



WGSDCA

# Dog'sport Magazine

Issue 2  
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# General information

## SCOREBOOKS, SPORTS PASSES AND FORMS

To apply for a scorebook and sportspass go to [www.wgsdca.org.au/online-scorebook-application](http://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 WGS DCA 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, WGS DCA has something for you.

[www.wgsdca.org.au/membership](http://www.wgsdca.org.au/membership).

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

Members of WGS DCA have to renew their WGS DCA Individual Membership annually.

To find out more go to [www.wgsdca.org.au/membership](http://www.wgsdca.org.au/membership)

## CLUB AFFILIATES

Brisbane Sporting Dog Club	Sydney Dogsport Club
Dogsport New Zealand	Valley Dogsport Club
Eastside Shepherd Dogsport Group	West Australian German Shepherd Dog Sports
Junee Dogsport Club	Working German Shepherd Victoria
Metro Dogsport Club	<b>KINDRED CLUBS</b>
Norwest Dogsport Club	Fenrir Dogsport Club
Scenic Rim Sportdog Club	Karma K9 Dog Sports Club
South East Queensland Dogsport Club	

Events are announced on WGS DCA Facebook page "events" and website [www.wgsdca.org.au/upcomingtrials-seminars](http://www.wgsdca.org.au/upcomingtrials-seminars)

Online Shop: [wgsdca.deco-uniforms.com](http://wgsdca.deco-uniforms.com)

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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.



[www.facebook.com/WorkingGermanShepherdDogsportClubsOfAustralasia](http://www.facebook.com/WorkingGermanShepherdDogsportClubsOfAustralasia)

FRONT COVER:  
PHOTO: WILD DOG PHOTOGRAPHY



# A word from the president

Dear members, friends and supporters,

I may sound like a broken record, but are you fully aware of how much each of you are contributing to continue the growth of the WGSDCA in recent times?

Let me give you some perspective. In the first nine months of 2023, the WGSDCA had a total of 131 entries across 16 trials, and we currently have another eight trials scheduled for the remainder of the year. This is a three-fold increase compared to 2019. We are also seeing an increase in Helper seminars, and the pay-off is an ever-growing fleet of licensed helpers. Likewise, we now have a fleet of five licensed judges. We are seeing more and more clubs including ZAP-W (Puppy temperament assessment) and endurance testing at their club trials. This is great as it means more dogs can partake in our trials, but I also think it is reflective of a fraternity who strives to further align with the WUSV Breed Mandate – which also led us to host our first ever SV Breed Survey during the 2023 WGSDCA National Championship, hosted by Junee and Sydney Dogsports Clubs in Wagga Wagga and officiated by no less than the newly appointed SV Vice President,



MIKE HARPER, WILD DOG PHOTOGRAPHY

Herr Daniele Strazzeri. What a scoop! On behalf of the whole fraternity, I thank Herr Strazzeri for making the time to come to Australia as I'm certain you have a very busy schedule.

The 2023 National Championship was once again generously supported by K9Pro and RedLine. We also had support from Orivet, Clear Dog Treats, K9Power and Enduro High Performance Dog Food and let's not forget Mike Harper – and Carmen McGill from Junee Dogsport Club – who spent hours on capturing footage and photos across the four-day event.

The 2023 WGSDCA National Championship had a new record of entries and eight WGSDCA Clubs were represented at the event. It was great to feel the buzz and see people mingle. The competitors included first time trial participants, first time National Championship participants as well as seasoned dog handlers. Thank you all for your support and congratulations to all the winners (see page 16). To the breed survey participants – you will go down in the WGSDCA history book. So proud of you all. Another historic outcome of the 2023 WGSDCA National Championship, is that Australia will be represented at the 2023 WUSV World Championship in October by two dogs who are bred, owned and trained by their handlers. The WGSDCA will keep you all posted about the overseas journey soon to commence for Glynis Hendricks with Haveloc Fynn and myself with Kanikular Blast of Bindee. Clint Wehmeier will be the Australian Team Leader.

I think this year's National Championship raised the bar with respect to venue and tracking fields and of course the opening ceremony with a welcome to country from the region's First Nations people. All of this was spectacular, well done Junee Dogsport Club. Especially in

light of the fact that many of your members are relatively new to IGP dogsport. But the club didn't stop there, they also pulled off something that hasn't been done before: We had several newspaper articles as well as Channel 7 coverage. I doubt the fraternity is aware of the many pre-event meetings that were necessary to make that happen. The TV segment was shared on our Facebook page. It has gone around the world, shared hundreds of times – even on the WUSV and SV Facebook pages – and currently has +62,000 views. Phil Major, Anna and Paul Jones and the rest of the Junee team, I am speechless (and that doesn't happen so often). What an achievement in promoting our collective passion for IGP dogsport. Thank you.

Please join me in thanking the many (many) people who played a part in a very successful 2023 National Championship: helpers, tracklayers, trial secretary, trial office people, the obedience group and the people 'behind the scene': venue coordinators, parking coordinators, entry gate keepers, canteen people (loved the apple pie!), the kids selling raffle tickets and the list goes on. On behalf of the WGSDCA Board of Management, I applaud and thank you all for volunteering your time to enable the collective us to experience a fantastic event. Let's hope we can match it for all future WGSDCA National Championships to come.

SANNE PEDERSEN | WGSDCA PRESIDENT





*Horst-Dieter Trager (supplied)*

# **Horst-Dieter Träger: SV Judge and Trainer at German Customs on picking a good dog, breeding selection and what he loves to see when judging**

Story republished with the permission  
of Patricia Pehrsson and Florian Knabl  
(IQ Dogsport and K9andSports)

ORIGINAL STORY PUBLISHED: MAY 19, 2023



We had the opportunity to speak with K9andSports ambassador Horst-Dieter Träger (Dieter). Dieter is a service dog trainer at customs and responsible for purchase and training for the state of Bremen. Since 1982 he has his own SV Kennel von der Wannaer Höhen. He is a successful handler as well as an SV judge.

**Patricia:** You once told me that you are not a political person. Now you are a K9andSports ambassador. How come?

**Dieter:** *It will be beneficial for all sides if we become more transparent for the public. When I say we, I refer to K9 and the dogsport world, because there is misunderstanding with respect to both. There is no need to hide what we are doing. After all, the work of K9 programs benefits society, while K9 programs rely on dogsport.*

*The K9 community relies on private working dog breeders and handlers: they are the source to quality dogs.*

*At the same time, we are seeing that both the sport and breeding approval tests are being soft washed: often with the argument of animal welfare – in my opinion this is based on a lack of understanding. Weakening the selection process, carries the risk that we lose the quality of our dogs. And we absolutely depend on the quality of our dogs.*

**Patricia:** Why do you – or K9 program administrators – depend on dogsport handlers and private breeders for dogs?

**Dieter:** *Because we cannot breed the amount of dogs we actually need. Just recently, I spoke to responsible people with*

*the Bundeswehr, the German Military, who entertain their own breeding program. However, that breeding program is limited to two, maybe three litters per year. Generally speaking, not all dogs from a litter will be suitable for service. If you add up these dogs, the number is not nearly sufficient to meet the actual need.*

*Public authorities/K9 programs do not have the headcount nor financial background to cover their own need of dogs. The majority of K9 dogs come from private breeders. What does this mean? It's the private breeders who select dogs and lines when it comes to breeding. We have to work with what we get. And as anyone else, we are subject to rising prices while we are limited in budget. This really sums up, why I hope for K9andSports to make a difference when it comes to breeding and breeding selection. I hope that private breeders will cooperate more with K9 program administrators and that we can maintain or even better the quality of dogs.*

**Patricia:** What kind of dogs are you looking for, broadly speaking? Are all of your K9 dogs trained for protection purposes aside from their speciality?

**Dieter:** *In the past, there was a certain trend away from protection dogs. Some departments only purchased and trained detection dogs in order to avoid the cost associated with dual training.*

*However, we've seen an increase in violent acts against officials and keeping our officials safe is becoming harder. Often, we address people who rely on us not making use of our weapons while disrespecting our orders. This generally will not happen with a trained protection dog at your side.*

**Patricia:** What difference exactly does a dog make?

**Dieter:** *A huge difference. A dog is not predictable for your opponent and in most cases people don't want to take the risk.*

*Having said that, we have a hard time purchasing dogs that are made for the job. Personally, I work at Bremerhaven. Imagine a harbour with a lot of noise. Our dogs have to climb a 30 meter gangway prior to getting on a boat. They deal with high temperatures and a lot of noise. Not many dogs work with high motivation and focus in an environment like Bremerhaven. Only a select number of dogs will.*

**Patricia:** How do you test dogs prior to purchasing them?

**Dieter:** *I watched the breed selection test (ZTP) of your dog by the German Malinois Club (DMC) and noticed quite a few of similarities. Just like you, we will*



WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO

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Working German Shepherd and HoopSport Clubs of Australasia



watch the handler playing with the dog. We will also evaluate how the dog plays with an unknown person and if the dog is willing to fight for his prey.

We like to see how the dog reacts to “dead” prey; prey that is not moving. It’s generally pretty easy for dogs to show activity for a moving toy. Most dogs will run like a mad hatter after a flying ball. But what if there is no movement? I’ll throw the toy, let the dog watch. But rather than letting the dog go right away, we will turn the dog in circles. Quite a few dogs will not even search for the toy, others will lack intensity or give up their search quickly.

**Patricia:** What about environmental stability?

**Dieter:** I always test a dog’s behavior in an unfamiliar surrounding: narrow hallways, slippery floors, etc. However, it can be difficult to know if a dog shows good drive behavior or is high in nervous activity, something we don’t look for. Both look similar.

This is also why we have a four to five week trial period when buying a dog. We’ve had cases in which a dog froze upon an automatic glass door or on slippery floor. These dogs are often trainable to a certain point. However, in my experience, they will never perform 100% compared to a dog who doesn’t have environmental issues.

It takes a lot of time to generalize a behaviour. And we don’t have the time.

**Florian:** Exactly, for us that is also a very critical point in the breeding test: does a dog show activity out of temperament or because of weak nerves? We are not looking for dogs who show activity out of excessive nervous activity. The dog we are looking for is intrinsically motivated. Can you tell when watching a sport trial?

**Dieter:** As a judge, I naturally watch a lot of dogs in trial situations. There is a lot to be seen about the nature of dogs. But it’s not exhaustive.

At SV trials or competitions, I try to see the participants and their dogs outside of the field. For example at a ceremony. There you find out which dogs don’t calm down appropriately or come out of the trailer already stressed and panting. It is important to me that a working dog knows when and how to rest. Everything else is a limitation.

**Patricia:** So sport, trials are not sufficient for a breed selection in your view?

**Dieter:** Trials give us a good picture over a long time. However, we also need additional approvals or breeding suitability tests. A complete picture only emerges when we examine the dogs within their routines (trials) AND outside of the program.

One personal example: I once had a bitch that passed a great IGP1; she really convinced me. Four weeks later, I showed her at a show. A regular shot affected her to an extent that it shouldn’t. This might seem strange at first since she experiences gun shots

in Obedience trials. I realized that she is different while in her program, her routines that helped her in stabilizing. This made me realize that characteristics can be covered if the dogs knows and anticipates what’s going on. That’s why we test the dogs in trials with known routines AND unknown environments in breeding selection tests.

**Florian:** How important is it for you that a dog is not affected by the noise of a gun shot?

**Dieter:** It’s important in a broader sense. In real life, our dogs cannot be affected by the sound of a gun shot. Shooting resistance is undoubtedly important in practice. However, this also goes hand in hand with noise (in)sensitivity, which is at least as important. At the port I work at among other things, iron plates often fall to the ground here. The noise it creates far exceeds that of a shot. Our dogs need to remain stable.

**Patricia:** I recently read that noise sensitivity is increasing in family dogs. Personally, we don’t come across noise sensitivity in the German Malinois Club. But of course, shot guns are part of Obedience and breed selection tests. Are you experiencing more and more noise sensitivity?

**Dieter:** I never purchase a dog without testing his reaction to a 9mm when he is not expecting it, for example on a walk. I’ve had cases, but I don’t see the problem growing. Our issue is around the dogs’ nerves, including with Working Line



*German Shepherds of course, prey drive and appropriate responses to pressure are highly important. But they are nothing if the dog has weak nerves and cannot calm down after an initial excitement. If a dog remains excited after the trigger is removed, it has no place in breeding in my opinion.*

**Patricia:** You mentioned that you watched my dog's ZTP, the "small" breeding license in the DMC. Was there something missing that you would test?

**Dieter:** *I liked some elements but I would add some.*

*You had to walk through a group of spectators with your dog off-leash. The dog was neutral and at the same time didn't "cling" to you. This gives me a picture but I would want to see more.*

*Another good part was the play, in particular when your dog had to jump into a parcours of tunnels and bottles and show activity to get his toy.*

*Having said that: in my opinion prey drive may help the dog over difficulties. I would like to see how the dog behaves without prey involved. whether it masters slippery floors or a jump onto an obstacle in a calm state.*

**Florian:** *That's a good point. We have already had many discussions with authorities who keep service dogs. We see the benefit of testing the dog in difficult environmental conditions in a calm state.*

**Patricia:** When you purchase a dog, will you put a larger emphasis on nose work testing?

**Dieter:** *Yes, I will have the dog search in different situations. For example, just like you, we will throw a ball. But we will remove the dog for a moment before releasing him to the search. Ideally, the dog will still search intensely. It matters less to us whether the dog finds the ball; but we want to see the dog search for 2-3 minutes.*

*At our training grounds, we have rooms with obstacles such as large tin-coated heating pipes that they need to jump on. Or we will hide the ball in something that falls over when the dog gets close. Sometimes we see dogs that won't go near anymore.*

*If I had to summarise what I would like to see in the breeding selection on top of what you do: resilience without stimulus and expectations.*

**Florian:** *These are very good points that we will add to ZTP: evaluate how a dog deals with a difficult situation without drive or prey involved. Another issue is frustration tolerance and drive resistance. Our exercises are too easy, yours are way more demanding in that regard. It may not look difficult from the outside, but it is for the dog.*

**Patricia:** Now one more question about sport: what are your

thoughts on removing the stick hit in IGP protection?

**Dieter:** *It's a shame. Probably a concession to public opinion. The pressure created through the soft stick is not significant for a dog in protection. Having said that, in my 20 years as a judge I have not yet seen many animals retreat from the helper because of the impact of the stick. This actually happens before.*

**Florian:** *True - often times the problem arises for the dog even before the stick hit. But generally, the stick has a "meaning". What if the dog had never been confronted with the stick before?*

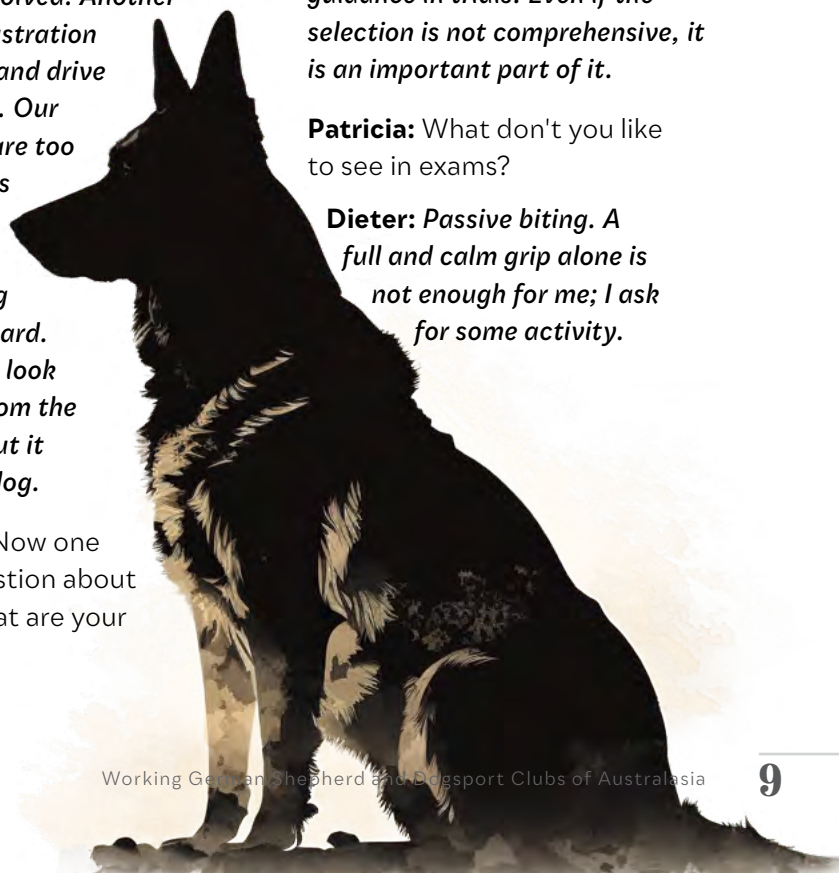
**Dieter:** *It may well be that the stick loses its importance.*

**Patricia:** You've been a judge for 20 years. Why are you doing this?

**Dieter:** *I enjoy judging. I've been a breeder for years. Reasonable selection requires reasonable guidance in trials. Even if the selection is not comprehensive, it is an important part of it.*

**Patricia:** What don't you like to see in exams?

**Dieter:** *Passive biting. A full and calm grip alone is not enough for me; I ask for some activity.*



However, this is not encouraged by all judges, if they primarily complain about an unsteady grip when the dog is actually dominating really nicely. For me it is more important that the dogs are active even if they may miss 2cm in the grip.

**Patricia:** What makes you happy in a trial?

**Dieter:** *When a dog effectively hinders the helper. Of course, this should come from the heart and not as a side effect because a weak dog is trying to get behind the helper for some more peace.*

*The most important exercise for me is the back transport. I can get more information on the quality of the dog than in the long part. A back transport contains obedience on the one hand and an explosive and immediate reaction to an attack. It's a very complex exercise.*

*In the long attack, the dog has time to think about what he will be doing. The dog may be able to see the prey for 20 meters in advance and I'm not always sure if all dogs are clear about what their goal should be.*

**Florian:** *I agree. We see that a lot with Malinois. The dogs run to the helper like crazy, don't seem to know why they started running and pass by the helper or don't bite properly. Speed doesn't always equal quality.*

**Dieter:** *Something else comes to my mind: I watched the video of your last IGP exam, Patricia. And that's when I noted that the time between out and attack*

*was too short and not according to the rules. Once a dog outed, we should let him wait for five seconds until the attack. There's no room for mistakes otherwise or for evaluating the quality of guarding.*

*I'm always interested in seeing how other kennel clubs work. Things go wrong in SV as well of course. I strongly support cross-club helper testing and standardizing what happens in trials.*

*For example the opening: it needs to start with pressure not with a prey stimulus. However, in 90% of the time, the helper will not start with pressure. Standardisation brings reliability for the handlers.*

**Florian:** *I agree. If the style of helpers is standardized, judges have the opportunity to influence training. If you specify how the helpers have to work, training goals will mirror it.*

**Dieter:** *Yes, and sometimes it has to hurt, otherwise we won't change. Some breeds, including the GSDs, have issues with jumping, for example. From my point of view, this is a question of genetics, since the training is largely the same for all breeds. Here, too, one can exert judicial influence. If we take more points for a dog that touches the hurdle, something will change in breeding with time.*

**Patricia:** IGP is a very time-consuming sport. Can you think of ways to make it more accessible?


**Dieter:** *We could replace tracking in A with other nose work. Finding tracking fields is not easy in many areas. If we test other nose work, this would definitely make the sport easier and we would probably even have spectators for A during trials and competitions. Almost no one is watching now.*

Thank you for this great interview. Lots more to ask. But we will keep those questions to next time.

**Dieter:** *Thank you to both of you!*

**Patricia:** Our Pleasure!

Thank you to K9andSports and IQ Dogsport for allowing us to republish this interview with Horst-Dieter Träger. Please check out the K9and Sports Facebook and website. Below is an extract from their website about how you can help:

*'The easiest way to help us is to sign this initiative and collect votes. Please talk to your friends, other club members, and training team: anyone who is enthusiastic about working dogs and who pursue our interests and goals should sign this initiative. Why? Because with our joined voices we draw attention and make a point as to how many people have the same interests, concerns and goals. Your signatures have already led to various organizations actively pursuing conversations with us, trainers have offered us seminar spots for Youngstars. Let's grow this community and show the world how strong it is: #OneVoiceforWorkingdogs.'* 





Sharon Peace presenting Daniele Strazzeri artwork by local Indigenous artist

# National Championship 2023

– ANNA JONES (JUNEE DOG SPORT CLUB)

The WGSDCA National Championships 2023 was co-hosted by Junee Dog Sport Club and Sydney Dogsport Club.

Junee Dog Sport Club is one of the more recent additions to the WGSDCA and is led by Paul and Anna Jones who own and breed working line German shepherds in the region. This club is rapidly expanding in membership and has a very diverse membership from across the Riverina, including strong representation from the local Wiradjuri people. Junee Dog Sport Club has introduced a lot of first-time participants to Dog Sport and provided rapid upskilling with access to world class resources including a recent three-day tracking workshop.

The stage was set for many firsts this year which added to

the National Championship excitement. First time hosted in a regional city inside a top class stadium with a record number of entrees, a noticeable press presence from TV and local press agencies, the first SV Korung in Australia, experiencing a smoking ceremony from the Wiradjuri people at the opening of the nationals. The first time that Junee Dog Sport Club has hosted a main dog sport-event under the guidance of Sydney Dogsport Club, the Junee team has come away with so much more knowledge and experience after co-hosting this event. The stadium experience was something

the Junee club received a lot of positive feedback on and added excitement for both competitors and spectators.

The event was not without hiccups and the catering and coffee vans were last minute let downs that we dealt with as best we could. The Junee members aka 'the catering team' did a great job with two days-notice. Despite the challenges and the frosty morning starts the hosting clubs maintained a high energy presence across the four days of competition and nothing was too hard.

It was great to see the Victorian and Northern clubs alongside each other on the field competing. What a thrill to watch the event unfold especially as the competition points were so close at times. There was a nail-biting





*Helpers Cole Benji, Jake Cvjeticanin and Luca Campanello with Judge Herr Daniele Strazzeri at presentation*

conclusion with the IGP 3 title being fought out to the last point.

The team spirit and support we saw from competitors for each other was fabulous and the visitors who new nothing about IGP dog sport were suitably impressed and captivated. Our Judge Herr Daniele Strazzeri took the time to explain what was happening during the character work to the spectators with many of them being visitors who were seeing this type of work for the very first time. The feedback June members received about this was very positive. June Dog Sport Club has a passion for introducing beginners to IGP dog sport and an educational commentary is an important part of this process.

We thank Herr. Strazzeri for visiting Australia to judge our National Championships and we hope he enjoyed his stay. The significant depth of knowledge Herr. Strazzeri brings to judging is impressive along with his understanding of the growth of IGP dog sport in Australia.

Our club was incredibly grateful to Alastair, our local farmer, who supported the event by providing such beautiful tracking fields and a special thank you also as he allowed parking at the entry of the property which made it so easy for competitors. The tracking fields along with the entire competition setting show-cased brilliantly what regional NSW can offer to IGP dog sport.

Now to our helpers Cole Benji, Luca Campanello and Jake Cvjeticanin. These guys did an awesome job for us, brought the best out in the sleeve work of the dogs competing and showcased some of the more memorable moments to spectators including, general members of the public. We hope the helpers enjoyed it as much as we did.

The Photographs were as always very well done by Wild Dog Photography.

The Wagga Wagga community was so impressed by the event that the stadium has been offered to June Dog Sport Club to train on and use as our home ground. Thanks for keeping it clean and tidy. The offer of this stadium is a great opportunity for June Dog Sport Club to recruit new



members from the city of Wagga Wagga and train under lights and experience training in a stadium setting.

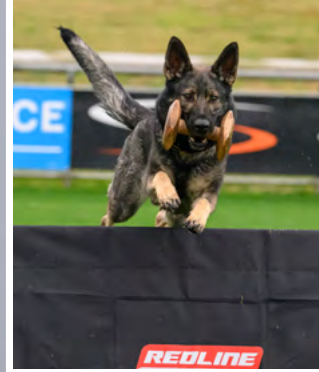
Congratulations to Glynis Hendricks and Sanne Pedersen (Team Australia) who will represent Australia at the WUSV World Championships in Hungary in October this year. What a great achievement for IGP Dogsport in Australia as this is the first time a team has been allowed to represent Australia at the WUSV World Championships.

In closing, Junee Dog Sport Club would like to thank the WGSDCA for the opportunity to host this prestigious event and all attendees and entrants for making this event the success it was. 🐾



PHOTOS: MIKE HARPER WILD DOG PHOTOGRAPHY AUSTRALIA











# Our National winners

IGP 3 and Australia's 2023 WUSV World Championship qualifier. Susanne Pedersen & Kanikular Blast of Bindee

91	88	81	260
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IGP 3 2023 WUSV World Championship qualifier. Glynis Hendricks & Haveloc Fynn

88	86	84	258
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IGP 2 Julie Ulbrich & Vomambach Cracker

76	74	72	222
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**IGP 1**  
**Lyn Ellerton & Boldsteps Jogi**  
92 75 84 251



**IGP-V**  
**Karyn Worth & Kovacs Logan**  
91 72 91 254



**GPR 1**  
**Istvan Iakatos & Kovacs Lupe**  
62 93 155



**UPR 2**  
**Cheryl Neal & Nordenstamm Lucifer**  
82



**Cassandra Rolls & Kovacs Lira**  
85



**BH/VT**  
**Yani Botha & Vondarcor Seneca**





# WGSCDA National Championship Recap

YANI BOTHA

A two-day road-trip of sixteen hours, endless potty stops and a couple Aussie icons like The Dog on the Tuckerbox and The Big Banana saw the Metro Dogsport Club big rig convoy (you couldn't miss us!) finally arrive at Wagga Wagga. The biggest question on the trip down: Oliver's again, or... a cheeky dirty feed? Good versus evil...of course good always wins!

As Queenslanders, stepping out in Wagga's fresh weather was a big but exciting change. During our rehearsal training on the trial field, it bucketed down. Some of us learnt right there and then that our waterproof gear wasn't quite so waterproof! Collectively, we shrugged off the wild weather and gave 110%, enjoying the training on a ripper, giant field. Props to Junee and Sydney Dogsport Clubs for organising this National for everyone to experience a truly next level event for Australia. It's safe to say we loved being a

*Team Metro receiving the Team Trophy*

part of it all and thoroughly enjoyed it, coming home invigorated and inspired.

Metro came away crowned National Team Champions which was really special to celebrate altogether over many a beer and laugh-till-you-cry stories. Special mention to Glynis and Haveloc Fynn who qualified for and will be competing at the 2023 WUSV IGP World Championship in Hungary - part of the first ever team sent to rep Australia!





**Our Nats highlights as follows:**

- » BH-VT National Champion - Yani and Vondarcor Seneca
- » IGP V National Champion - Karyn and Kovacs Logan
- » IGP 1 National Champion - Lyn and Boldsteps Jogi (Highest Tracking)
- » Vice National Champion Glynis and Haveloc Fynn (Highest Protection)
- » Best Handling - Julia and Vilhelm Cosmic Force
- » IGP V - Clint and Haveloc Rock

**Breed Surveyed:**

- » Mark and Starbucks vom dunklen Zwinger
- » Clint and Haveloc Levi
- » Glynis and Haveloc Fynn

Metro would like to say a huge thank you for all those involved in putting together and executing this event. The National is all about getting out there and putting the training on show - for the love of the preservation of the

*Yani and Seneca*

trial-tested working dog. It's about collaborating, competing and motivating continuous improvement within the IGP sport itself and bleeds into the wider canine industry. To keep our skills sharp and our hearts inspired to be better than we were yesterday. There is something really special about an open invitation to showcase your work, no matter who you are! It was encouraging and really incredible to be able to access detailed feedback from Herr. Daniele Strazzeri who has judged many IGP trials abroad and as such was able to assess the work with that broad scope of experience in mind. On top of this, I want to add that Herr. Strazzeri was incredibly supportive and



encouraging of the young guns getting out there for the first time and made the experience unforgettable as a first National experience.

Whether you attended as one of the many spectators, supported your team, competed or were directly involved in this National, you were part of inspiring a new generation to get involved (ahem, addicted) to futureproof IGP Dogsport in this country. 🐾







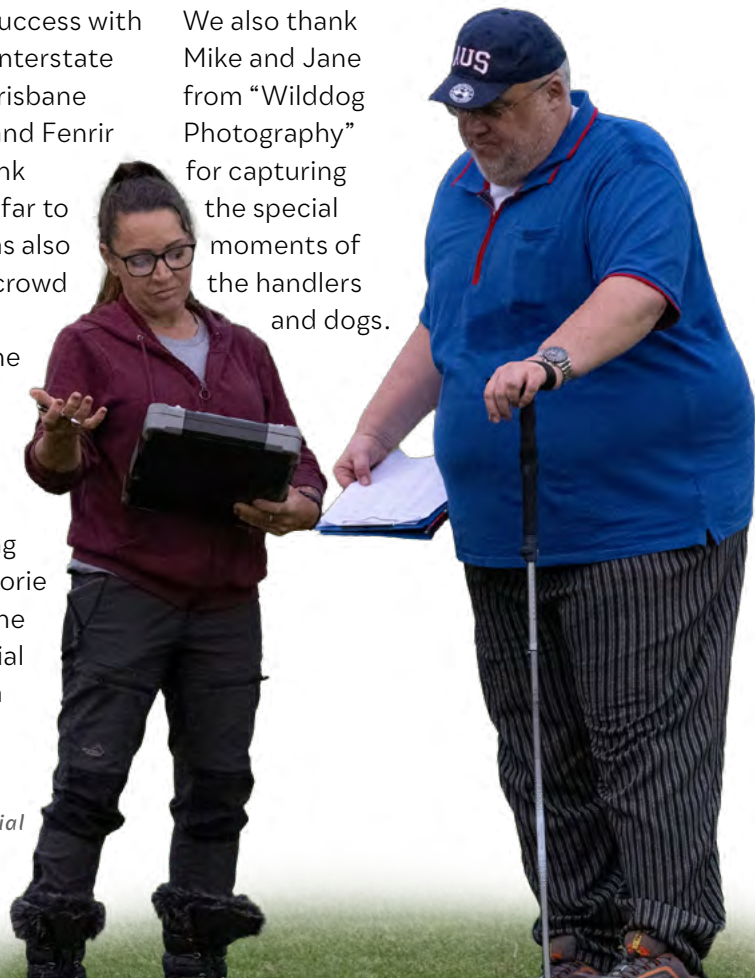
Norwest WGSDCA National Team

## Well it's been a big year so far for the Norwest Team!

Early April, Norwest hosted a 4- day Obedience and Sleeve-work seminar with the amazing Sabrina Hoffer and Dirk Schimank from Germany. This was Sabrina and Dirk's first time here in Australia and they loved it. It truly was so informative and inspiring listening and watching Sabrina give us tips and guidance for the obedience phase. Dirk assisted with the obedience and together they are an incredible team, taking the time with each handler and dog. Dirk did the helper work for the sleeve work phase for the dogs. Wow! He is a true athlete, and of course his advice was invaluable. We were so appreciative of their efforts to give us the best advice for training and trialling preparation.

The following weekend, Norwest held its Autumn Trial which was officiated by SV Judge Herr Uwe Stolpe. We also had Cheryl Chaffey successfully completing her WGSDCA Judge apprenticeship under Uwe. The trial was a massive success with 17 entries. We had interstate competitors from Brisbane Sporting Dog Club and Fenrir Dogsport Club. Thank you for travelling so far to enter our trial. It was also great to see a huge crowd of spectators. The helper work was done by our Club Helper Jake Cvjeticanin - great work. Also a big shout out to John Daniel for being our Tracklayer and Lorie Vaughan for doing the hardest job of all, Trial Secretary! You run a tight ship!!!

Our Autumn trial was supported by several sponsors who generously donated cash prizes, gift certificates, dog treat packs and dog supplements. Jump to our Facebook page to see who supported our Autumn trial. We also thank Mike and Jane from "Wilddog Photography" for capturing the special moments of the handlers and dogs.



Cheryl and Uwe Autumn trial



Mike and Jane are great supporters of all the Dogsport Clubs in Australia, giving up their free time to support us all with magic photos and videos in the club and national IGP trials.

**Results of Winners:**

- » Overall High in Trial - Michelle Daniel and Maddox
- » Best BH - Ilana Hepner and Vos
- » HIT Tracking - Gary Pitt and Keeva
- » HIT Obedience - Michelle Daniel and Maddox
- » HIT Protection - Michelle Daniel and Maddox
- » Best IGP1 - Gary Pitt and Keeva
- » Best IGP3 - Michelle Daniel and Maddox
- » Helpers Choice - Michelle Daniel
- » Best FH-V - Lauren Bucksath and Shadow
- » Shit Happens award - Louise Bayliss and Rogue



*Maddox with the motherload at the Autumn trial*

In June, we had 3 members representing our club at the WGSDCA 2023 National Championship, hosted by Junee and Sydney Dogsport Clubs. Louise Bayliss competing in BH, Melissa Cunningham in IGP1 and Matthew Begaud in IGP2. We would like to congratulate our team members for getting in there and giving it a red-hot go. The ladies pass their levels but unfortunately Matt did not

pass but did our club proud regardless. It was a great event, meeting up with SV Judge Daniele Strazzeri again, and we congratulate him on becoming the Vice-President of the SV.

Our Norwest Club Helper, Jake Cvjeticanin made us proud by making history as the WGSDCA Helper for the first ever Breed Survey held at the WGSDCA Championship. We congratulate WGSDCA for holding the first ever GSD Breed survey in Australia.

Our team had a lot of fun catching up with old Dogsport friends and of course meeting new Dogsport enthusiasts. The event was run really well and was good to see a lot of people competing in the event.

The Norwest Team has many upcoming young dogs so we hope to have a big team at the 2024 WGSDCA National Championship. We are looking forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings for our Norwest team. 🐾



*Mel Cunningham and Bunka Buster during protection at the Nationals*



*Matt Begaud at the National*

PHOTOS: MIKE HARPER, WILD DOG PHOTOGRAPHY



# The journey to IGP and Sydney Dogsport Club

MICHELLE WILLIAMS

I don't recall a time when dogs weren't part of my life.

**M**y earliest memories are of the family British Bulldog and being part of the dog show scene. The dog's name was Cleopatra and she was the ugliest Cleo I've ever seen, but she is still central to many family stories and was the heart of my family before I even started school. She embedded my devotion to dogs by always being under the table at dinner time to clean up unwanted vegetables. She was especially valued on nights when Brussels sprouts were served - you can't buy that level of loyalty!

As I grew up, I managed to constantly bring home strays. I'm sure it drove my parents mad but I was the piped piper of homeless dogs. I would teach them just enough to keep them out from under my parent's feet and, being the ultimate manipulators, the dogs had their own ability to drop the hopeless "puppy eyes" at my mum which kept us all out of trouble. My parents eventually put their foot down and refused to let me bring home more homeless animals which left me no option but to set up a homeless dog shelter in the spare stable. Looking back, I hope it was a homeless shelter and not a kidnapping room...

I pinched dog food from home to smuggle down to them and I had every excuse under the sun for my parents to not come down to the stables, but I was eventually found out and got in so much trouble that I had to cease and desist with the life of supporting the homeless hounds.

Once my own kids flew the coop, I found myself with way too much spare time and a little bored. I was naturally drawn back to dogs. We had always had a pet dog, so I entered the rabbit hole of IGP with a pet-level Corso that was a bit on the nervous side. I hadn't had experience with nervy dogs like her before but quickly learnt so much about drive, nerves and genetics which led to that dog going home to the breeder. I was lucky enough to get the most amazing Corso pup from another breeder on the central coast.

Now enter my first seminar with Dave Kroyer on his Australian 2018 tour. Dave was open about his dislike of the breed but was blown away by this pup and the breeder's lines - this was the unicorn of Corso's. Regrettably, a month later I lost the pup to a snake bite and it totally destroyed me. I kept hanging around the IGP club but without a dog of my own. I was convinced to do some work with a GSD pup and over the next year, I had several pups shuffled through my home. It was the path to the dark side and at the end of 2019, I got the opportunity to buy my first working-line GSD. Gigi was just shy of 12 months and as they say, "One man's trash is another man's treasure". I adore this pain in the ass and am so grateful to have her by my side.

Gigi was totally green, she'd had almost no exposure to the world, was an arrogant teenager and had moved into a home with a soft owner. What a whirlwind that blew us into the challenges of COVID and lockdowns. Thank goodness I had her crazy ass because she was so vital to my mental health over the next couple of years. She missed out on clear training with most of



her work coming from my inexperienced hands. She was a dog that was spring-loaded at home but take her out she was disconnected. Coming out of COVID I attended a seminar with Michelle Daniel and was lucky enough to join some small group work with her where Gigi and I started to really grow through her teaching and training methods that were new to us as a team.

Life's twists and turns then landed me in a spectacular new job and I had to sacrifice training for the next twelve months while figuring out the new role. Over that year I missed the sport more and more, so I started looking for a pup to start fresh with. Enter Vondarcor Blastaar and being accepted into Sydney Dogsport Club. I'm sure that my uncoordinated methods, general clumsiness and over-literal interpretations are going to cause some grey hairs for Sanne. But it's great to be part of an amazing team of people to offer us the guidance we need and friends whose eyes don't glaze over when I babble on about my dogs.

For anyone contemplating dog sports, get along to a club and talk to people. Find people who train in the style you want to work in. I was always really inspired by having my dogs want to work with me because they wanted to engage with me not because there would be a correction if they didn't. I have been lucky enough to cross paths with some

amazing women dog handlers and trainers that are mentors, supporters, and an inspiration to what I want to achieve. You won't regret the relationship you develop with your dog by getting involved in this sport, it really embeds a bond that is beyond all others I've had with pet dogs. The joy you will find in accomplishing what looks simple but is complex in process and the crazy people alongside their dogs. I have made some great friends who I hope will be around for the remainder of this lifetime. 🐾







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