



WARATAH SPORTDOG CLUB INC. SYDNEY

END OF YEAR 2008 CLUB REPORT

Waratah Sportdog Club Inc. was formed in January 2008 and we are pleased to be celebrating our first birthday within Schutzhund Australia. We train on Monday and Friday evenings from 7.30pm at the Horsley Park Showground, and welcome all prospective members!

We have had a very exciting and productive year, the highlights of which include competing at the 2008 Nationals, hosting interstate and international guests and holding a Helper seminar.

In early 2008, two handler-dog teams were busy preparing for their debut onto the trial field – Nathan McCredie and his GSD bitch Kovac's Bobby, and Ilana Hepner and her Belgian Malinois, Nordenstamm Harley. We enjoyed weekly visits by Tom Stewart from Queensland in March-April, who provided some good insights into the finer points of protocol in the tracking phase. We would like to thank Tom for his early Sunday morning efforts (and humour!) and we welcome him back, anytime!



June seemed to come around rather quickly this last year and sure enough, a convoy of Waratah dog sportlers, competitors and Cheer Squad, headed north to the Gold Coast for the Australian Open National

Championship Trial. Training gear, dogs and pre-trial nerves were all packed into the car – and we



were on our way!

Upon our arrival we met with the Nationals competitors from the Gold Coast and Eagle Heights Sportdog Clubs, all busily engaged in a pre-trial training sessions with Hermann Geering (SV – Germany). We also met the Nationals judge, Uta Bindels (a former World Champion, also from

Germany). Ilana and Harley were invited to bring out Harley for a C work session and a steep learning curve began right there!

Nathan and Bobby earned their BH and Ilana and Harley their TR1. We gained valuable experience from getting out there on the trial field and even more so from the combined wisdom of Gold Coast and Eagle Heights members and Hermann and Uta. We would like to congratulate the Grand National Champion, Alison Kollenberg with her dog, Nordenstamm Hassan, for an inspiring performance, as well as all the Nationals entrants for demonstrating some excellent dog training! It was great to see the level of support and experience the camaraderie, which made us feel even more motivated to attain our training goals.

Shortly after the Nationals we were fortunate enough to have Uta Bindels stay with us in Sydney and all the Waratah members

were able to experience her perceptive, comprehensive and accomplished training techniques. We also had opportunity to show Uta the sights of Sydney, with a Bridge climb during the afternoon (much to Uta's surprise) and dinner at Sydney Tower in the evening.

In September, while on an overseas trip, Ilana again spent some time with Uta in Deisslingen, Germany, and had the opportunity to see some world class training!



In October, Istvan Lakatos and Crystal Mears from Melbourne visited Waratah Sportdog Club for a Helper seminar. That steep learning curve was still present and we were all able to benefit from Istvan's extensive knowledge and experience. Our thanks to Istvan and Crystal and we are looking forward to next time!

Waratah members have been making great progress throughout the year and in 2009 we will see Henk and Bokke, Monika and Divani, David and Cinder and Barry and Valour out on the trial field. We have also recently had two new members join our ranks, Craig and Aron, who have been very enthusiastic and dedicated trainers. Craig with his GSD puppy, and Aron with his Rotti bitch. We will also see Waratah member Mario *finally* get his new pup and are all very much looking forward to that!

In terms of trials and seminars, we intend to hold a trial in April and also in May, where we welcome Uta Bindels back to Sydney! We also plan to hold Helper seminars, with Luc Cendak from Eagle Heights Sportdog Club early in the New Year, and also with Istvan Lakatos. A tracking seminar with Alison Kollenberg from Gold Coast Sportdog Club, is also on the cards - not to mention competing in the 2009 Australian Open National Championship Trial in July.



Watch this space!!

**Ilana Hepner
Training Director
Waratah Sportdog Club Inc.**

PHOTOS ABOVE:
Nathan & Bokke
Divani
Barry & Valour
Michael, Nathan & Hanna
Henk & Bokke

Istvan, Ilana & Harley



Istvan, Harley & Nathan



Monika & Divana



Nathan & Bobby



Eric, Nathan & Bobby

“Waratah for the Working Breed”