



WARATAH SPORTDOG CLUB INC. SYDNEY

2009 Board: President - John Barksby (jbarks@tpg.com.au), Training Officer- Ilana Hepner, Secretary - Mario Ferkula (roth.ferkula@three.bigpond.com), Treasurer - Cathy Barksby.

Waratah 2009 Annual Report

2009 has been a tremendously productive and successful year for Waratah Sportdog Club.

Early this year saw us busily preparing for our first trial under the Schutzhund Australia banner, scheduled for late April with Judge Alison Kollenberg. Three Waratah handler-dog teams achieved their BH titles at this event; Nathan and Bobby, Dirk and Raffles and Ilana and Harley. We got to learn that the former World Champion, Uta Bindels, was visiting our sunny shores once more, and we quickly leapt at the chance to welcome her back to Sydney. SA President, Luc Cendak, also joined us that May weekend, providing us with some pearls of wisdom for our up and coming helpers and dog handlers.



This year Waratah SDC was also given the opportunity of hosting the 2009 Australian National (Open) Schutzhund Championships, scheduled for July 2009. It shaped up to be quite a busy year, but with the strong support from all our club members, particularly our Secretary extraordinaire, Mario, and our canteen *hostess with the mostest*, Monika, we felt well prepared for the upcoming events.

Meanwhile, Ilana and Harley, having been bitten by the trialling bug, travelled in June to the Gold Coast to visit Alison and Jens Kollenberg for some pre-trial coaching and to trial under Judge Luc Cendak. Ilana and Harley then went on to attain their SchH1 with an Excellent grading.



July quickly came around and we had the pleasure of meeting our 2009 Nationals judge, Peter Diedrichkeit, and his wife Marianne. It was great to have all the Schutzhund enthusiasts, competitors and spectators alike, converge in Sydney, most having travelled many miles to join in the fun. Congratulations to Eagle Heights member, Dane Herbert and JJ, on winning Grand National Champion for the second time and to Gold Coast members, Alison Kollenberg and Jim Duncan, for taking out the National Team Champion trophy for the Gold Coast Club for the third time. Also congratulations to our Waratah members, Tanyia and Bebo on winning Best BH award, Dirk and Raffles



on winning the High in Trial WD and last but not least, Ilana and Harley on winning National Champion SchH2 as well as taking out the High in Trial and National H.O.T. Champion trophies. A fantastic effort by the club and we can look forward to seeing our dog sport comrades again at next year's National Championships.

In August Ilana and Harley made another weekend dash up to the Gold Coast to finish Harley's titles, achieving SchH3 and High in Trial. Then in September, the roving Ilana took a trip to see where it all began; a trip to Germany

allowing her to spend time with Jens and Alison at Triptis, in the old East German state of Thuringen, as well as Peter and Marianne Diedrichkeit, across the other side of Germany, in Steinfurt, Westfalen. Topping it all off, Ilana was able accompany Peter and Marianne to the SV Bundessieger-Pruefung in Donaueschingen. What an incredible dog sport event! While there Ilana met some fellow Aussie; Oenone Hibberd (now living in the UK) and Gabi Hoffman (now living in Canada) and also the internationally renowned Schutzhund luminary, Dr Helmut Raiser, who was also close friend of Peter and Marianne.

The end of 2009 saw changes to Waratah SDC. We were sad to lose Nathan, who left the big smoke for a life of fresh air in the country. We wish him all the best and welcome him back whenever he wants! We also welcome new members Shane, Andrew and Mark and can look forward to seeing Craig and Prix, Monika and Furia, Barry and Valour, Gerard and Pepper and Dirk and Raffles out on the trial field in 2010. Our equipment has undergone some improvements in the form of a new fully motorised A frame buggy, courtesy of Waratah member Barry (aka MacGyver Productions). We can hardly wait to use it. Wishing everyone a happy and safe holiday season and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



Andrew & Jet



Craig & Prix



Mario & Denny



Shane & Michael



Monika & Furia



Dirk & Raffles



Ilana & Harley



SA Nats - Luc, Dirk & Peter



Nathan, Bobby & John



Craig & Prix



The Gang



Porto-Frame & Mario



Ilana & BSP trophy table



BSP – the band

“Waratah for the Working Breed”