

AUTUMN 2019

WGSDCA

★ Dogsport Magazine



WINTER

WORKING GERMAN SHEPHERD AND DOGSPORT CLUBS OF AUSTRALASIA

WGSDCA

Editor

from the desk

KARYN WORTH

Get ready to settle down for some great reading in our winter edition of the WGSDCA's Dogsport Magazine! In this issue we have a great article on an interview with one of our members who moved all the way from South Africa to Australia with her 10 German Shepherds and 1 cat. The interview talks about her love of animals and in-particular the GSD and her Dogsport journey.

June 2019, saw our organisation hold its 17th National IGP Championship, the article on the event has some great photos taken and selected for this edition by Mike Harper from Wild Dog photography.

On page 14, we have outlined our recent constitutional changes which should see the Dogsport fraternity in Australia become stronger and more united.

In this edition we return to the story on the banning of the GSD. Special thanks to Sister Jeannie Johnston for writing such a comprehensive article.

In closing, WGSDCA wishes Sanne Pedersen the very best in Modena Italy as she represents Australia at the WUSV World Championship. Sanne won her place as Australia's representative after winning the 2019 WGSDCA IGP National Championship! There is still time to donate to Team Australia, details and links are included in the National Championship story. Happy reading!

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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.

A Word from the President

Let's find more that brings us together

We are halfway through the year of 2019, thus it seems appropriate to reflect on our achievements for the first 6 months.

The WGSDCA Board of Management has for many months been focused on defining goals that stimulate further activity in our Organisation as well as grow our membership base. The first Goal was achieved on June 9, 2019, where the WGSDCA Executive Clubs supported various motions proposed by the BOM which allow a re-structuring of the WGSDCA. You can read more about these changes on page 14. It is with great pleasure that we are already now seeing initiatives across the IGP fraternities and I am very excited to see fellow IGP enthusiasts working together to create more trial opportunities. The BOM encourages our Club Affiliates to embrace the new comers and please do not hesitate to reach out to the WGSDCA Secretariat if you have any questions.

When we get together and find what connects us – our world gets a little closer.

Photo: Willdog Photography



As the dust settles from the 2019 WGSDCA National Championship, I wish to once again congratulate the hosting club, Brisbane Sporting Dog Club for a well-organised and executed event. On behalf of BOM, I thank all the volunteering people on the day who made the event a success: dog handlers, track-layer (Paul, fantastic job!), Helpers (Shane, Jay and Jason – awesome work), helper try-out dogs (Amanda, Tammy, Rhiannon – THANKS!), obedience group and many more, but in particular, the WGSDCA fraternity is grateful for the support by our official Main Sponsor Black Hound Enterprises as well as our event sponsors Stay Loyal, Balanced Life and Aussie Pet Health.

A special thank you to SV Judge, Daniele Strazzeri, for fitting in a trip to Australia in an otherwise very busy schedule of his. It was a great experience for all our dog handlers to get the opportunity to trial under his critical eyes. I congratulate all the dog handlers for showcasing our sport, your camaraderie and good sportsmanship. In particular, I applaud the new faces for stepping onto the stage of the WGSDCA National Championship! Well done. You can read more about the event on page 17 and the performance videos are available through [Caniva](#).

As part of our wish to further solidify our WUSV relationship, the WGSDCA Board of Management takes the opportunity to re-iterate the importance of us to show actionable initiatives with the objective to further the implementation of the WUSV World Harmonisation Plan in Australia. Our world has definitely got closer to the rest of the world with Australian representation at the WUSV World Championship in October. It is crucial that we rise to the financial challenge of

representing Australia at the annual World Championship events as the Organisation has fought hard/is fighting hard for WUSV recognition. Please show your support either by **direct donations** or via **merchandise purchase**. On that note, I personally thank Von Ultimate Dog Shop – Evan Harbalis for their continuous and very kind donations as well as the support received by many individuals. I have no doubt in my heart that those future dreams of mine will become a reality if each of us remember that **Many Small Contributions Add Up To Big Results**.

Sincerely

SANNE PEDERSEN | WGSDCA PRESIDENT



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<https://wgsdca.secure-decoration.com>**

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AD TRIAL

VDSC TRIAL Info

When: Sunday 1 September 2019

Judge: Mr Reg Worth

Venue: Cahill Park Sports Complex
64 Buaraba St, Gatton

Time: 6am start

Entries close Monday 26 August 2019

Entry Fee: \$40



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A woman with short grey hair, wearing a red baseball cap, a red short-sleeved shirt, and a black vest with reflective white stripes, stands in a grassy field. She is looking towards the left. A German Shepherd dog is sitting on the grass in front of her, looking up at her. The dog has black and tan fur and is wearing a metal chain collar. The background is a blurred green field under bright sunlight.

Interview with Glynis Hendricks

– IGP trainer,
competitor and German
Shepherd Breeder



Glynis thanks for taking the time to answer some questions about your Dogsport journey?

You're welcome.

Can you tell us a little background about you and where you grew up, your first dog/pets?

I was born in East London, Eastern Cape, South Africa. Our family moved to Bloemfontein, Free State when I was 6 years old. We got our first family dog around that time, it was a cross Corgi with white feet so we called her Shoeshine. She went everywhere with us.

I got my own pet when I was around the age of 10 – a rabbit, which I would take for walks around the neighbourhood on a harness. I must have been nuts! Mark bought me a cat when I was 17, my mom wasn't impressed. Eventually when I was around 25, Mark bought me my first dog – a Border Collie. After our marriage I bought Mark a cross GSD as I couldn't afford a purebred one. In 1981, I was training a horse for a GSD breeder and I got pick of the litter in place of the training fee. My first real GSD, Jinty!

When did you start breeding GSDs?

Jinty proved to be a great dog. She was a breed champion and was very successful in Obedience and Working Trials so in 1984 I decided to breed a litter.

How did you get involved in IGP Dogsport in South Africa?

The sport first came to South Africa in the mid 80's and was called International Working Trials. I attended an introduction to this new sport which was held in Johannesburg, 450km away from where I lived. I was hooked as was a friend of mine, so we started training on our own and made regular trips up to Johannesburg for help. Our local GSD Club then started training for the sport as it then became a requisite for GSDs.

Who has been your greatest influences and/or inspirations in the sport?

Sandy Lombard from South Africa – my first competition trainer, she has represented South Africa at WUSV.

Baldur Krantz from Germany – came out to South Africa numerous times to give seminars, he competed with Lord vom Gleisdreieck.

Joanne Plumb from Canada – gave numerous seminars in South Africa and represented Canada at FCI IPO Worlds.

Bernhard Flinks from Germany – competed at high level in Germany.

Vera Drummond from South Africa – I have known her since the 1980's and we competed together in the first IPO competitions. She qualified to go to WUSV for South Africa however that year they did not send a Team.



Lance Collins from Canada – has represented Canada numerous times at WUSV, is also an IGP judge.

Gabi Hoffman from Canada – an Australian who has represented Canada numerous times at WUSV.

Reg Worth from Australia – an SV judge, has represented Australia at the FMBB.

Grant Higgo from South Africa – an IGP judge, has represented South Africa at WUSV and came 10th with Canto v Neumis Flucht.

Mark Gomersall from Australia – an International helper, had trained with Lance Collins for many years and helped prepare Lance and Gabi's dogs for the WUSV.

Moving to Australia

In the 1990's Mark attended a medical conference in Sydney and we really enjoyed the country and the people. Of all the places that we'd visited in the world we felt that we could easily live in Australia.

When things started to turn bad in South Africa we started looking at emigrating. Mark was offered numerous jobs and we made a flying visit to six different hospitals. Mark decided on Rockhampton as it was easy for him to just walk in and start work. He also liked the city as it was large enough to have everything that we needed without the traffic and queues.

Once he'd signed a contract we started the huge project of moving ourselves, 10 dogs and 1 cat halfway around the world. The most difficult part was that we had to leave my 10 parrots behind. Luckily they went to one of the largest bird parks in the world. The bird park is in George and has been built over a river with 2km of boardwalks.

The dogs and cat however were an even bigger project! They had to be in quarantine for seven months however, there are no quarantine stations near Bloemfontein. So we contacted the nearest one in Johannesburg and they said that they couldn't fit all our animals in at the same time. I then contacted my local State Vet to see what could be done and he helped me get a licence from Australia and Pretoria to establish a quarantine station of my own.

This was a major project as we had to convert our kennels into a quarantine kennel block. This meant building double security fencing which included burying



metal under the fence to stop anything digging in or out. Security gates to get into the kennel area, huge signs were placed everywhere stating these kennels were under quarantine. Eventually everything was set up for the Quarantine Station but we were still struggling with getting our visas organised as there are so many hoops to jump through. In January 2009, the animals went into quarantine and after 4 months the Australian government let us know that the paperwork hadn't been signed off by Pretoria so this meant that my animals had to restart their quarantine!

I was so grateful to my State Vet who was so helpful throughout the process, he had to regularly come out and check my records etc. My own vet was also so helpful, he came out to the property once a week to check the animals.

Mark left for Australia in June 2009, and the movers came soon after to pack up the house. My daughter Samantha and I were then living with minimal household goods and very few clothes.

In November, the pet transport people travelled 5 hours down from Johannesburg with crates specifically designed for each animal and at 4am the State Vet arrived to seal all the dogs into their crates. The pet transport

people carefully loaded them into the vans and made their way to the Johannesburg International Airport.

Samantha and I travelled with the dogs, boarding the flight to Sydney late in the afternoon. The dogs had been sealed in their crates for 12 hours before they were loaded on for the 14 hour flight. When they reached Sydney it was still another 4 hours before they were released into their kennels at the quarantine station in Sydney where they were to spend another month. A long way for them to travel but they made it safe and sound and we were very grateful they travelled so well considering the time and distance. Samantha and I spent the month in Sydney so we could visit the animals twice a week.

On 2 December 2009, all the animals were released from quarantine. We loaded up the dogs and started our two day journey to Rockhampton. At the first opportunity we stopped to exercise the dogs, they'd been confined for a year. When we let them out, they just ran and ran.

The acreage property we were renting in Rocky did not have any kennels, so we hired the same fencing used on building sites and erected runs off the long veranda on the back of the house.





After we received permanent residency we decided to buy our own place. We fell in love with a 100 acre property in Tungamull which is situated halfway between Rocky and Yeppoon on the coast. The property had everything we were looking for, lots of land a dam, bore water and only 12 minutes from the beach and 20 minutes from the hospital for Mark.

Choosing a club to join? What influenced your choice to join Metro?

Once we had decided to come to Australia I started researching IGP clubs in the country. One of the first things I noted was Australia hadn't sent a team to WUSV however, Reg Worth had represented Australia at the World Championship for Belgian Shepherds (FMBB). Once we'd decided on Rockhampton I knew I'd have to train on my own but would have to join a club in Brisbane. Mark had a conference in Brisbane and I flew down with him and paid a visit to Metro. The members were very friendly and invited me to bring my dogs down for training.

What have you enjoyed most about being a member of Metro?

I think it is the friendly team spirit and helpful attitude from all the members.

As you live eight hours away from Brisbane and Metro's training grounds how do you train for IGP?

I have always lived far away from IGP training groups so I'm used to making a plan. In the first year it was just Samantha and I training in Rocky. We used to travel to Metro every 3 weeks and in between we'd do helper work for each other's dogs.

Lyn Ellerton then expressed interest in the sport and started training with us. About 6 years ago Clint also got bitten by the bug and between Samantha and I, we trained him up to be a helper. Because our group had more members now it was difficult to make the trip to Brisbane as often as we needed, so instead, we started flying Reg and Shane up to help us and they both helped Clint to improve. Mark Gomersall has now also started flying up to assist us in our training and he has helped Clint to progress even further with his helper work. Our group has now grown to 8 people with 13 dogs.

You are also involved in the Rockhampton obedience club. What is your involvement with the club?

The Rockhampton Obedience Club welcomed me as a member in 2010. I felt that it was important to also be involved in the local dog training club. In the beginning I was taking a class on training nights and then I was asked to rewrite the class structure and how the classes were trained. Once I had established the new classes I then offered free training for the trainers on a different night. The aim was for all the trainers to give classes in a similar way so the public did not become confused when moving from class to class.

How many dogs have you titled since coming to Australia?

Nine so far.
 Cayden IPO3, Comet AD IGP3,
 Asra AD BH, Phlynt AD IPO3,
 Raiza AD BH, Yoshly IPO2,
 Axa IPO1, Fynn AD IGP1
 Kojak AD IPO3,

How many National competitions have you entered?

I first entered in 2010 and I've entered every year since then. Nine!

What dogs are you currently working?

Haveloc Comet AZ BS2 AD IGP3 - aiming to compete at IGP Nationals 2020.

Haveloc Fynn AZ AD IGP1 - aiming for IGP2.

Schutzshep Ghost - only 2 months old.

What have you enjoyed most about IGP in Australia and what are a few highlights over the last 10 years for you as a competitor?

I've enjoyed the fact that Australians encourage handlers to take responsibility for training their dogs and to make decisions about how they want to train their dogs especially in the character phase.

The highlights for me have been getting Cayden from BH to IPO3 in my first year in the country. I have Reg to thank for all the help he gave us as Cayden had some issues with his barking in the Character work. Also thanks to Elisabeth for entering her dogs into trials when we needed an extra dog to hold a trial making enough entries so that Cayden could move forward.

Another thing I have really enjoyed is preparing a dog for the Nationals every year.

I understand over the last few years you have also put quite a few of your dogs through breed surveys and confirmation shows. Can you tell us a bit about that and why you think it is important to do so?

In South Africa in order to breed registered GSDs the parents had to have certain qualifications. If the parents had been Breed Surveyed including the Character Phase then the puppies received special pink pedigrees. When I came to Australia I expected to do the same but was astounded that there was no character phase in the Breed Surveys and that it was not even necessary to have a grading, an AD or BH in order to breed. For me I feel that as a breeder, I need to show that my dogs have the correct construction as well as the correct temperament and working ability.

As a breeder of German Shepherds what do you think is important?

I aim for breeding a canine that looks like a GSD but also functions like a GSD is meant to function. The GSD is a working dog that is athletic and can work all day and have the want to work. I'm looking for a stable temperament with the strength of character to react correctly to a threat. The dog must be able to live in a family environment and also be able to serve the community as a service dog. The perfect canine companion!

What are some of the dogs that you really like either on paper or have seen working?

- Sid von Haus Pixner
- Gorbi von Maventelina
- Mike vom Weinbergblick
- Ares vom Wackerland
- Zasko vom Prielberg

Have you been able to use these dogs in your breeding?

Yes, Gorbi von Maventelina, Mike vom Weinbergblick and Zasko vom Prielberg. I'm hoping to use Ares vom Wackerland.

Plans/goals for you over the next few years in Dogsport?

Keep training dogs and be able to enter WGSDCA IGP Nationals for years to come.

Glynis thank you for taking the time to tell us your story from where it all started to where you are now. 🐾



Photo: Wilddog Photography

WGSDCA Constitutional Changes

*Continue to showcase our sport
and the GSD as a working-dog.*

At the WGSDCA Special General Meeting 9 June 2019, the WGSDCA Executive Clubs carried a set of Motions proposed by the WGSDCA Board of Management, which set the foundation for further promotion of IGP Dogsport as well as bringing together the GSD enthusiasts who believe in the promotion and breeding of the GSD as a working animal.



WGSDCA | MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION:

If you wish to get access to WGSDCA trials and/or our various accreditation programs such as the Helper, Tracklayer or Judge license schemes, then you can now do so regardless of what other affiliations you may or may not have.

What do I do? Two things:

1. Seek membership in a WGSDCA Club Affiliate and,
2. subscribe to full individual membership with the WGSDCA. Contact our secretary at secretary@wgsdca.org.au for more information.

TRIAL | ENTRY: Once you subscribe to WGSDCA Club affiliation as well as WGSDCA individual membership, then you can apply for a WGSDCA sportspass through admin@wgsdca.org.au. You will also need a scorebook for your dog if your dog doesn't have one already recognised by the WGSDCA.

How are the IGP titles recognised? Should your dog already have an IGP title (including BH) from another Australian IGP organisation, then the WGSDCA will accept this title on the provision that you repeat this level in a WGSDCA Club trial unless such title was awarded under an SV, FCI, WUSV or WGSDCA judge. Should this be the case – then you can enter the next level up. For further information please contact the WGSDCA Director of Judges: directorjudges@wgsdca.org.au

DOG | POLICY: Only dogs trained in sleeve work as defined in the **FCI Internationale Gebrauchshunde Prüfungsordnung (valid 01/01/2019)** are allowed to partake in any of the activities governed by the WGSDCA and its affiliated Clubs. If your dog is trained in any other kind of sleeve-work, then such dog is prohibited to partake in any of WGSDCA's sanctioned events. For further information contact WGSDCA Secretariat, secretary@wgsdca.org.au.



Photo: Wilddog Photography

WGSDCA Judge | RELEASE POLICY: Another IGP organisation in Australia may request a WGSDCA Judge to be released for officiation at their trial. Please contact WGSDCA secretariat for a Judge Release Request.

WGSDCA Nationals | IGP3 ENTRY: Effective from January 1, 2021, only pedigree GSDs with normal HD/ED scores (as defined by the SV) and with prior IGP3 titles awarded at a WGSDCA trial are eligible to compete at the IGP3 level in WGSDCA National Championships. The reason for this is due to the fact that the WGSDCA National IGP3 Championship is the qualifying event for WUSV World Championship participation. It is hence imperative that the Australian qualifying event is in alignment with the WUSV World Championship participation pre-requisites: full pedigree, HD/ED and a qualifying score of a minimum of 250 with at least 80 in each of the three IGP3 disciplines.

The WGSDCA Board of Management is thankful for the support of its affiliated Executive Clubs and we believe this is a significant milestone. Our vision is to be a progressive German Shepherd Dog organisation in Australia who works in partnership with the international forum. 🐾



Photos: Wilddog Photography



WGSDCA 17th IGP National Championship

This year marked WGSDCA's 17th IGP National Championship, held in Brisbane and hosted by Brisbane Sporting Dog Club. Our judge for the event was SV Judge, Herr. Danielle Strazerri.

Each year the championship grows in the number of competitors and spectators and this year was no different with really good numbers coming in through the gate. The event did not disappoint with some really impressive performances displayed by competitors and their dogs. If you were not able to make event you can see all the scores and watch the videos on [Caniva](#)

Congratulations to the host club for their professionalism in running the event.

Friday was the start of the championship with our opening ceremony and helper tryouts. This year Shane Asanuma from Metro Dogsport Club was selected to do the front half of the character work. This was Shane's fourth time as a National helper. Jason Pye from Dogsport New Zealand was selected to do the back half of the character work and this was also Jason's 4th time as a National helper.



Photos: Wilddog Photography

At the opening ceremony each competitor drew a number to see what day and time they would be competing in tracking. Tracking was held approximately 35min north of Brisbane and competitors were required to be at the meeting point by 6am each morning. Mother Nature put on some chilly mornings for tracking but I don't think the competitors even noticed! This year all but one team passed the tracking phase!

The obedience and character phases followed tracking with the BH dogs starting off the competition at the championship grounds on Saturday. Although only the entry level of the sport it is the beginning of an important step of a competitors journey. Both dogs put on a nice performance with Tyrone Foster and Haveloc Faith taking out best BH.

IGP 1 and 2 dogs followed with their obedience and character work. Congratulations to Sanne Pedersen and with Kanikular Asterix taking out Highest IGP 1 in trial with a score of 270!!! and Michelle Daniel with Mephisto des Feux de l'Espoir taking out Highest IGP 2 in trial with a score of 257.





Sunday was the final day of the competition. This is where spectators get to see the many years of hard work and dedication by trainers, where it all comes together at the top level of IGP. Eight IGP 3 teams competed this year for the chance to win the competition and their place to compete for Australia in the WUSV World Championships. There were some very nice performances in all three phase however it would be Sanne Pedersen and her dog Jabina Soro who would take out the Championship. Vice-champion went to Leo Scheiner and his dog Kovacs Ozzy and third place to Garry Pitt and Crazy vom Gatower Forst.

Sanne will now go on to compete in the WUSV World Championship in Modena Italy in October. This will be Sanne's 3rd time to represent Australia at a World Championship, her first in 2016 with her female Jabina Nala and then in 2018 in Randers Denmark with Jabine Soro and now again in 2019. It just goes to show you that if you are dedicated and you want something enough you don't just wish for it, you go out and work hard to achieve it. Congratulations to you Sanne and we wish you all the best in Italy in October. **The organisation has set up a funding page on Facebook** to help pay for some of the expensive of taking a dog to Italy and back. For the dog alone the cost is around \$15,000. Gulp....yes that's right \$15,000!!! So even if you have a spare \$5, \$10 or \$20 every bit helps. You can donate through facebook at Representing Australia at the 2019 WUSV World Championship. WGSDCA also have some great Team Australia clothing for sale and all profits go to fund Australia's representative at the WUSV this year and for years to come. 🐾





Photos: Wilddog Photography



The Infamous BAN... Political Expediency or Genuine Concern

Part Two: Discrimination based on Rumour and Innuendo.

SISTER JEANNIE JOHNSTON, RSC

The Infamous Ban signed by the then Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, John Lawrence, Baron Stonehaven, came into force on 7 June 1929 – 90 years ago. It was the consequence of a decision made by the Federal Cabinet on Thursday 2 May, 1929.

Excerpt from Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held in the Cabinet Room, No 2, Secretariat, Canberra, on Thursday 2 May, 1929, at 10 o' clock, am.

Agenda No. 251. Alsatian Wolfhounds – Question of prohibition of importation into Australia.

Cabinet decided that a recommendation that the importation of Alsatian dogs into Australia be prohibited for a period of five years (notification of Decision 24/7/28).

The anti-Alsatian Wolf Hound movement took the form of a two pronged attack: In the west the Western Australian Graziers Association began to raise concerns about the temperament and character of the Alsatian Wolf Hound Sheep Dog which was a familiar Working Dog on a number of pastoralist properties both in the south-west of the State and also in the northern regions of Western Australia where German Farmers had settled. Whispers had come from England stressing that the temperament of this German-bred dog was unpredictable and unreliable due to its being developed from the crossing of wolves

with 2 well-known types of European Sheep Dogs. Its character was basically that of a pack animal that survived by stalking and attacking its prey, therefore this particular breed of dog was completely unsuitable as a pastoral tending animal. Its basic instinct was not to protect the flock but to kill it.

On the east coast of Australia, the Alsatian Wolf Hound was enjoying great success, not as a Working Dog but primarily as a Show Dog. Since its 1924 appearance in the show rings of various Registered Dog Breeds Associations in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, the number of known (ie. officially registered) imported non-sterilised Alsatian Wolf Hounds increased from just four in 1904 to a total of 88 by June 1929... Actually the last pair of non-sterilised Alsatian Wolf Hounds legally imported into Australia were off-loaded off the coast of Newcastle, NSW, and were swum ashore due to the fact that the Ban became Federal Law while they were en route. These dogs were Blitz vom Steinbesch and Adda Herbertshof, both of which had an influence on early New South Wales pedigrees.



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Within a period of 5 years, 1924-1929, eighty-four Alsatian Wolf Hounds had been imported into Australia by well-known Breed fanciers who were basking in the successful showing of their dogs and of their resultant breeding programs.

In South Australia, the Alsatian Wolf Hound made its first appearance in the show ring in 1927 but its main purpose in South Australia was not as a show dog but as a working sheep dog. Rather ironic, considering the attitude of a number of well-known South Australian German Shepherd Dog Breeders today when it comes to developing and / or assessing the working drives of the German Shepherd Dog. Originally in South Australia, German Shepherds were highly regarded as intelligent, sensible and reliable working Sheep dogs rather than as successful Show dogs. The Alsatian Wolf Hounds were known to be indefatigable in their desire to work. A number of Pastoralists in Victoria and New South Wales purchased their foundation stock from their South Australian counterparts. When the Ban was finally lifted in New South Wales in 1972, one Pastoralist on the western plains

still had as working sheep dogs, 6 German Shepherds descended from a pair that had been purchased by his grandfather in 1929 from South Australia. These particular dogs through an Import, Brutus of Nunneshall, carried double direct lines from Horand von Grafath, the first German Shepherd Dog registered in Germany. In 2010, this same Pastoralist family were still using German Shepherd Dogs as their preferred sheep dogs as well as competing in the show ring at local Agricultural Shows and in the Sheep Dog Trials.

The surge in popularity of the Alsatian Wolf Hound as a working sheep dog and as a show dog on both sides of the continent was a cause of great concern to the various State Farmers & Graziers Associations and State Departments of Agriculture who combined to put pressure on the Federal Government to ban the importation of unsterilised Alsatian Wolf Hounds into Australia. The unfounded claim was that due to the savage nature of the Alsatian Wolf Hound, they would become sheep killers and also be a danger to small children.

In October 1928 the Federal Government of Australia placed a ban on importations of the breed for a period of five years. This was later enforced on 7 June 1929, with an indefinite ban eventually being placed on the importation of unsterilised Alsatian Wolf Hounds when the original ban was revoked on 6 June 1934 by the then Governor General, Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs.

... And whereas it is desirable to revoke the said proclamation and to make other provision in lieu thereof:

Now therefore I, Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs, the Governor General aforesaid, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council, do hereby revoke the said proclamation and do hereby prohibit the importation into the Commonwealth of Australia of Alsatian Dogs unless the consent in writing of the Minister of State for Trade and Customs has first been obtained.

This proclamation may be cited as Customs Proclamation No 265 ...

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth this Sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and thirty-four and in the twenty-fifth year of His Majesty's reign.

*By His Excellency's Command,
(Signed) Thomas W. White
Minister of State for Trade and Customs.*

Thus, the fate of the German Shepherd Dog was sealed by Sir Isaac Isaacs for almost 40 years.

However, the powerful Graziers Federal Council of Australia was not happy with an indefinite ban on the importation of unsterilised Alsatian Wolf Hounds, they continued to pressure the State Ministers of Agriculture to have ALL Alsatian Wolf Hounds seized and destroyed or, at the very least, sterilised. Their aim was

to have the Alsatian Wolf Hound completely obliterated within Australia. Each State was responsible for its own interpretation and implementation of the Ban and within each State each local Shire Council was given freedom to implement the Ban as they saw fit. Compulsory sterilisation was enforced throughout the whole country.

In order to retain ownership of a non-sterilised Alsatian Wolf Hound, the owner had to be a registered financial member of a State Registered Dogs Association and then after being admitted as an approved member of the State Registered Dogs Association, the Membership details were forwarded to the State Department of Agriculture who decided whether or not the reason for owning a non-sterilised Alsatian Wolf Hound ie. showing, working as a pastoral dog and/ or breeding , met the necessary criteria. If the criteria was not met, the choice was very clear -sterilise or destroy.

In the Australian Capital Territory in 1936 the keeping of unsterilised Alsatian Wolfhounds was strictly prohibited, likewise with Western Australia, the original home of the imported Alsatian Wolf Hound. Inspectors were given the freedom to enter any premises to seize unsterilised Alsatis and were authorised to destroy them. This prohibition was not lifted until 1960 and then it was only for those dogs owned by members of the ACT Companion Dog Club, provided that the dog was registered by the Department of Agriculture as well as by the Canberra Kennel Association. In Western Australia the prohibition against non-sterilised Alsatian Wolf Hounds was not lifted until 1976.

In the mid-2000's, almost 30 years after the lifting of the Ban, certain by-Laws were still on the Statutes of several Queensland Shires, for example, if seen wandering the streets, a



German Shepherd Dog was to be shot on sight; another was the compulsory sterilisation of all German Shepherd Dogs resident in the Shire; two of these Shires were Hughenden and Mount Morgan.

In 2000 the Burdekin Shire Council, Queensland, gave notice of its intention to ban German Shepherd Dogs from ALL residential areas within its Shire. German Shepherd Dogs would be only permitted on cane farms and pastoral properties within the Burdekin Shire. A special Licence would be granted to any Farmer who wished to have a German Shepherd Dog as a pet or as a working dog. Compulsory sterilisation was never mentioned. This proposed by-Law was the complete reverse of what was specified in the 1929 Ban; during the period of the infamous Ban the Alsatian Wolf Hound was to be confined to Metropolitan areas only.

What the local mayor did not anticipate was the response / reaction of Liz Smith, then President of the German Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland, to this proposed by-Law of Burdekin Shire Council. Liz Smith was a RAAF Dog Handler at the time, based at Amberley RAAF Base. In fact Liz Smith was the first woman RAAF Dog Handler. Liz rallied the troops and organised for other Breed Clubs such as the Doberman Club of Queensland, the Rottweiler Club of Queensland and the Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland -all those Breed Clubs whose dogs participated in Dog Sport -as well as the local Kennel Club and the Burdekin Dog Obedience Club to join her protest. Support came from all over Australia and even from Ireland, the Netherlands, Italy and the US; the Burdekin Shire Council wilted under the pressure of unfavourable publicity and withdrew its proposed ban of German Shepherd Dogs in all residential areas within its Shire.

This action, taken by a local Shire Council in Queensland and the Australia-wide response it instigated, illustrates just how palpable was the fear of the 1929 Ban being re-imposed 72 years after its original promulgation as Federal Law. The same fear underpins decisions taken by the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia whenever it is challenged to address the issue of supporting Dog Sport in Australia or adopting the character/ temperament tests put in place by Max von Stephanitz himself to assess whether or not a German Shepherd Dog was suitable for breeding. In 2007 when, once again, the proposal that the GSDCA support Schutzhund (SchH) as a recognised ANKC approved activity for German Shepherd Dogs was being put to the vote, the Management Committee of the German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria mounted a subliminal fear based anti schutzhund campaign through a series of advertisements in their monthly magazine *German Shepherd News* which resurrected the spectre of the 1929 Ban – *our SchH titled imports will be declared dangerous ... our SchH titled imports will be seized and sterilised. ...* These advertisements were couched as an invitation to its members to attend a special meeting with guest speakers from the Department of Primary Industries highlighting the dangers and drawbacks if schutzhund succeeded in its quest to be an approved ANKC activity. Fear of the ban succeeded, once more the ANKC refused to approve SchH as an acceptable activity for those breeds that wished to participate in Dog Sport, and the German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria successfully applied for a Governor's Exemption from the requirements of the Companion Dog Act pertaining to those animals with SchH titles. The GSDCV scare campaign was in stark contrast to the campaign mounted by Liz Smith in her role as President of the GSDCQ against the proposed Burdekin Shire by-Law



banning German Shepherd Dogs from Ayr, Homehill, Brandon, Clare and other residential areas within the Shire. Liz Smith stressed the benefits of owning a well-bred, well trained German Shepherd Dog with a sound reliable temperament and a strong calm character and the positive asset such a German Shepherd Dog was to society.

Rumours emanating from Great Britain about the unreliable temperament and unsteady nerves of the dog once hailed as an intelligent and dependable working dog began to circulate amongst local Graziers who were considering the qualities of the Alsatian Wolf Hound in comparison to those of the Australian Kelpie, a dog developed by a group of Farmers and Graziers as a working dog bred specifically for Australian conditions. This was a point of contention: why import a German-bred dog to work stock when Australian Graziers had successfully developed and registered as an acceptable breed its own pastoral working dog, the Kelpie? And there was not only the Kelpie but also the Australian Cattle Dog and the Koolie were still in the process of being developed. The fact that behind both the Kelpie and the Australian Cattle Dog was cross-breeding with the Australian native wild dog, the Dingo, was not mentioned. Australian Dogs for Australian conditions was the catch-cry.

Stories of how it was the wolf strain behind the Alsatian Wolf Hound that caused the dog to become vicious and turn into a sheep killer gained momentum. Australia was the major Sheep country in the British Empire, Fine Wool was the major component of the Australian Economy. Any threat to the safe husbanding of Sheep was viewed as a threat to the future of the Australian Wool Industry. Lurking in the background was the possibility of the Alsatian Wolf Hound mating with Australia's native wild dog, the Dingo, and thus producing a cruel, vicious sheep killer-this had to be avoided at all costs.

In mid 1927 the New South Wales Graziers' Association approached the Royal Agricultural Society and other authorities to enlist their support in having the Alsatian Wolf Hound imports banned.

"Hay Pastures Protection Board has asked Chief Inspector of Stocks to secure a prohibition on importation of Alsatis to Australia in the interest of Graziers. The Board has been reading an article, which has convinced them that Alsatis would be sheep-killers, and that if they got loose there was no knowing what damage their offspring would cause."

No proof to substantiate their claim, only an article which members of the Board had read. These comments were enough to feed the growing uncertainty about the reliability of the Alsatian Wolf Hound to do its job as a sound pastoral tending dog.

The Land newspaper, 21 February, 1930

The Alsa-Dingo Menace

The argument against the use of the Alsatian Dog in Australia does not rest entirely, or even principally, on the known savageness of that particular breed, but rather on its size and type.

ALL Bush people know that dingoes will mate with tame dogs -and often will kill them immediately afterward. It is that cross of the Dingo and the Alsatian that is the greatest menace: and it is a cross that can never be prevented if Alsatis are allowed outside the Metropolitan area.

Given a new Alsa-Dingo breed, as cruel as the native dog, and as big and powerful as the Imported wolf known as the Alsatian Dog, we shall have to fear for the lives of men and women, to say nothing of children, sheep and calves.

The combination rendered possible by the ill-advised breeding of Alsatis opens up the possibility of our having in the Australian bush in years to come a wild beast comparable with the lion and tiger.

Is it worth it?

The Alsatian Dog was not without its advocates. Dr V.A.M. Robertson, Director of Veterinary Hygiene submitted the following report to the Director General of Health on 29 September 1928 :

...Those who desire the prohibition of the introduction of the Alsatian assert that:

- a. the dog is vicious*
- b. it has wolf blood in its veins*
- c. it is a sheep killer*
- d. if crossed with the dingo it would be dangerous*

It is estimated that there are between 600 and 700 representatives of this breed in Australia and only one case has been reported of a dog attacking a human being. This is the case of Miss Remington of St Arnaud. In this case Mr Remington informed me that the dog was “snappy” from the time of its arrival.

That any dog may on occasion attack man must be admitted and several cases are recorded in English newspapers. The Secretary, Shepherd Dog Association of Australia, however, states that in many of these cases it has been proved that the dog concerned was not an Alsatian. In any case there are some 7000 to 8000 representatives of the breed registered each year in Great Britain, the number of cases is small. It is probable that every day a person is bitten by a dog of some sort. The last reported case occurred in Sydney when a greyhound sprang at its owner’s throat.

Numerous instances are given on the file of the Alsatian’s love for children.

The charge that there is wolf blood in the dog is not supported, and in any case it has been bred on Stud book lines in Germany for the past 27 years, so that even if present, such taint would be almost entirely eliminated. The contention that the progeny of the wolf and the dog is sterile is probably correct.

Only two cases are reported in Australia of Alsatis attacking sheep. Against this is the statement by some Pastoralists and many owners that they take the dog amongst the sheep without fear. For many years the dog has been used on the Continent of Europe as a sheep dog. It must be admitted that any dog may attack sheep, and there is no worse offender than the fox terrier and the cross-bred sheep dog. For years complaints have been lodged, particularly by those adjacent to towns, of loss of sheep caused by all breeds of dogs, and it is safe to say that some sheep are killed every day by other than the Alsatis. Instances are given on the files of the Alsatian being the playmate of lambs and running freely about the sheep without causing injury.

That a cross between the Alsatian and the Dingo would be dangerous is possible, but no more than a cross with some of the larger dogs such as kangaroo dogs and cattle dogs now existent. In

the olden days the Alsatian was used as a guard to keep wolves from the flock, and I think it would be probable that he would be very destructive toward dingoes. The Alsatian is a home-loving dog not given to wandering and would be less likely to cross with a Dingo than any other breed.

Summarised, the position is that any dog may attack man or sheep since there are savage representatives in every breed, but I can see no reason why the Alsatian should be singled out as being either vicious or a sheep killer.

*(Sgd.) V.A.M. Robertson,
Director, Division of Veterinary Hygiene
29.9.28*

Was there any truth in the statement that cross-breeding with wolves was behind the development of the Alsatian Wolf Hound by the founder of the breed, Rittmeister Max von Stephanitz?

The early Stud Books kept by the SV reveal that Von Stephanitz did cross-breed two regional types of sheep dogs in order to produce the type of sheep dog he was looking for, the Thuringia Sheep Dog and the Württemberg Sheep Dog. The Thuringia Sheep Dog was described as being small but stocky, wiry and coarse, frequently lacking in good tail carriage, but it had the much-prized erect ears and wolf grey colouring. These dogs were vigorous working dogs that could not cope with being left confined in kennels. It is said that these dogs became wild and almost uncontrollable if left in a kennel and not worked. Württemberg dogs, on the other hand, were quite large and very fleet in their movement and had good tail carriage. They were of a calm and steady temperament. Prior to the formation of the SV in April 1899, there were many such crossings of the Thuringian and Württemberg sheep dogs before the birth of Hektor von Schwaben on 12 July, 1898, Sieger in 1900 and 1901.

The early SV Stud Books compiled by Arthur Meyer who was Vice-President and Secretary of the SV, reveal a great variety of type registered by the SV. There were smooth-coated dogs, long-coated dogs, rough-coated dogs, curly-coated dogs, wire-haired dogs and even

the “altdeutsche” shaggy coated dogs. The “altdeutsche” shaggy coated dog was very similar to the Old English Sheep Dog in type including the natural Bobtail and were usually solid black, brown or grey in colour. However, the vast majority were the smooth coated types from Thuringia and Württemberg which were basically grey or yellow-grey in colour. The late Barbara Lewis, a member of the German Shepherd Dog Club of Victoria, was an avid breed historian and had in her collection a selection of the early SV Stud Books plus photographs of the great variety of type seen in the early SV Registered Sheep Dogs.

In 1914 Ferdinand Kautsky, a breed historian, traced the blood lines of leading dogs in the early breed history to the mixing together of five basic sources:

Group 1: Dogs from the kennels of Herr Wachsmuth at Hanau near Frankfurt were basically Thuringian tending dogs.

Group 2: Dogs from the kennels of Herr Sparwasser at Frankfurt which were mainly of Thuringian origin. This is the kennel which is rumoured to have cross-bred with a wolf but it is not proven beyond doubt but, nevertheless, remains a persistent rumour. Neither of these two kennel owners became members of the SV.

Group 3: Dogs from the kennels of Herr Eiselen, von der Krone kennels, at Heidenheim on the Brenz in the Swabian Alps of Thuringia. Herr Eiselen was a founding member of the SV.

Group 4: Thuringian “Herdengebrauchshunde” Dogs actually working with flocks of sheep, being the invisible moveable fence that characterises the herding style of today’s German Shepherd Dogs. These dogs from the Klostermansfeld and Birken kennels were owned by master shepherds, Goymann and Arnoldt, founding members of the SV.

Group 5: Württemberg “Herdengebrauchshunde”. Again these were dogs actually working with the sheep.

The most important early dog in the breed was undoubtedly Horand von Grafrath, SZ1 who was born of pure Thuringian stock in the Sparwasser Kennels on 1 January, 1895,

and was named Hektor Linksrhein by his first owners. He later came to the von der Krone kennels belonging to Herr Eiselen who sold him to Max von Stephanitz on 15 January 1898 for 222 Deutschmarks. Having been bred by the Sparwasser Kennels which were rumoured to have cross-bred at some stage with a wolf, long before 1895, the story of the German Shepherd Dog being of wolf descent took on a life of its own when rumours about the unreliable temperament of the Alsatian Wolf Hound began to circulate in Great Britain and in Australia. Von Stephanitz regarded Horand as the very essence of his new breed, to be a calm and sensible working dog who was capable of doing anything and everything his master required of him. “*Shepherd Dog breeding is working dog breeding*” became the motto of the SV.

The immediate effect of the Importation Ban was to restrict the bloodlines and gene pool available to Australian Alsatian Breeders. Almost 43 years of inbreeding lay ahead of them. As far as conformation goes, the Ban

Photos: Willdog Photography





did reinforce conformation faults plus genetic problems, so, over the years, there was a prolific number of missing teeth, missing testicles, soft ears, splayed feet, colour paling, light eyes, etc. Temperament faults began to surface fairly early especially shyness, sensitivity to sharp sounds. Those bloodlines which were faulty, fell by the wayside and those bloodlines which came from good sound lines survived which, in itself, is a remarkable achievement when you consider that for 43 years there was no input from new bloodlines.

The Farmers & Graziers Association in Victoria campaigned that the Registration Fee for Alsatian Dogs should be raised to £10 annually. In those days the average wage would have been approximately £1/5/-per week (One pound, five shillings) so owning an Alsatian Dog in Victoria in the late , 1930's, 1940's -1950's was very expensive, approximately 8 times the basic wage just to register it.

The imposition of the Ban against the Importation of non-sterilised Alsatian Wolf Hounds galvanised the owners of Alsatian

Dogs throughout Australia into action. Graziers and Pastoralists combined with Show fanciers, Breeders and Owners of Alsatian Dogs to plan strategies and to work together as one unit in order to bring about the lifting of this most unjust Ban. Over the decades key people emerged to lead the fight, some of whom were Justice Norman Mitchell, owner of an influential import, Claus von Eulengarten that just made into the country before the 1929 Ban came into effect; Alex Buchanan from Beaconsfield, Victoria; Mrs Ethel Porter, founding member of the German Shepherd Dog League of New South Wales in 1946. 🐾

(To be continued)



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