

# WCS DCA



Dogsport Magazine



SUMMER 2019

# WGSDCA

## Editor

### from the desk

KARYN WORTH

*For our last edition of the year we follow the journey of our Australian representative at the WUSV IGP World Championship in Modena Italy. We also take a look behind the lens with our very own sports photographer Mike Harper from Wild Dog Photography who was there to capture all the action in Modena.*

*Thanks to Julie Urie (GSDCA Obedience Chairperson) for her story on the ZAP information day held by the GSDCQ. Thanks also to Clint Wehmeier for writing about his experience at the ZAP and the following day where he entered his first breed show with his dog Levi who took out best intermediate male stock coat class. Last but not least, we catch up on what some of the clubs have been doing since the last edition.*

*As we say goodbye to 2019, we hope you enjoy reading all the latest dog sport news. From all of us at WGSDCA, we wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*

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## Dogsport: the preservation of the working dog.

### Mission Statement

To maintain and improve the temperament and physical soundness of the German Shepherd dog in Australasia.

To promote responsible dog ownership to our members.

### Our Vision

To be a progressive dogsport organisation in partnership with the international dogsport community.

# 2019 WGSDCA AGM

## *President Report*

Whilst we will soon be celebrating the arrival of a new decade, it's timely that we reflect on the monumental achievements of the previous one. For me, it will be the decade where the WGSDCA dispelled the puffery of "being a disreputable fringe player who sits on the outer of the Australian mainstream canine society and therefore has little/no power to influence the majority to see anything we believe in accepted".

That statement is from early 2017. Please forgive my jubilation but I believe that WGSDCA has proven that statement to be incorrect! To all our long-standing members, please pause and consider how far we have come over the last 10 years! There are too many key milestones to summarise here, but each of them is a result of the relentless effort by many individuals sitting either within or outside of the WGSDCA and spanning beyond our Australian borders. We now have many international canine supporters – and we are experiencing an unprecedented support from the WUSV. As we move into 2020, the WGSDCA has direct access to SV judges – no annual restrictions in relation to how many SV judges per year; our National Championships



Photo: Willdog Photography

are the qualifying event to represent Australia at WUSV World Championships; our membership is almost twice as big as the previous year and consequently we are experiencing an increase in trials and seminars.

WGSDCA underwent a substantial face-lift in the last few years, and as a result our public relationships are flourishing. This is evident through the activity on our social media channels, sponsorship support, newspaper interviews, speaker invitations to seminars and an increase in spectator attendance at our various trial events.

Last but not least, the resurrection of our WGSDCA Dogsport Magazine has been paramount to our educational efforts aimed at

dismissing the misconception of WGSDCA members as being 'cowboys'. On that note, I thank individuals who provide material for the WGSDCA Dogsport magazine, and a special thank to the editor, Karyn Worth, and graphic designer, Lyn Ellerton, who four times a year invest a significant amount of time to pull together material for quarterly newsletter publications that look very professional. Thank you!

Year 2019 was the year where there was enough water under the bridge to rescind the WGSDCA Membership Exclusivity Rule. The rule was unanimously rescinded by all our Club Affiliates at the WGSDCA Special General Meeting June 9, 2019. This rule was hindering effective collaboration with the other IGP fraternities in Australia with an aim to further build awareness around IGP Dogsport in Australia. I am pleased to see individuals crossing 'the bridge' and participating in events sanctioned by one of the three IGP fraternities in Australia. I encourage our members to continue to reach out and build relationships based on mutual respect and a common interest in preserving working dog breeds in Australia – whether that is IGP dogsport or canine mainstream accepted activities such as herding, agility, tracking, obedience, breed surveys, etc. We – 'The Fringe Player' – must nurse these relationships to make the next decade the best and most productive decade so far seen in Australia with respect to IGP dogsport and in particular the preservation of the German Shepherd Dog as a working

animal. Let's aim for making the next decade the decade where the "IGP Fringe Players" become a recognised stakeholder in matters relating to Australian working dog breeds. So dear Fellow WGSDCA members, on the behalf of the BOM, strap in for the changes that will undoubtedly unfold as we enter this next exciting period, 2020 and beyond!

*Happy Festive Season – Stay safe!*



SANNE PEDERSEN | WGSDCA PRESIDENT

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# Eastside Shepherd Dog'sport Club

*What a year it has been...*



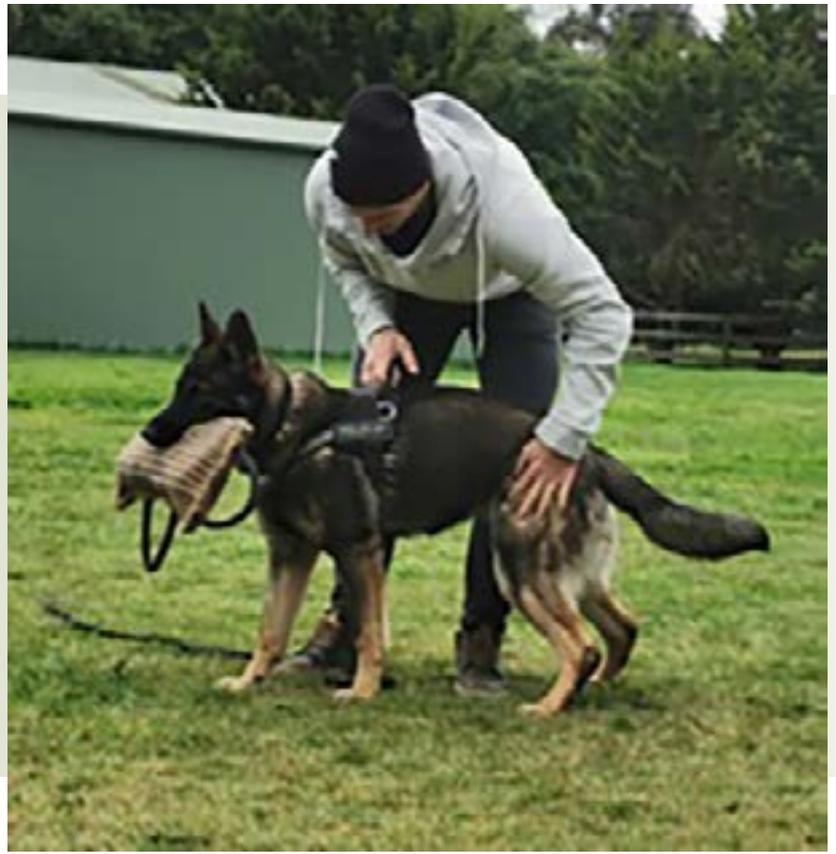
2019 has seen some new editions to the club, both as new member/dog teams and in the way of a couple of new dogs for existing teams – all GSD's of course!!

**A** huge welcome to the team – Vanessa, Marcus and Renee. Vanessa and Marcus having already gotten their trial debuts out of the way at ESDG club trial earlier in the year. After attaining a BH with her show GSD, Mittens, Vanessa will be moving forward with her two youngsters, Kovacs Fayek and Kovacs Hatsu. Marcus will be continuing on through his IGP titles with his 2 year old male, Ace and Renee is currently working with her young male – Kovacs Gaddafi. Michael has returned with a new pup in Kovacs Frankie and Istvan has a new young prospect in 6 month old Czar. All in all, a lot of new beginnings which is great to see moving forward and we look forward to a busy 2020 which will see some our titled dogs return to the field – Chris and Kovacs Ninja, Leo and Kovacs Ozzy and all going to plan, we will see Istvan and Kovacs Yoda, Crystal and Kovacs Vikus, Marcus and Ace

all moving forward from BH through to IGP titles. In addition, of course will be our remaining members all training hard with their respective youngins.

Congrats to all our members who represented on the trial field this year, in





particular Leo and Kovacs Ozzy placing 2nd at the 2019 WGSDCA Nationals... A note to our other 2019 Nat's competitors – Chris and Istvan: remember, it takes courage to actually get out there and subject yourself to the judgement of others. Unfortunately, things don't always go to plan, but allow the disappointments to build your desire to come back stronger.

Happy training and we look forward to seeing you all out on the trial field in 2020.

TEAM ESDG





# A Weekend of Information and Fun

Photo: Supplied



### CLINT WEHMEIER

It all started in September 2019. The German Shepherd Dog Club of Qld advertised a ZAP information day with some other guest speakers on Saturday 26th October and two dog shows on Sunday the 27th October.

I was really keen to hear about the ZAP information and what it held for our GSD breed. As I would have to travel 8 hours to attend the information day, I decided to enter my very first GSD breed show. My training partners and friends Glynis and Lyn were also attending, so as we have done so many times before we drove from Rockhampton to Brisbane. Of course we like to pack as much in during our trip so we made sure we were down in Brisbane in enough time to train with our club, Metro Dog Sport Club.

And what a weekend we had...

We attended Saturday's information day with guest speakers, Dr Karen Hedberg BVSc, Val Bonney, Coral Pethers and ZAP presenters Julie Urie and Sharon Ballantyne-Gordon.

We were offered some very good information from the various guest speakers but the ZAP presentation was what we really came for and it delivered in spades. A great presentation was

given by both ladies at the Dogs Queensland clubhouse in Durack before we ventured outside for the practical side of things. I was asked kindly by GSDCQ President, Sharon Ballantyne-Gordon, if both Lyn and I could present our dogs in the ZAP as we had our dogs with us for training. It was really informative and gave us an understanding of what is involved with the ZAP test and how our dogs showed differing behaviours to the various exercises on offer. Both dogs showed great character in attempting the test and put on a lovely display for the GSDCQ members.

On rolled Sunday, Show Day, with two shows on offer, an open show early with guest judge, Belinda West and a Members Competition later with judge Karen Hedberg.

It was the members show that I was keen for, as the judge, Karen Hedberg, provided a critique and a show grading for my young male Levi. He was only 20 months of age at the time so we could only enter the intermediate class. I had only ever attended a breed survey so was a little apprehensive about what to expect on Show Day as well as what other GSD enthusiasts would say about my black male attending a dog show.

We sat and watched intently at the open show developing around us. First up were the long stock bitches followed by the long stock males. Next were the stock coat bitches and



males. The excitement around the ring by owners, breeders, handlers was something I wasn't prepared for. I watched in awe at the level of training displayed by the dogs running the ring.

As the stock coat male classes started, I felt a little nervous. I had asked for some assistance in showing Levi from Alex Scott, a GSD enthusiast and show handler. Alex was excited as she had always wanted to show a black GSD but had never had the opportunity.

I organised Levi and a toy for encouragement, then headed to the ring. Levi and Alex had their introductions and then it was their time. Being his first run with lots of people around, I tried to encourage him to gait by using a flirt rag. Wow, it was all too much. Poor Alex couldn't hold him. Lucky for her Sharon stepped in to assist. I was asked to go out of sight to see if Levi would gait better, however he never really got into a flowing gait due to his lack of training and the win went to another male. That's life!

Now it was time for the Members show. The one we had been waiting on and can I say, WOW it didn't disappoint, it certainly impressed.

There was so much more excitement, so many more dogs. I watched with intent, observing some really nice puppies and young dogs. The ring training again came into play. A small whistle here, a shout there and you could see the dogs prick their ears up and drive harder.

The dogs were doing their best gait for their handlers then stop and stack to show the judge and then run again in what were some very hot conditions. I have to say the fitness level of some of the dogs was commendable.

It was our turn again. This time we were better prepared for the ring. Alex and I had formulated a plan. I gave her Levi and then disappeared so he could relax.

I watched from a distance as they changed his lead and collar to something more suitable, then in they went. Starting slowly and then moving into a gait to try and impress the judge.

The cheers and assistance from the crowd was amazing. I could see Glynis waving a flirt rag to encourage him more. Then came the stop and stack for the judge to show structure. Then off again, gaiting to show function. This time he was moving better, showing what he can do. Shortly after, the judge's hand came up and we had a winner. Levi had taken it out!





He came first in the intermediate male stock coat class. I was so excited and everybody cheered. The judge presented her critique of all the dogs with Levi getting a very good (the highest grade for an intermediate dog) and then we had to wait to compete for best in show male. The overall win went to an open dog but I couldn't be prouder of young Levi.

What an experience, to see the effort and dedication from breeders and handlers to prepare their dogs for a show.

I was stoked! We had passed our breed survey and now we had a show grading.

The judge and GSDCQ president presented the awards and when it was my turn to go up the crowd cheered me as I walked up to collect my trophy, the noise was overwhelming. I was so chuffed. The black dog and I had impressed and won a few hearts. I received a trophy for our win and collected our grading certificate.

We could now relax.

We collected ourselves and packed the car for the long road home, reflecting on a great weekend. I was impressed with how the members came together and supported an outsider. I had offers from other GSD owners and breeders to assist with furthering Levi's and my training to run the show ring. Members also commented on the overall quality of Levi's structure, movement, intensity and workability during the show especially since we had not prepared for it beforehand.

My overall experience with the show was not what I was expecting. I thoroughly enjoyed the entire experience, the interactions with other GSDCQ members and the love we all have for our breed.

It was my first time but won't be my last! 🐾



# Why would we put ourselves through all this?

MIKE HARPER

Early mornings, late nights, expensive airfares, hire cars and accommodation, little time for food and drinks often treated poorly, almost as if you are the enemy by security staff at venues. Nerve wracking check in procedures at airports when you know the carry on luggage is heavier than your checked luggage. You have eagerly travelled half way around the world to experience this.!!

There is a dedicated, passionate small pack of freelance photographers from different countries that put themselves through this agony gladly every year to be there to photograph thus helping to promote the pinnacle of IGP dog sport, the WUSV World Championship.

Leaving Queensland on a hot day in summer for a warm European autumn other passengers might have wondered why this man and his wife are wearing heavy winter jackets complete with warm liners, also what is hoped is that the other passengers and airline check-in staff can't see the two or three camera bodies and odd lenses and equipment stuffed into jacket pockets.



*Capturing moments in time – Sanne Pedersen for Team Australia on the way to the draw.*

Airport check in time is the most stressful time of the whole journey. We have all seen the footage of airport baggage handlers throwing bags about, the cost of replacing camera equipment is prohibitive so you dare not entrust your equipment to those guys. After check-in is completed the camera bodies and lenses are surreptitiously returned to the carry on camera bags and once on board the aircraft you just hope some nice smiling charming hostess won't insist on helping you stow your monstrously heavy bag into the overhead locker. I always try to stow my bag in a locker over someone else's seat!

Once the Championship has started you are immediately immersed in the action with little time to think about what you have forgotten to pack. If you have done your homework you should have studied who the competitors are and made a mental list of who based on recent form and results "should" do well. Of course this changes daily as the results of the three disciplines are known. In Modena this year and in Holland in 2017 Istvan and Crystal were an absolute mine of information.

On the touchline the photographers totally respect each others space and equipment. This year in Modena the venue for the 2019 WUSV World Championship was the Modena Soccer Club complete with the playing area fully enclosed and separated from the spectators by an eight foot transparent plexiglass fence . The photographers much to the disgust of some of the more officious security staff were able to utilise the dugouts which was great for storing our gear as there was quite a few heavy showers. They also had very plush leather seats provided by BMW, these soccer players are well looked after. As well as the regular pack of accredited photographers other photographers from competing teams might join us temporarily on the side line to photograph their team members in action.

This year there were a couple of incidents which were not pleasant, an American competitor's dog suddenly dropped dead during training and an Italian competitors dog broke his leg during the protection phase. These incidents and injuries are thankfully very rare, totally unpredictable and extremely sad to everyone.



*C critique judge Egon Gutknecht*



Having Sanne and Jabina Soro representing Australia makes being at the WUSV so much more exciting. On the sideline I am almost as nervous as Sanne. You want to capture the action show the keenness and ability of the dog and handler and hope for a superb routine and pray for a fine day with good light. The judges are mostly mindful of the photographers and try to keep out of the line of fire.

At the end of the day, you are tired starving and thirsty. Before food, shower, sleep or a drink you have to get to your accommodation in a strange left hand drive vehicle and along roads that are so different to anything back in Australia. I have so very often arrived at accommodation down loaded photographs recharged batteries and then fallen asleep at the computer and not bothered to eat. As strange as it may seem I am rearing to go through it all again next day come rain, sunshine, snow or hail.

The accredited photographers are:- Jan Redder, Holland. Jürgen Rixon, Germany. Petra Fürstová, Czechoslovakia. Brian Aghajani and Jessica Vompula, USA. Jane and myself. Jane and I regard them all as good friends, they are greatly experienced and have tremendous knowledge of the competitors and dogs. After talking and listening to these guys it is so obvious how far we have to go but with Australia being represented regularly now the sport will hopefully continue to grow here.

Congratulations to Sanne and Jabina Soro all the early mornings and late nights the hours

and hours of training, the huge monetary cost of competing, the pain and the loneliness paid off with a great result.

Jane and I were fortunate this year to be able to travel to Austria prior to the WUSV in Italy to cover the FCI World Championships. We had a two week break in Tuscany amongst the magnificent tiny villages and the superb wineries of the region.

I would like to say how privileged and honoured I have always been to be associated with the people of IGP, the handlers, the helpers, the judges, the folks behind the scenes and of course all the dogs, whether its here in Australia at a club trial or at the World Championships. 🐾





B section judge  
Pierre Wahlstrom



ESP-3 Pierre Lamare

Photos: Willdog Photography



Working German Shepherd and Dogsport Clubs of Australasia  
mike harper wilddogphotography australia





Photos: Wilddog Photography

A person wearing a blue patterned long-sleeved shirt and matching pants is walking away from the camera on a dark, textured surface. The person's back is to the camera, and they are moving towards the left side of the frame. The background is a dark, grainy, and somewhat abstract texture.

# My Trip to Modena, Italy

## The 2019 WUSV World Championship

On 19 September, I flew into Milano together with my dog, Jabina Soro, (Sandro) to represent Australia at the 2019 WUSV World Championship held in Modena a couple of weeks later.

I had just under 2 hours to get my luggage, through customs, pick up the Jeep Renegade and then “*just follow the signs to Milano Cargo City to pick up your dog*”. Easy, she thought. Reality was however a nightmare: the jeep wasn’t ready when I arrived and the man at the rental car place kept trying to convince me to take a little smart Alfa Romeo – and my assumption that the main entrance of *The Cargo City* was the place to pick up Sandro turned out to be an incorrect assumption. Nevertheless, after much stress due to an Italian cargo lady who clearly thought her road description made perfect sense – perhaps they did if she had been able to say them in English – I did find a happy Sandro who seemed totally unfazed about the long trip. Then my second stupid assumption followed – namely, the decision to drive the 250kms to the AirBnB townhouse near Marranello – the home of the Ferrari. Who can possibly be too tired to drive after 30 hours of travel?! Stupid is as stupid does – which got worse due to the GPS not working properly by the time I hit the mountain side going up to Montagnana di Sopra. Around 10pm, I found



Photo: Wilddog Photography



myself lost and staring at an old barn that looked like something out of a horror movie and which was guarded by two very angry Dobermans. I found my way back to the main mountain road, stopped at the first bar that I spotted, where I called the AirBnB host and handed my phone to a stranger. This kind stranger jumped in his car and took me to my accommodation, a townhouse set in a beautiful countryside landscape.

I spent the next couple of days making myself familiar with my new surroundings, i.e. where to get coffee, sausages for tracking and fields for training, including that infamous alfafa grass. It turned out that there was alfafa grass everywhere. As the week progressed, I hooked up with the Danish Team. I had a wonderful week with training dogs, going sightseeing, drinking too much port wine and eating too much bread and prosciutto. I will treasure these memories as nothing is more special to me than getting to hang out with old as well as new fellow dog handlers from Denmark. My deepest gratitude goes to the whole Danish team – and their supporters - who made me feel so welcome in the Danish camp. The Australian Team had all arrived by the time of the opening ceremony which entailed all participants to parade through the city of Modena and subsequently we got cramped

into a very little ballroom where we sat through a couple of welcome speeches followed by the start number draw. Yet again I drew another series of times around midday. First discipline was tracking on the Thursday. After getting the tracking leash measured the nerves kicked in as the day before several big names had failed on the tracking fields, as did Sandro the year before in tracking. The 12 months of practising very very long tracks paid off – Sandro worked that track with amazing precision, and I was so stoked by the 91 points that even the judge got a peck kiss on the cheek. It was very hard to stop smiling that day. The following day we faced obedience. Sandro is kind of an ‘on-off’ dog when it comes to obedience. I never quite know if he is in hand, so I was quite nervous as we walked onto the field. Sandro wasn’t really in hand until after the heeling exercise”. It is worth noting that we got our sit – as the last three trials we have missed that one! The flat retrieve was disappointing as I just didn’t get the dumbbell out far enough due to having a rubber arm. There was a slight touch on the 1m jump – but by the time we got to the send away Sandro was on – and sprinted when the command was given and matched that with a quick down when asked to do so. All up 82 points in B which I was happy with. The last day we faced the C work. The three dogs prior to me all got disqualified due to not outing. Must have been something in the air, as Sandro also needed an extra command at three of the out exercises. He had also ‘forgotten’ what a basic position means after the call-out from the blind as well as during the two side transport setups. That is expensive and we came out with a score of 78. All up we landed a score of 251 which gave us a 54<sup>th</sup> position out of 128 dogs. I had made a promise to stop the smoking if I landed in the top half – hence I proudly announce that I have not touched a ciggie for almost 8 weeks now. It was another wonderful life experience to compete at the world stage and I am grateful to all of you who donated funds so generously. A special thanks to my Rob for supporting my passion for working my dogs. I love you to the moon and back again. Woof. 🐾

SANNE



Photos: Wilddog Photography

# Views and news from the first cross-overs into WGSDCA

CANDACE SPICER & HENNA KUUSISTO

Candace and Henna reporting here! We really enjoyed the challenge of partaking in the Sydney Dog Sports Club (SDSC) IGP trial held on 16-17 November with our Mals “Boo Boo” (aka Herzhund Agent), “Cha Cha” (aka Herzhund Charlee) and (the famously infamous) Dally “The JJ” (Pampard Phirst Home). Being newbies to the sport and the very first handler/dog duos to compete as a “cross-over” from Working Malinois Australia (WMA) at a WGSDCA-affiliated event (at least within this decade) made it even more enjoyable, quite nerve-wracking and a bit special.

## CANDACE SPICER

**D**og sport is hard! Preparing for a trial is a challenge! Building a trial ready team has been years in the making. Then to find a trial to get to can present its own challenges.

Competing with my dogs in a dog sport has been something I have loved and wanted to do forever. Last year I was able to finally get up to Queensland to trial at the WMA Nationals and achieved my BH there. Looking to further improve my handling skills in a trial environment I was finding it a bit disheartening as a lot of trials are a minimum of 4 hours to Canberra and a full 1-2 days travel to get up to Queensland.

Recently I was invited to join and be able to trial my dog close to home with SDSC. This felt like a gift that I certainly chose to take!

Sanne and the SDSC team were very welcoming and helpful, and the level of communication provided in the lead up and after the event was first class. Lots to learn and grow from and a big thanks to judge Reg Worth for his critique and feedback. It certainly gave me a lot of thought for future handling of my dog, as well as how I want to present our working style going forward, which was my goal in this trial to work on developing better handling skills and trial experience.

Charlee and I were successful in achieving our BH for a second time. The whole experience was professional, informative and inclusive.

Now onto IGP1!





## HENNA KUUSISTO

**I**t was exciting to see SDSC open its doors in such a professionally run and friendly competition. The trial ground with super surface, good equipment, private (and VERY challenging!) tracking field and excellent communication both on and off the field from the organisers were a highlight for me. For me personally, it was a real ice breaker event, helping break down some of the barriers I have encountered within my very short time (2 years) in the IGP sport. One major barrier, as Candace pointed out, is the long travel distance to attend trials and events. The continuous need to travel across the country to attend both training and trials with two dogs, whilst having a full-time job close to the Sydney CBD, is very challenging both time and money wise. To date I have never had the opportunity to trial in IGP phases in my home state (NSW), let alone in a trial held only 10 minutes down the road from my place! It was refreshing.

Another barrier I have come across is handler/dog duos (such as myself) simply aren't getting enough opportunities for different types of exposure that genuinely test the dogs preparation/training. This includes any type of event whether it be a mock trial, combined training day or an official trial. I have tried my best to push my own limits to steepen the learning curve. Only until very recently, cross collaboration between clubs within the same organisation, let alone organisations themselves has been few and far. Now having more opportunities such as the SDSC (and WGSDCA) trials to present our work helps to gain exposure, and also importantly, to learn from others.

At the end of the day, we live this sport and this sport is something that brings us all together. I believe opportunities to work together will break down some of these barriers and will be a significant contribution to improving the overall standard and popularity of the sport in Australia. We are looking forward to partaking in more WGSDCA events in the future and are very grateful for this opportunity created by the organisations! 🐾



# GSDCQ ZAP Test information day

JULIE URIE GSDCA OBEDIENCE CHAIRPERSON

On 26th October the GSDCQ held an Information Workshop which saw a very good turnout of members. Four speakers covered various topics which included health/wellbeing, obedience, tracking and the WUSV ZAP Test.

I was invited to speak and also hold a demonstration on the ZAP Test, which GSDCA Member Clubs have agreed to implement as a pre-requisite for the Breed Survey Scheme. To ensure all members are familiar with this new test, similar workshops have been held by GSDCA Member Clubs around the country, with WGSDCA President Sanne Pedersen being invited to speak at two of these as well.

Following a short presentation inside, which covered the basic requirements/rules, we all moved out onto the training ground, where a practical demonstration took place. Two dogs were run through the course, one a male of 15 months, the other a male of 9 months. Each dog was put through all elements of the test, with each element being explained to the onlooking crowd, who were very keen to finally see the test in action. Both dogs handled the test without any problem and showed very good competency throughout. They would have easily gained a pass with high ratings had this been an official test.

The test is not onerous and indeed should be something that any well-bred, well-raised dog can accomplish without difficulty. For those interested in learning more about the test, the following is a video link to view the test in its entirety: [ZAP Test video](#).

I would like to thank all members from far and wide who took the time to attend, including those who travelled all the way from Rockhampton. Particular thanks to Clint Wehmeier and Lyn Ellerton for allowing us to use their lovely dogs for the demonstration.

***The following information was obtained from the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia website.***

## **ZAP<sub>1</sub> PUPPY TEST Zuchtanlageprüfung**

The following information was compiled after viewing videos of the Zap<sub>1</sub> test as conducted in Germany and viewing the test in person at Nurnberg in 2016.

- 1. Identification check with microchip scanner  
Tooth Check**  
Measuring – Height and Chest Depth
- 2. Recall off lead (*Willingness to return to owner, social behaviour*)**

The dog is taken by its owner approx. 20-25mtrs away from an assembled crowd of minimum 8- 10 people. Owner removes lead and a helper holds dog, while owner walks back toward and through to the other side of the crowd. The owner then calls the dog, which is released by the helper. The dog is required to return directly to the owner, by running through the crowd. After the dog returns to the owner and with the dog still off lead, the owner then walks among the crowd and encourages the dog to follow.

**3. Dog to dog test (Social behaviour)**

With the dog on lead, the owner walks toward another dog, which is approaching from the opposite direction. The approaching dog is also on lead. Dogs are required to pass each other at approx. 2-3mtrs, without showing signs of fear or aggression. It is important that a completely neutral dog is chosen, to act as the extra dog.

**4. Chainsaw test (Noise sensitivity)**

With the dog on lead, the owner stands still. A helper circles the dog at approx. 2-3mtrs, while operating a chain saw or similar noisy tool.

**5. Chain drop (Noise sensitivity)**

A length of metal chain is suspended from a post/tree. On the ground below the chain is a metal plate/dish. With the dog on lead, the owner stands approx. 4mtrs from the chain/dish, while a helper releases the chain and lets it drop onto the metal plate/dish.

**6. Gun test (Noise sensitivity)**

With the dog on lead, the owner stands still while 2 shots are fired from approx. 12mtrs away.



**7. Stand and play on a wobbly board. (Confidence on shifting surface, prey drive)**

For this test, a standard sized wooden pallet is used. Top surface where dog stands must be covered to exclude gaps. A round wooden pole/polycarbonate pipe (3-inch diameter) is fixed to the underside of the pallet, across the centre. This will allow the pallet to rock back and forth when the dog stands on top of it. The dog is encouraged to walk onto the pallet and to move around, so the pallet rocks under the dog. While the dog is standing on the pallet, the owner encourages the dog to play tug. If necessary, the owner may stand on the pallet as well, to engage with the dog.

**8. Walk on trestle tables (Height sensitivity)**

For this test, 5 trestle tables are required. The tables should be aligned, so that they form an "L" shape. On the short side, the tables are butted up against each other, with no gaps in between. On the long side, two of the tables should have a gap of approx. 8-10 inches between them. A suitable ramp is also required, for the dog to walk up onto the tables. With the dog on lead, the owner encourages the dog to walk up the ramp and onto the trestle tables. The dog should walk the entire length of the tables, turning the corner of the "L" and continuing over the gap in the tables. Once at the end, the dog is turned around and returns along the same path, exiting via the ramp where it commenced.



**9. Play with owner and stranger (*Prey drive, bond with handler*)**

With the dog off lead, the owner commences to play a game of tug with the dog. Once an assessment has been made of how the dog plays with the owner, the owner then tosses the toy to a helper, who is standing approx. 5-6mtrs away. The dog is expected to follow its toy and engage in a game of tug with the helper. The dog's willingness to engage with a stranger is then assessed.

**10. Dog retrieves hidden toy (*Prey drive and tenacity*)**

A helper holds the dog on lead, with the owner making an obvious display of the toy, while proceeding to move away and place the toy under an upturned bread crate (approx. 5- 6mtrs away). The owner then returns to the dog, removes the lead and sends the dog to find its toy. The dog is expected to go to the bread crate and work out how to gain its toy from underneath the crate.

**11. Inside the clubhouse (*Different environment, slippery floor, sound sensitivity*)**

The room should be set up as normal, with tables, chairs and other items normally found inside. The dog is brought inside on lead, then the lead is removed. Owner moves around the room, among the furniture, while the dog is allowed to explore. A metal bowl/dish will be dropped to the floor by a helper, on the opposite side to whichever table the dog is next to at the time.

**12. Inside the Clubhouse (*Different environment, prey drive, scenting ability, tenacity*)**

Owner plays tug with dog, then tosses the toy across the room. Dog goes after toy and returns to owner. With the owner holding the dog, a helper then takes the toy, and making it obvious to the dog that he has it, moves away and hides the toy from the dog's vision. The dog is then sent to find the toy. It is important that the toy be hidden from the dog's vision, but not placed anywhere that is not easily reached, once the dog has located with its nose.



**13. Dog is tied up and owner goes out of sight (*Handler dependence, social behaviour*)**

Dog is tied securely to a tree/fence post by the owner, who then leaves the dog and goes out of sight. A helper will then walk toward and straight past the dog. Once several meters past the dog, the helper will then turn around and return past the dog from the opposite direction. On both occasions, the helper should pass within touching distance of the dog.

Equipment required:

- » Starting Pistol
- » Measuring Stick
- » Microchip Scanner
- » Chainsaw (blade removed) or similar sounding power tool.
- » Length of metal chain (2mtrs) and a metal plate/dish to drop the chain into.
- » Wobble board – standard sized pallet (modified as per description in pt. 7)
- » Trestle tables – 5 standard trestle tables, plus a ramp leading up to the tables. To be covered in non-slip surface.
- » Bread delivery crate.
- » Clubhouse.
- » Helpers for various tasks, as listed in component descriptions.

The equipment needed is fairly basic and should not pose a problem for clubs to procure, nor should it be overly expensive. 🐾



# Metro DogSport Club

## November trial

What better way to finish off 2019 than with a club trial! For this trial we had 9 entries which included two BH's, two IGP 1's, three IGP 2's, IGP 3 and a TR1. This trial was our first where we had new members who held a dual membership under the new WGSDCA rules. We welcomed Lauren Bucksath and Vomambach Almost Legal (Xora) who trains with the club full-time and Julie and Peter Ulbrich with Kayrossi Prime Suspect Xena and Vom Ambach Rhaana.



Supporters were out in full force on the night to watch the trial and there were even some unexpected supporters who hopped... dashed... darted across the top of the trial field providing some distraction for the dog in the long down. But to the dog's credit it held the long down proving it could work under distraction!

Congratulations to all our members who represented on the trial field. Both BH's passed, Peter Ulbrich and Rhaana and Rhiannon and Haveloc Hammer who took out best BH. The two IGP 1 dogs passed, Julie and Xena and Lauren and Xora who took out best IGP 1, high in obedience, high in tracking and high in trial. Two of the IGP 2 dogs Glynis and Haveloc Fynn and Karyn and Haveloc Bryx qualified but, unfortunately for Clint and Blaze it wasn't their night. Highest IGP 2 and highest protection in trial went to Karyn and Bryx. For Lyn and Chanz this was not their night either as Chanz decided that he was not going to let the dumbbell go. Up until then they were putting on a great performance. Nevermind Lyn your name is on the High in Trial trophy plenty of times already! Congratulations also to Peter and Rhaana who were awarded highest TR1 in trial.

Thanks again to Natalie Woelfel for making her way across the ditch and judging the trial, Shane Asanuma for his helper work, Mike and Jane for their photography and Emma for her work as trial secretary and all our members who worked behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly.

Wishing all our fellow dogsport friends a happy and healthy 2020. Here's to kicking those training and trialling goals. Metro is looking forward to entering a team at the Nationals in Sydney in June and of course catching up with everyone for what is a great dogsport event.🐾





# Dogsport New Zealand Helper Certification

On Sunday, 1 December Dogsport New Zealand held a helper certification with teacher helper Jason Pye. Jason put Cole Benji through his paces testing his knowledge, skills and abilities as a trial helper. Dogsport New Zealand would like to congratulate Cole on successfully achieving his trial helper certification.

The club is so pleased to have another certified helper for our trials and there will be no rest for the wicked as Cole's first trial will be at our next competition in Auckland on 14/15 December 2019.

# Trial notifications 2019 – 20

**14 & 15 December 2019**

Dogsport New Zealand

Judge: Ms Natalie Woelfel (WGSDCA)

**20 & 21 December 2019**

Norwest Dogsport Club

Judge: Mr Reg Worth (WGSDCA / SV Aus)

**18 & 19 January 2020**

Norwest Dogsport Club

Judge: Herr Uwe Stolpe (SV Gmy)

**21 February 2020**

Valley Dogsport Club

Judge: Mr Reg Worth (WGSDCA / SV Aus)

**5-7 June 2020** – Sydney Dogsport Club

WGSDCA IGP National Championship

Judge: Herr Horst-Dieter Trager (SV Gmy)





## **Scorebooks, Sports Passes and Forms**

When filling out the forms for your score books, sports passes, membership and in particular trial validation forms it would be appreciated if the forms could be typed rather than hand written, where possible, to ensure accurate records are kept and scorebooks and sportpasses reflect the correct information. Also when scanning please make sure the scans are of good quality in black and white.

Please ensure payment forms accompany all payments so the money can be allocated to the correct person and item eg. Smith – scorebook.

## **Individual WGSDCA Membership**

Whether your interest is breeding or training the German Shepherd Dog, or simply enjoying the company of people like you who love to spend time with their dogs, WGSDCA has something for you. Send us an email to learn more.

## **Membership Application**

You can join WGSDCA through one of our Club Affiliates or directly. We have five categories of Individual Membership of the WGSDCA:

- Individual Membership
- Dual Membership
- Youth Membership (free)
- Life member
- Social Membership

Members of WGSDCA have to renew their WGSDCA Individual Membership annually.

Send us an email for further information.

[secretary@wgsdca.org.au](mailto:secretary@wgsdca.org.au)