to compete at the German Shepherd Dog World Championships with class.



Winning many of the trials you entered in Germany. We all celebrated your achievements and thank you for the feelings you left us with. You made me cry when you got your FH and so many titles because I know the love and sacrifice you paid for these achievements. People don't always remember the words or actions but they do remember the feelings you left them with, and there were many good. As many would know, Max was Oenone's first titled Schutzhund and I will never forget Oenone saying, "until Max achieved his Sch1 she was not going to get another dog". So the challenge was set and the rest is history now.



Chiller and Oenone were a real team and inseparable. I hope they are now also reunited. They complimented each other in their quirky ways and the both of them had golden hearts. Chiller would do anything for Oenone even jumped off the South Bank Yarra foot bridge at lunch time, when Oenone pretended to throw something off and brought South Bank to a standstill. It's a wonder it didn't make the six o'clock news but they had fun.

Most of all, I will miss my friend, and will never forget all the great times we had together even though there are times in Canada that I wanted to lose you there. We experienced many things together, even when I felt I had to do a job interview to become the training director for Eagle Heights, there was good and bad, but we both came out the other side better people and closer friends. You were beautiful and caring, funny and annoying. I will miss my friend and never forget. Rest in peace and reap the rewards of living a good life.



Photos: Noni with Vonforell Nina, Nordenstamm Chiller and Carlsbro Beda.

Poem of Life

*Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road, to sweet eternity.
We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things, but never meant to stay.
Our destination is a place, far greater than we know.
For some, the journey's quicker and for some the journey's slow.
And when the journey finally ends, we will find an everlasting peace,*

We love you Oenone.

Luciano Cendak
(President - Schutzhund Australia 2005-2011)

Since 1998 Oenone was a member and a President of the Eagle Heights Sportdog Club Inc., a member of the Australian United Sportdog Club and a founding member of Schutzhund Australia Inc. A dedicated competitor in the sport she moved to Wales in the UK in early 2009 and became a member of the Severnside Schutzhund Group for two years, before returning to Australia.

A life well lived