

# WGSDCA

Dog'sport Magazine



AUTUMN 2020

WORKING GERMAN SHEPHERD AND DOGSPORT CLUBS OF AUSTRALASIA

# WGSDCA

## Editor

### from the desk

KARYN WORTH

*2020 has certainly not started the way the world had hoped! As we think about everyone affected by the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the world, it is truly daunting to think of the challenges that lay ahead for us, as members of the community and as dog sport enthusiasts.*

*Most of you will have changed the way you interact with each other including club training and trials. It doesn't mean we cannot still actively train our dogs at home and stay connected with our club members through social media and video training. We must strive to keep connected and find a way to do what we love.*

*The upside of self-isolation is that you will have plenty of time to kick back on the sofa and read this edition of the magazine.*

*Take care of yourselves, your loved ones and others who may need your help to get through this. I hope the second half of the year will see everyone back to training and trialling.*

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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

**Please note:** The President's message was written prior to the World of facing COVID-19.

Post this article being written a meeting has been called with the Executive Clubs to discuss the postponement of the 2020 WGSDCA National Championship.

## ***Come Together | Keep Together | Work Together.***

It is hard to believe that we are officially in autumn and that the 2020 National Championship June 5-7th hosted by Sydney Dogsport Club is only about 10 weeks away. What was thought to be a pretty straight forward preparation process has turned challenging due to the SV Judge Restriction issued to the SV by the German FCI-affiliate, VDH in late December. The world-wide GSD fraternity spiralled into a turmoil of frustration and uncertainty as to what the future holds.

Photo credit: Crystal Lakatos



**W**GS DCA received an invite to join the team of WUSV Affiliates who are affected by the SV Judge Restriction and the WGSDCA BOM put in a tremendous amount of hours over the Christmas break to foster that relationship. It is clear that we are not alone in our fight for wanting to participate in the WUSV Harmonisation Incentive. We were part of the correspondence sent to the FCI, VDH, WUSV and FCI by the affected countries in which we objected to the “FCI-affiliation requirement to access SV judges”, as many of the affected GSD clubs, like WGSDCA, are prohibited from obtaining an affiliation with the respective national FCI affiliates.

Current status is that a German court issued an injunction against the Restriction due to the judge perceiving the Restriction to be against German anti-competitive Laws. Despite the current mess, there may be a silver-lining: Simplistically speaking the question ultimately boils down to whether 'umbrella' organisations, e.g. VDH, FCI, WUSV or ANKC for that matter, or take one step down the ladder, GSDCA, can dictate one-club per 'real-estate' or not. It seems like this question is now being pushed through the court system(s), and whilst we wait patiently for a decision, it goes without saying that such 'one-club' privilege only works if the respective 'one-club' affiliates adhere to the full Statutes of the 'umbrella' organisation(s). That is the root problem of the mess – they don't.

Additionally, things are further problematic when the Statutes of an umbrella organisation allow for 'custom-made' agreements, e.g. the FCI Statutes provision for affiliation agreements that do not cover the full Mandate of the FCI. Combine this with the 'one-club' per real-estate policy and we have a guaranteed recipe for division. It is our understanding that the WUSV is working through the process of understanding the legalities behind having a 'one-club' membership policy. Should they conclude that their current membership policy needs revision, then it may open the door for WGSDCA. On that note, the BOM is looking ahead and identifying the gaps within the WGSDCA to ensure we meet the pre-requisites to seek WUSV membership – should that opportunity arise out of the current situation.

For WGSDCA to achieve this objective, we have to recognise that this is a group effort and our success is dependent on individual commitment towards this goal. It is timely for the WGSDCA fraternity to recognise that "The Team" is us....collectively. The workload required to implement the missing pre-requisites is simply too much for the current size of the WGSDCA office – it has to expand to be successful. Further, we encourage our Clubs to expand their activities to further align with the WUSV incentive – that being to offer a framework which provides the tools necessary to preserve the GSD as defined by the SV GSD standard.

SANNE PEDERSEN | WGSDCA PRESIDENT





2020  
Sydney June 5-7  
WGSDCA IGP National Championship

**POSTPONED**



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Working German Shepherd & Dogsport Clubs of Australasia



# WGSDCA Helper Seminar

*Sydney Dogsport Club*



We commenced 2020 with extreme heat and several bush fires that got a bit too close to home, so Sydney Dogsport Club didn't really get into the groove of training until late January. However, the Club was determined to kick off 2020 with hosting a WGSDCA Helper Seminar, which was originally planned for 2019.

**F**ebruary 29th, was the first date where everybody was able to fit in a seminar. The Helper Seminar was overseen by WGSDCA Teacher Helper & Director of Judges, Reg Worth and WGSDCA Helper Shane Asanuma. SDSC members Shane Timmins "Timmo" and Steven Cole, and Metro Dogsport Club member Samantha Hendricks participated in the seminar. Samantha BTW is making history by being the first woman within WGSDCA to work towards becoming a WGSDCA licenced helper. You go, girlfriend!

The seminar was as always, a nice refresher for everybody involved with respect to what the purpose is of the various exercises, as well as, what is expected from a Trial Helper. All three participants

put in stellar performances and we thank Reg and Shane for taking out the time to come to Sydney. We congratulate Shane Asanuma for doing his 5th helper seminar as a Teacher Helper Apprentice and on behalf of the WGSDCA fraternity we thank you for your multi-year dedication to the WGSDCA. SDSC would also like to congratulate Steve Cole who successfully obtained his Club Helper Licence at this seminar. Sydney Dogsport Club look forward to assisting you with your career as an IGP Helper and we hope the other WGSDCA Club Affiliates support you on your helper journey.

In other news, SDSC is buzzing with the preparation and planning of the 2020 WGSDCA National Championship in June 5-7, 2020. We are looking forward to welcoming the WGSDCA fraternity to Sydney and hope the event gets lots of spectator support. You can support the event by purchasing garments through the WGSDCA online shop:

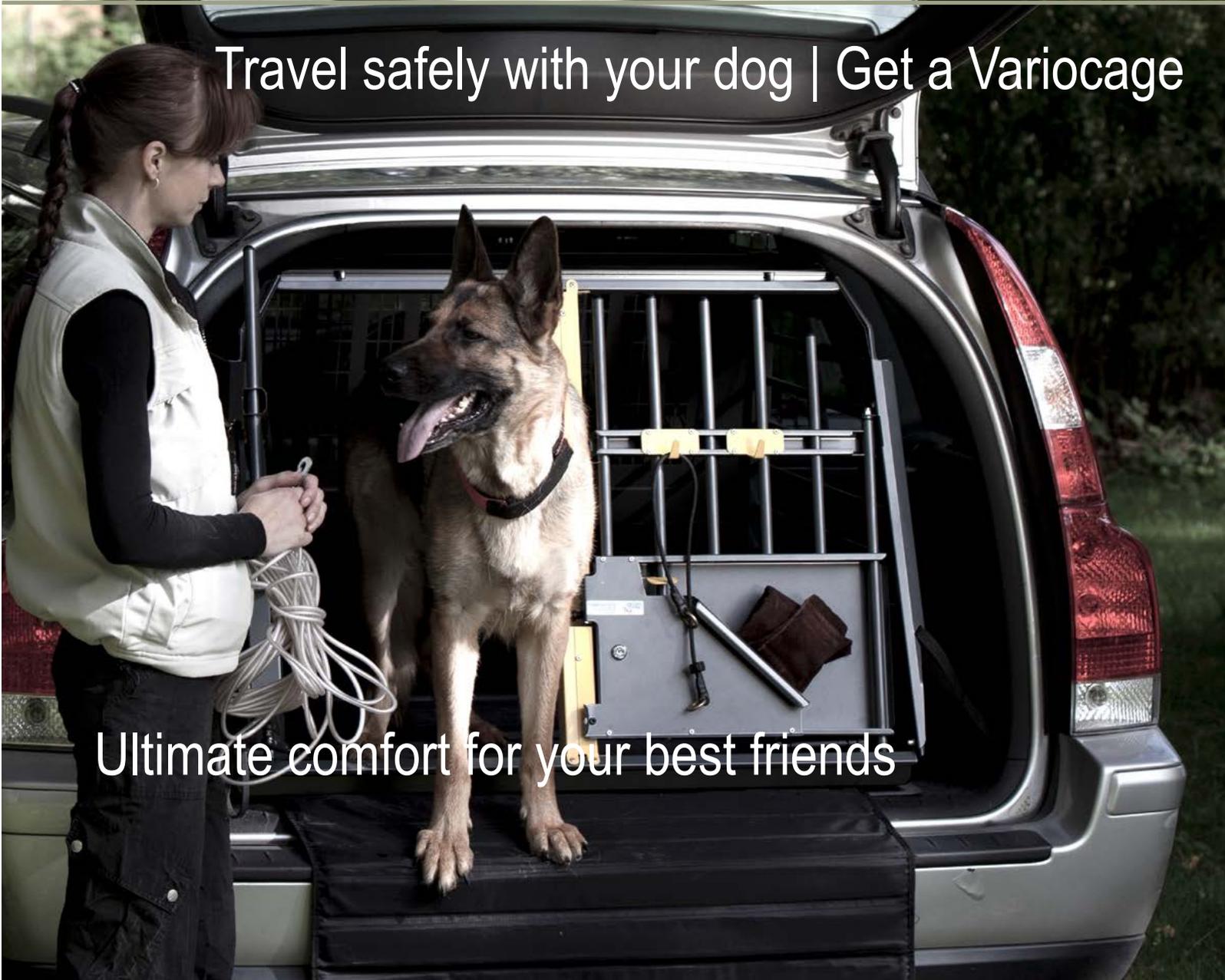


These items and more are available from WGSDCA merchandise website <https://wgsdca.secure-decoration.com>

For our fellow WGSDCA dog handlers, please note the Trial Entry Deadline is 1 May, 2020. Over the coming months, more information will be circulated through the respective Club Affiliate Secretariats and/or posted on the WGSDCA Facebook page. See you in June! 🐾



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# Interview with Natalie Woelfel

Thanks Natalie for taking the time to answer some questions about you and your Dogsport journey.

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

I grew up in New Zealand's largest city Auckland on the Whangaparaoa Peninsula which is known for its great beaches. I am the eldest of three children and as a family we grew up always having a dog around. Our first dog was Airedale Terrier, followed by an Airedale Terrier cross and then later we got a long coat German Shepherd rescue dog. So being around dogs was natural to me.

Horses were also a big part of mine and my sister's childhood, I feel like we literally grew up riding horses. Competition must have been in my blood from an early age, we competed mainly in "One Day Events" which are similar to IGP as it contains three disciplines (dressage, show jumping & cross country) and we also competed in show jumping only events.



In the present I am part of a family of four, and I am outnumbered by males, my partner Glenn and our two boys aged 15 and 17. Our two boys are actively involved in a number of sports including Rugby, Touch Rugby, softball and clay-bird shooting.

We live in rural Hastings on a 17 acre lifestyle property, which is situated in the beautiful Hawkes Bay area about half way down the East Coast of the North Island. Hawkes Bay is one of NZ's largest wine growing regions and also has a large crop growing industry.

The boys attend Napier Boys High School, our youngest is a five day boarder and our eldest is now in his last year so attends as a day student. Their school is part of the "Super 8" competition made up of eight public *boys only* schools from Hamilton to Palmerston North. These schools compete at a top level in all sports, cultural & musical events.

Both boys have been selected for the top two school teams which mean they play all over the country and are billeted by other families during the rugby season. Rugby pre-season starts the first week of March, so we will be doing a lot of travelling over the next few months to watch their games.





### ***How did you get involved in IGP Dogsport?***

I first became involved in Dogsport in 1992 when we purchased a Giant Schnauzer. The lady I purchased him off was German and she introduced me to the sport. I did a BH with him and tried a SCH I but he wasn't a dog for the character work side of things. Later we brought another Giant Schnauzer from the same breeder for Glenn. He did a BH and AD with her and then I took her over to compete in NZ Kennel Club trials, titling her up to WD level.

After that we decided to change breeds, that's when our first GSD joined the family. We imported a male from Australia for Glenn, who I titled to IPO and SchH I, and then some four years later we purchased another two puppies, one for each of us.

One of those puppies was Dutchie von Achten. I titled him multiple times at ShH/ IPO III, he was a fantastic dog. When he was a puppy between 5-8 months he went through some very odd stages and many people said I should get rid of him as he wouldn't amount to anything. But, I persevered and he turned out to be a great IGP dog and an easy dog to have around the house. He was stock proof, cat proof and had no dog aggression. Easy!!

At the age of 10 I had to put him to sleep when it appeared he had suffered a stroke. He will always hold a special place in my heart.

### ***Choosing a club to join? What influenced your choice to join?***

In NZ we didn't have much choice about which Club to join as there was only one in NZ at that time – Dogsport New Zealand. The club was formed in 2004 and I am one of their founding members.

### ***What have you enjoyed most about being a member of your club?***

In times before children, lives and our businesses got in the way we had a very social club. We held seminars over weekends every couple of months, which saw all the four training areas in the country come together for training and socialising in a central place. As a club over the years we have had the privilege of holding seminars and training days with various trainers and foreign Judges. Among these have been, Rinus Bastiansen, Armin Winkler, Bernhard Flinks, Mia Skogster, Florian Knabl and Peter and Connie Scherk, Uwe Stolpe, and Jany Bohm our most recent.

### ***How many dogs have you titled?***

I have titled four dogs in IGP. I also titled my Giant Schnauzer bitch to WD in NZKC trials.



### ***Becoming a WGSDCA Judge***

I made the decision along with my club to start my Judging apprenticeship to assist the club with reducing costs involved in holding a trial. We had one Judge already in Peter Crocker but, we felt that it was to our clubs advantage to have two.

I started my Judging apprenticeship in 2010 under Uwe Stolpe at a DSNZ trial. This was followed a week later by apprenticing at the Nationals in Illawarra, again under Uwe Stolpe. I did another couple of apprenticeships under Uwe and then sat my final test under Peter Crocker the then Chief Judge, at a trial held by BSDC in 2012.

### ***What have you enjoyed most about IGP in Australia/New Zealand and what are a few highlights over the last 10 years?***

I think for the most part, I have seen the improvement as a Judge, in the standard of the dogs' trialling. I think it is immensely due to how the training at clubs has evolved.

I have also made some great lasting friendships in the Sport both in NZ and worldwide. Two people in particular, Rae and Paul Achten who we first trained with when we both lived in Wellington in 2002. Rae is also now my business partner in our product recovery business.

Another highlight for me was judging the WGSDCA National Championship in Brisbane in 2015 along with Peter Crocker and Reg Worth. I really enjoy our national championships, and think I have attended nearly every event since 2010.... even though it usually coincides with my eldest son's birthday on June 6. Where I can help out I will and this has led me to take on the role of Trial Secretary for multiple National Championships.

Another highlight for me was to shadow the Chief Judge of the SV Wilfred Tautz and SV Judge Uwe Stople as a (non-official). This was a great opportunity for me to refresh my judging skills and affirm that my judging was on the right track.

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

I plan to continue on with my Judging and hopefully look at getting another dog once my youngest boy finishes his high school years. 🐾



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# Building capability

BY METRO DOGSPORT CLUB

2020 started with a helper workshop at the club run by WGSDCA Director of Judges Reg Worth and WGSDCA Helper Mark Gomersall. It was a great learning experience for our apprentice helpers as they got to understand what was required of them as trial helpers from a judge's perspective, as well as, learning the correct techniques from a trial helper.

**F**or Samantha, Clint and Glenn this was their second helper workshop under the WGSDCA program. All three of them worked really well and showed they could apply theory into practice. I think there was an awful lot of sweat but no tears shed on that day, as summer was still in full swing.

At the end of March the club is holding another helper workshop and certification, so we wish our guys the very best in undergoing the certification process. The club is excited at the prospect of having more certified helpers and of course the thought of having the first female helper would be cool!

The club continues to monitor the evolving situation with COVID-19 and the possibility of re-scheduling trials and training may become a necessity as we work together to fight the on-going spread of the virus.

Look after each other and I hope we can come together at the National competition in Sydney in June. 🐾





# The IGP Family Dog

A question so often raised is 'how can your dog do IGP and be a family dog? Easy, they are doing what they were bred to do, work and play! Dogs that are well socialised and trained are taught when it is appropriate to work and when it is not and these are the happiest dogs around. Here are some photos of our WGSDCA members and their dogs at work and at play.





# NZ report

JASON PYE

The start of the year for New Zealand Dogsport has started off well. I think that our trial at the end of 2019 really energised people to get back into training. Our first Saturday training in Auckland for 2020 had 18 dogs and their handlers training!!!

**I**t was great to see as we haven't seen this many dogs and handlers in over 10 years. Of course that meant we had to be really smart about our training and make the most of the time we had available. We had three helpers working dogs in character work at the same time. This worked out well as we could get through training at a faster pace and trainers could be working on different things

to the other trainers and it was really good for the more experienced dogs to work under such distraction.

We had a number of people come along for the first time and although their dogs would probably not be ideal for the sport it was a great introduction for them to see what was involved and the work that is required to get a dog ready for trial.

During the year we are hoping to hold a number of helper seminars as there has been an increase in the interest to become a helper. Out of a potential six who are interested it would be great to see 1-2 helpers end up certifying.

Summer has been very long and dry here so tracking has been hard but those who are looking to trial in our next trial hopefully mid-year are still doing the work!! It has been good to see some new youthful enthusiasm at training days!🐾



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# Valley Dogsport Club February Trial 2020

VDSC waved out the summer with a club trial on an ideal evening at our grounds at Gatton University. A total of six BH entries were received and we congratulate all teams for making it out onto the field.

**V**alley Members represented five of the six entries, with Metro Dogsport Club member, Lauren Bucksath and her dog, Shadow, making up our sixth entry. Unfortunately it wasn't Shadow and Lauren's evening, however, Lauren demonstrated great sportsmanship and we appreciate her supporting our small club.

Andrea Gerard and Vondarcor Posion Ivy were awarded Best BH, while Brandan Baxter and Vondarcor Hank achieved a well-deserved pass - not an easy task with work commitments having hindered Brandan and Hank achieving their pass sooner.

New VDSC member, Emma Kolodjashnij, and her German Shepherd, Ivan, achieved a very nice pass, as did Andrea's second entry, her

German Shepherd Ember - showing everyone that neither Ivan or Ember minded being in the unregistered dog category.

Susanne Schenck and Vondarcor Manta have committed many hours and kilometres into making their trial debut, travelling up to Queensland to train with us at Valley on a weekly basis, then camping and spending a ten day boot camp in the lead up to the trial. Susanne and Manta's dedication was awarded with BH being achieved.

Much gratitude is extended to our judge Mr Reg Worth for travelling out to our club in Gatton after a long day at work, and providing all entries with invaluable feedback and advice. Thank you Karyn Worth for her photography on the evening, to trial secretary Amanda and Valley members who assisted on the night to ensure all ran smoothly. Special mention to those who came along and provided support at the trial.

We look forward to the remainder of the year, and we wish our fellow Dogsport enthusiasts the very best with their endeavours throughout 2020. 🐾





## **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)