

Q3
2021

WGSDCA

Dog'sport Magazine



WGSDCA

Editor

from the desk

KARYN WORTH

Welcome to our winter addition of the magazine. Well it has been an interesting few months! We can thank the Dogsport Gods for allowing us to hold the 2021 WGSDCA IGP National Championship in Sydney in June. You will see lots of photos from the Nationals in this magazine taken by our official photographer Mike Harper. Of course with a special shout out to our IGP National Champions. This edition has a couple of interesting stories about our GSDs, the first about being part of a number of movies and television shows and the second about the GSD as a sport dog, herder and general companion. Finally, an update from some of our clubs about what they have been up to over this period. Happy reading, stay safe!

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.

Contents

WGSDCA Editor	2
A word from the president	3
And...action!	6
The GSD as a Generalist	10
First time experience of a WGSDCA National	13
Our National winners	18
Eastside Shepherd Dogsport Group	22
Metro Dogsport Club	24
Norwest Dogsport Club	26

SCOREBOOKS, SPORTS PASSES AND FORMS

To apply for a scorebook and sportspass go to <https://www.wgsdca.org.au/online-scorebook-application>.

Please Note: The Admin of Records only processes orders on the last week of each month. So make sure you plan well ahead if you intend to enter a trial, apply for your sportspass and scorebook well in advance.

Allow 6 weeks for delivery time.

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. <https://www.wgsdca.org.au/membership>.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

To find out more go to www.wgsdca.org.au/membership

A word from the president

We continue to face the challenges of the Australian State Government making snap lockdown decisions. The imposed lockdown on Victoria late May/early June, meant our Victorian friends couldn't attend the 2021 WGSDCA National Championship taking place in Sydney. And as I write this article, Greater Sydney finds itself in a lockdown. The safety of our members is of upmost importance, yet I'm certain many share my frustration of being prohibited to travel interstate – let alone overseas.

Nevertheless, WGSDCA managed to pull off the 2021 Championship and it was great to see the fraternity gathered again. In particular, it was a delight to see so many new faces (human and dogs) on the trial field. A big shout out to Sydney Dogsport Club for hosting the event and K9Pro – The K9 Professional, for their significant sponsorship, which will be repeated in 2022.

Go to pages 14 – 17 to see all the great photos capturing the event and as always provided by Wild Dog Photography, Mike Harper. Congratulations to all the 2021 WGSDCA Champions and competitors for showcasing our dogs and our dedication to the health and welfare of our working dog breeds.

Mike Harper, Wild Dog Photography



Nothing Changes if Nothing Changes

Together with my fellow BOM members, we continue our push for WGSDCA's presence on the international stage. On that note, we congratulate Mrs Heather MacDonald for her recent appointment as the Australian Continental Director (CD) and my Zoom call with her early July was like a breath of fresh air. WGSDCA look forward to the opportunity to work with the Australian WUSV CD and others for the betterment of the future of the Australian German Shepherd Dog. WGSDCA members are certainly showing their commitment and desire to align with the WUSV Breed Harmonisation Scheme. This was most recently demonstrated by the

ZAP-W 'Puppy Test' Assessment Event being booked out within 24 hours of advertising the event. Likewise, we continue to see an interest from German Shepherd owners and utilisation of the DZG-WGSDCA Hip and Elbow Scoring Scheme. You can find more about this Scheme on our Website. Please contact us if you would like your vet to submit your dog's hip and elbow x-ray images to DZG in Germany for assessment. If you want the DZG HD/ED scores to be recognised by the SV, then you must use an Australian vet who has passed the DZG Radiologist Examination (wgsdca.org.au/hd-edportal)

Why is WGSDCA implementing these Schemes? Because we are dedicated to catering for the Australian GSD owners who wish to align with the WUSV Breed Harmonisation Scheme. This Scheme comprises of a novel and dynamic approach to pedigree certification. Within WUSV, that quality of a dog used for breeding is captured by 3 different levels of Pedigree 'Titles':

WUSV Pedigree Basic The dog is microchipped/tattooed, DNA profiled, HD/ED assessed, passed a Puppy-Test assessment, conformation title of 'G'.

WUSV Pedigree Advanced In addition to the above – the dog now also has an AD title, an IGP title (min ZTP), or SV-ZAP title

WUSV Pedigree Premium In addition to 'Basic' – the dog now also has an AD title, min. a IGP-1 title (or SV-ZAP title, HGH, RH2) and breed surveyed (including sleeve work)

The Scheme is going to be equally challenging for the 'working' and 'show' GSD fraternities – worldwide. We have to support/help our breeders but more importantly, we have to work together across the divide that sees the GSD segregated into 'working' and 'show' lines. Each of these two fraternities hold a piece of the expertise needed to meet the above requirements. Nothing will change unless you, an owner of a GSD, is willing to step out of your comfort zone and support the WUSV incentive, irrespectively of which GSD fraternity camp you may belong to.

**Think differently. Break the shackles,
and free the dreams; face the hurdles,
and support the fight for preserving the
German Shepherd Dog as a working dog.**

Sanne Pedersen | WGSDCA President





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Kovacs Vikus and Crystal Lakatos on set.

And... action!

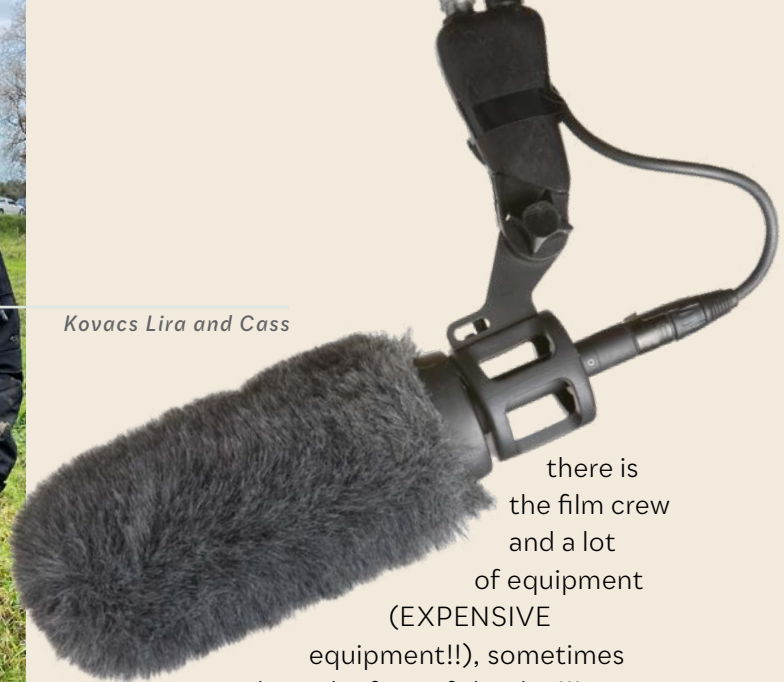
BY CRYSTAL LAKATOS

It has been an exciting time for us as we have been lucky enough to establish a relationship with a widely used animal talent agency. This has not only given way for us to have our working German Shepherds (GSD) on film, but it has also brought the working type of GSD (sable, black, bi colour) to the attention of people in the film industry.

The type of roles we are generally approached for are police dogs. What's needed is the type of dog that possesses a great amount of drive, stamina and resilience to accommodate the amount of filming required, and in particular, versatility – as many scenes will require a dog to be able to switch between drives easily. The emotional state in one scene can change multiple times and the dog, who is often handled by an actor has to show a happy and social demeanour in one part of the scene and then to switch to showing a fighting posture in another part. It is in such scenes the IGP trained dog may become a movie star as the IGP sleeve-work presents no threat to the safety of the actors/film crew. One of the scenes for the recent movie we were in required a very detailed chase and detain scene and after we had finished training and filming, both the actor and stunt double who by the way was taking the brunt of the dog's chase and detain actions had commented that they had never felt safer working with an animal before. So even while the dogs drives are being stimulated, the dogs are very aware of the constraints



Kovacs Lira and Cass



there is the film crew and a lot of equipment (EXPENSIVE equipment!!), sometimes right in the face of the dog!!!

They must of course ignore it and simply continue to work through the distractions. I can't say that we haven't had a couple of near misses with the fuzzy microphone as it could easily pass as a tug toy!! Without such strong nerves and high drives, I couldn't imagine how it would even be possible.

they must work within.

It speaks volumes to the versatility of the working GSD and IGP dogs especially as the dogs have performed so well in an area much different from their usual environment (although in many respects requiring similar qualities). This is particularly so in relation to the length of time they need to work during a performance. Even at IGP3 level, the longest performance on the field will be around 20 minutes at a maximum and our training sessions also tend to be a similar time frame but after that the dogs will have a break. Until you have actually been behind the scenes on set, you really have no appreciation for what is asked from the dog. It is demanding beyond belief and requires dogs that are very strong in nerve, environmentally sound, social and able to work in and around a lot of people, have a huge amount of stamina, quick to learn and have a high degree of patience. The dogs are generally being asked to repeat the same scene over and over for a number of takes in an effort to capture different angles etc, and when you are dealing with such intelligent animals they start to predict an outcome or consequence of behaviour very quickly, this can certainly be challenging. Then

So far we have been involved in three TV/ film productions. The first of which was a performance on an Aussie TV mini-series *Informer 3838*, the second was a much larger project that is still in production (largely due to problems with filming schedules in locations that have become severely affected by COVID-19) and features actor Charlie Hunnam – Apple TV mini-series, *Shantaram*. And the third and current project (which I cannot yet name), an Aussie horror film where the dog will occupy a larger role in the film with the first shoot already having taken place in late June and more filming scheduled for this coming September.

The *Informer 3838* was a fairly straight forward role for our Kovacs Vikus, who played the role of a police dog, his role was to locate an assailant in a tree, perform a hold and bark and then give chase to escaping assailant. Almost as if to entirely mimic the IGP protection phase albeit in a different context. Even such a small, seemingly straight forward scene takes hours of repeating the same actions over and over but Vikus' nature meant that he would happily work all day and have the same exuberance in a hold and bark after doing it for extended periods of time. His character made filming this role a very seamless process. The dog scenes in *Shantaram* were a



Kovacs Lexa ready for action

great deal more complex and required two weeks of 2 - 3 hour daily training sessions with a stunt team. I can't go into too much detail as the series is still in production but I can say it will absolutely provide some thrilling TV for viewers. Kovacs Lexa and Kovacs Vikus both appear in this production as police dogs, Lexa playing a larger role and Vikus only minor. It is a testament to Lexa's character that the stunt team and actor who did one of the stunts himself said how safe they felt working with these dogs through all the different scenes.

The third production is an Aussie horror film with the dog occupying a more central role in the film. Kovacs Lira was a very good candidate as a pretty but fiery young lady who can go from sweet to fierce in the blink of an eye and almost has energy on tap with her very strong desire to work and be active. Considering Lira is only 15 months old, her ability to work so well for such an extended period of time along with her amazing temperament being displayed on set certainly impressed me, her IGP handler Cass and the primary actor who worked closely with us during the first shoot.

We look forward to seeing the fruits of our labour, or rather, the fruits of our dogs labour, in the future. Keep your eyes peeled for Apple TV mini-series *Shantaram* and an Aussie horror film – both likely to be released next year. 🐾



*Eastside Shepherd Dogsport Group members on set:
Crystal and Mick*



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The GSD as a Generalist

*Endlessly In High Spirits,
Unmistakably Loyal,
Sweet and Spicy*

YANI BOTHA



A few short years ago my life looked and felt very different from the colourful, energetic picture of today. A choke-hold of heavy darkness brought with it immobilising stillness. I misplaced myself and days became about basic survival. It all came to a head in 2019 when I lost a friend to suicide. An epiphany of sorts hit me like a tonne of bricks - I was wasting my own damn time. Time keeps going whether you're a bench-warmer or a player so you may as well get up and play!



Urgently I took back control and asked myself a pretty simple question: Who am I?

I wanted to be happy and in my most blissful memories, I was always cradled by nature, breaking a sweat with the pure love of a dog by my side.

Then began my quest to find such a dog. A best friend that could keep me accountable, solidify my purpose and in doing so, day after day, bring back my passion for a life full of wilderness, adventure, movement and laughter.

One of my fondest childhood memories features a German Shepherd who stayed by my side one miserable night on a sleepover when I couldn't bare to wake anyone up and wilted nauseously on the cold bathroom tiles alone, if not for that big dog's warm fur between my fingers. Of course, I also did two years of research... but that dog was my spark.

To me, a German Shepherd should possess many fine qualities, but none more fundamental than health, stability and versatility. My 10-month-old puppy Seneca so far has all three. Fondly referred to as Cyclone Sen by those who know her, she can be summed up by the following: Endlessly in high spirits, goofy and immature, unmistakably loyal and forgiving. Even at 8-weeks-old, Sen's breeder coined her equal parts "sweet and spicy".

I got Sen with specific goals in mind. I wanted to learn IGP, have a hiking buddy and I needed a "guinea pig" to teach behaviours to in order to fulfil the National Dog Trainers Federation (NDTF) course practical assessments.

From the get-go, I made it clear I was in search of a generalist. A dog I could learn cool stuff with.

As someone who's never had a hobby or willingly played a school sport, when I finally found a niche that sounded fun, I was not interested in limiting myself to one dog sport. So far, we've trained IGP tracking, obedience and sleeve work (Sen's favourite) with Metro Dogsport Club weekly (ZAP Puppy Assessment coming up) along with dabbling in ANKC sheep herding (HIT

Pass) and dry land sledding through Northern Exposure Gig Racing Club (NEGRC).

Amazingly, pulling a scooter was listed as one of the complex skill options to train for NDTF. Joining NEGRC has been an awesome way to practise my assessment behaviours – pull forward, left and right turns, slow down and stop as well as teaching the dog to overtake other sled teams and distractions on trail. Mostly we do groundwork due to Sen's growing joints, but the couple of short in-harness sessions we've had flying through the forest – the dog pulling me on an off-road Kick-bike scooter – is one of the most exhilarating, freeing things I imagine you can do with your dog. Much like IGP, it teaches the dog to balance its expression of drive and raw power with control.

Sen isn't just go-go-go, though. She is just as happy lying behind my chair as I type this and is a big fan of bedtime cuddles. It's impossible to feel sad in her exuberant presence, whether we're out and about or just chilling. I don't think I've truly digested it till now, but I feel really lucky to have been paired with such a special, versatile girlie – capable of switching gears and avenues so fluidly.

Sen is my best friend and she is the lifestyle change that I needed to break the immobilising stillness.

Who am I?
I'm living the moment with the pure love of Sen right beside me. Every day she teaches me a 'can-do' attitude and together we drastically improve each other's own quality of life. 🐾





First time experience of a WGSDCA National

- DEAN KANNAN

With a lot of excitement, I could not wait to take part in this year's WGSDCA National Championship which was held on the 11th, 12th and 13th of June 2021. Not only had my Club, Sydney Dogsport Club, which I joined mid 2020, worked so hard with our dogs for this event, but the Club was also managing all the tasks that comes with being the host.

Sydney Dogsport Club is led by our president Sanne. It is a small club, but this allows the members the time to focus on specific training needs and the opportunity to take the training as far as possible.

The National Championship this year was a three-day event. The dogs were trialled in Tracking, Obedience and Protection.

The trial was a success, for the competitors, spectators and the sport in general. The atmosphere was great and everyone was having a lot of fun. It was nice to be a part of something special. There was a huge turnout this year, the weather was amazing which made it an even better experience. There were participants from all over the country except Victoria. Unfortunately, Victoria was in lockdown due to COVID-19.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Sanne and Shantelle. They both successfully competed for SDSC taking out the highest scores in their respective levels. Their dogs were amazing and proved their abilities in all the tasks that were given to them. I actually felt a bit jealous that I couldn't trial with Raven as she is not quite old enough yet, she is just coming up to 12 months old. But, I am looking forward to entering the trial field when the day comes.

I really appreciated this wonderful learning experience, as a first timer, it will definitely not be my last. Watching how it all unfolded, it starts with endless hours of training and finishes with trophies!! What more could I ask for. 🐾



Photos: Mike Harper
Wild Dog Photography
Australia







Our National winners

IGP3 and Australia's 2021 WUSV World Championship qualifier. Sanne Pedersen and Kanikular Asterix



*IGP2
Sanne Pedersen and
Kanikular Blast of Bindee*



*IGP1 and High in Trial
Louise Bayliss and
Nordenstamm Geckyll with
judge Reg Worth*



Photos: Mike Harper Wild Dog Photography Australia



*IGP-V
Clint Wehmeier and
Haveloc Levi*



*BH
Katherine Gardiner and
Herzhund Drama Queen*



*IFH-V
Lyn Ellerton and
Haveloc Chanz*



*FPR 1
Shantelle Korber and
Blackhaus Rubi*

**And where
would we be
without all
our helpers.**



Trial helpers, Shane Asanuma and Paul Andryc with judge Reg Worth (centre)



The Canteen ladies BBQ cooks (left to right): Circa, Henna, (Reg the judge), Dean and Cain.

The judge Reg Worth and Jonas receiving the 2021 WGSDCA National Best Team trophy on behalf of Sydney Dogsport Club

Photos: Mike Harper Wild Dog Photography Australia



Our group.



The lovely cancer ladies Circa and Henna.

CLUB NEWS:

Eastside Shepherd Dog'sport Group



Macus and Ace

What's Been Happening Down South?

Training and competing in IGP in Victoria is challenging at the best of times, however the COVID pandemic has challenged us beyond what we could have ever imagined. Due to extended lockdowns, local travel limits, restrictions to gatherings and sport, as well as the strict rules around travel in and out of our state, we have missed months at a time of training, and have had to reschedule our club trial numerous times. In fact, we haven't been able to hold or compete in a trial since the pandemic started.

This has been hard for many of our members especially considering the time and preparation that goes into getting ready for a trial can be gruelling.



lasia



This has been particularly difficult for one of our members, Marcus, who has been preparing for his IGP1 with Ace during this time. Unfortunately, Ace has had the misfortune of injury which has forced him to take an early retirement from the sport. Marcus and Ace achieved their BH together before the pandemic hit, and they have put in years of work, so this has been a devastating blow for the duo. We offer Marcus and Ace our condolences as a club in what is a very upsetting turn of events. We have no doubt that Marcus will in due course return with a new puppy and once again throw himself full-heartedly into the sport. Watch this space!

The COVID pandemic, and the restrictions it has placed on us down here in Victoria has at times physically kept us apart, but has also brought us closer together as club, and speaking of coming together as a club, we would like to give a warm welcome to our new members:

First up we have Maddie and Ludo. Maddie obtained Ludo as an 11 month old, which has been challenging for the pair but also rewarding as they navigate the world of IGP together.

Secondly, we have Michelle who has watched club training for a long time without a dog so she could learn as much as possible before taking a puppy on-board. In a couple of weeks she will get her puppy and she is extremely excited to start her IGP dogsport journey.

Then, we have Sarah and Akira. Sarah and Akira have been enjoying the pet life and only recently began thinking about IGP. Sarah and Akira have been making rapid progress with their training and it's been awesome to watch.

Although it's been hard and there have been tough times, we also have a lot to celebrate down here at the moment. With new members, new puppies, and some trial plans on the horizon, we are looking forward to a more prosperous second half of 2021. This sport is hard at the best of times, let alone during a pandemic, so support your fellow club members and don't forget to have fun. Community in dog sport is more important than ever in times of such uncertainty. 🐾

CLUB NEWS: Metro Dog'sport Club



It has been a busy few months at Metro Dog'sport Club. In June a group of our members took a road trip together to go to the 2021 WGSDCA National Championship in Sydney.

The weather was let's just say a little nippy but that didn't stop us getting out there early in the morning to get a few practice tracks around our local area.

Congratulations to all of our members who competed in the event with Lyn and Chanz gaining an FH-V, Clint and Levi IGP-V and Glynis and Fynn IGP3.

Then later on 16 July, Metro Dog'sport Club hosted a ZAP-W Test in Brisbane – one of the first of its kind in Australia! With only eight spots available, keen handlers flocked to book online. The event sold out at lightning speed after being advertised. While dogs from our club and Rockhampton's Metro division took the majority of spots, members from Valley and other clubs also entered.

Eight German Shepherd puppies aged between nine and thirteen months were presented in the SV Scheme temperament assessment under judge Mr Reg Worth. For those that aren't aware, the "Puppy Test" aims to build a behaviour response database on adolescent dogs for breeding and general functionality. Within the eighteen exercises, general disposition, social behaviour, sound reactivity, motoric skills, play and prey drive as well as basic character are exposed.

Our three, novice handlers who entered found the event particularly interesting. As the next generation of Dog'sport enthusiasts, observing the spectrum of genetic expression was informative. Two of the girls are currently undertaking certifications in dog training and behaviour through the National Dog Trainers Federation (NDTF) – Australia's school for dog trainers – making the highlight on intrinsic traits, environmental exposure and critical period socialisation a "dog-nerd's fantasy". It was a fun visualisation of all the theoretical aspects focussed on in NDTF assignments.

It was especially interesting to see three littermate puppies (full sisters) tackle the same



exercises and each express unique traits in temperament and character. Genetics give dogs their baseline and play an absolutely mammoth role in who a dog is – so it was super cool to see the slight variations between dogs that may have been shaped partly by handlers through early exposure and development.

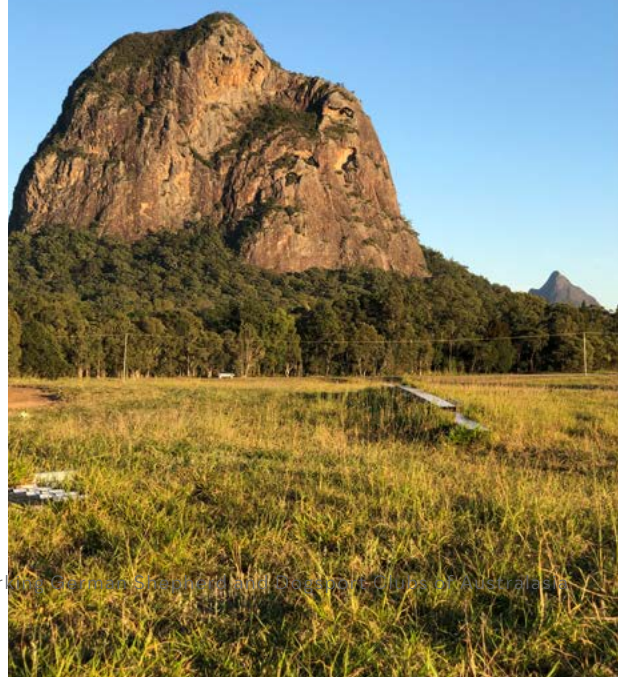
I think by far the favourite part of the night was simply getting to have fun with our dogs in a social setting. Joining a club is such a great way to connect with the dog community. Hosting this event was fantastic for us as we got to see so many people get involved with their dogs; from novice to experienced handlers, from show line to working line breeders. All working together to keep our dogs true to the utility and stability of yesteryear.



The day after the ZAP, the club held a big training day covering all three phases. Up before the sun, armed with coffee and gumboots, we made our way up to the beautiful Glass House Mountains to a farm with limitless tracking grass. Every IGP handler's dream! Each handler laid a track or two and had the help and watchful eye of our senior members once ready to work the track. Noteworthy mention to Lauren, Reg and Xora who persevered through tricky cross tracks and knee-high brush.

After tracking, it was time for breakfast, more coffee and a big drive down to Bulimba for the other two phases. Obedience was in full swing as soon as trailers, cars and trucks were parked and dogs pottied. It was great to see the progress of the novice handlers and young dogs in the club. Cassidy built upon Roman's engagement under distraction and later worked bite entry and launch style with Shane Asanuma. Yani and Vondarcor Seneca progressed in their heeling picture, paying special attention to sustained movement and introducing swift lure lifts, also under the guidance of Shane. Sarah and Vondarcor Memphis worked on building barking duration and calm grips with puppy helper Reg Worth.

A great albeit windy day was had by all – including our Rockhampton members who made the long road trip down to Brisbane to participate in both the puppy test and training day fun. 🐾



CLUB NEWS:

Norwest Dog'sport Club



Norwest May trial group

We have had a busy few months at Norwest Dog'sport Club. In May we hosted a trial with WGSDCA Judge Reg Worth. It was a good size trial made with all the competitors coming from Norwest. We would like to congratulate our members on earning their titles:



Monika Kawecki with Monelite Envy & Monelite Fireax Exclusive N Elite

BH-VT

Monika Kawecki – Monelite Envy
Monika Kawecki – Monelite Fireax Exclusive N Elite BEST BH
Matthew Berguard – Schutzshep Galaxy
Sam Bonaccorso – Elvis Vom Zak

IGP1

Lisa Carter – Monelite Sabrina, High In trial, High In Obedience, High in Protection

Huge Congrats to Lisa for doing so well in your first attempt at an IGP1.

FPR 1

Monika Kawecki – Monelite Envy achieved a whopping 96 points – High In tracking.

Unfortunately for Paul Doyle and Von Zennith Jurgen Bosco he wasn't successful this time in gaining his IGP1 title as he didn't receive enough points in sleeve-work but scored well in obedience and in tracking. You have done a good job with Boss and we look forward to you guys smashing it next time!

Due to an injury in the obedience phase, Quincy could not continue for the remainder of the competition. Quincy already has her IGP 3 title so Mel decided to retire her now due to her age and some old injuries. We may see them in the near future attempting more tracking titles.

So with only a few weeks leading up to the WGSDCA National Championships after our club trial, we did have three members ready to participate at the national event.

Monika Kawecki attempted with Monelite Envy a FH-V. Unfortunately, Monika did not pass to gain this title, but as a club, we all know how much effort you went to get Envy trial ready for the FH-V Title. Next time Monika as Envy is a super tracking dog. The club is very proud of your efforts!



Louise at the National

Photos: Mike Harper Wild Dog Photography

Louise Bayliss entered IGP1 with Nordenstamm Gykel. Louise did not only gain her IGP1 Title, she received High in Obedience, High in Protection and High in Trial. This was a massive effort as it was Louise's first National Championship ever, and first attempt at an IGP1 title! The club was extremely proud of your achievements!

Lisa Carter entered IGP2 with Monelite Sabrina. This too was Lisa first time at a National event and first attempt of an IGP2 title she had only gained her IGP1 title a few weeks prior. This gave her only four weeks before the Nationals to start teaching four Blinds, a stand and start aging and making the tracks longer! Lisa and Sabrina did a beautiful job in all phases gaining their IGP2 title. This was a massive effort and again our club is very proud of you.

The Norwest Team would like to congratulate all of the competitors that gave it a go at the 2021 WGSDCA National Championships. It was nice to meet the new members of the organization and also the dedicated members that are always there every year!

The Norwest Team are now back to training with the exception of the Covid Lockdowns happening again, but all are very motivated and are training hard to gain more titles with their dogs for the upcoming trials in the near future.



Lisa at the National



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