



WGSDCA

Dog'sport Magazine

Issue 2
2022



WORKING GERMAN SHEPHERD AND DOGSPORT CLUBS OF AUSTRALASIA

General information

SCOREBOOKS, SPORTS PASSES AND FORMS

To apply for a scorebook and sportspass go to 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.

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

CLUB AFFILIATES

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

Events are announced on WGS DCA Facebook page "events" and website www.wgsdca.org.au/event-calendar

Online Shop: 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

FRONT COVER: WINNER OF WGS DCA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, GLYNIS HENDRICKS WITH HER DOG HAVELOC FYNN.
PHOTO: WILD DOG PHOTOGRAPHY

A word from the president

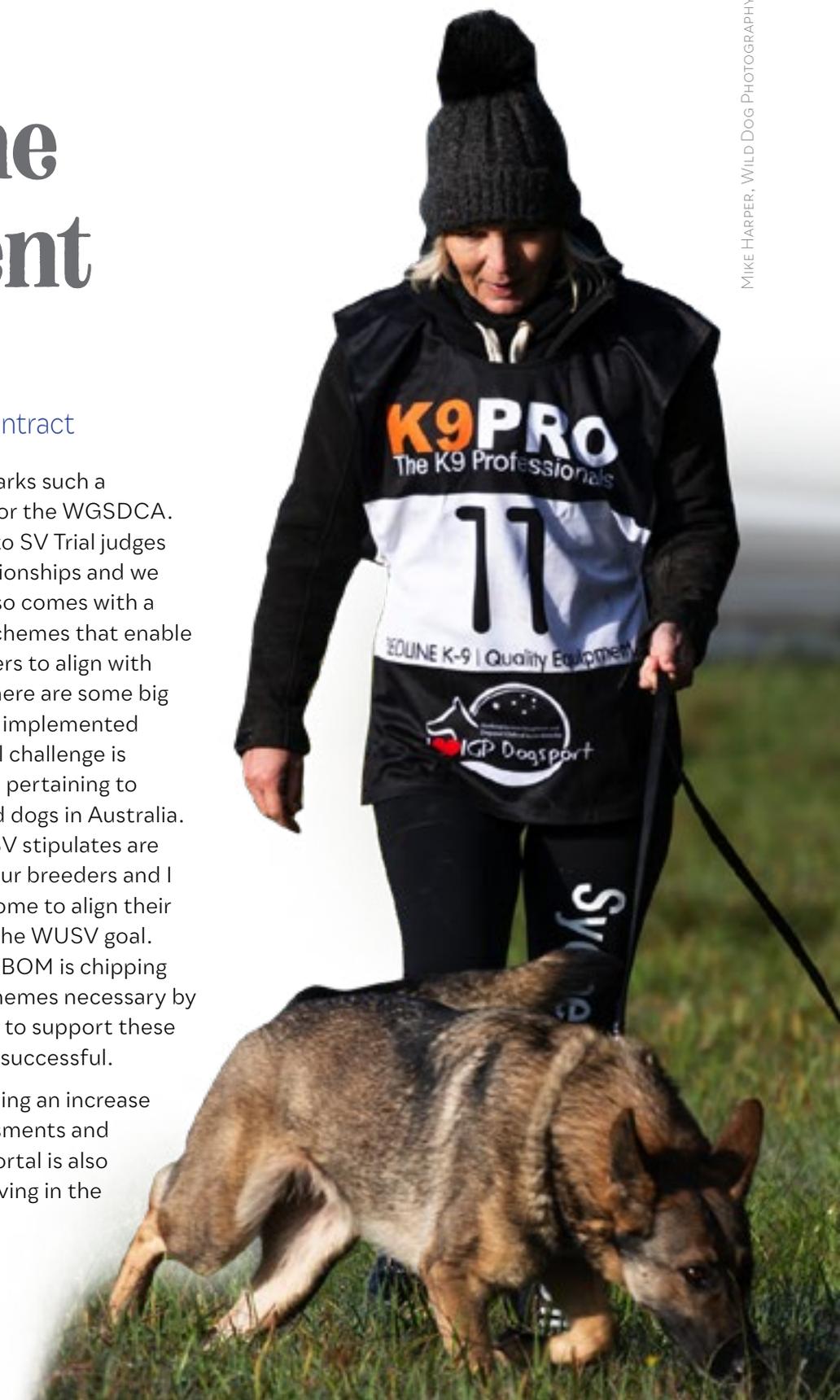
Dear members,

The WGSDCA-WUSV contract

Kinda old news but it marks such a significant milestone for the WGSDCA. We fought for access to SV Trial judges and WUSV IGP World Championships and we got that – but the contract also comes with a responsibility to implement schemes that enable German Shepherd dog breeders to align with the WUSV breed mandate. There are some big tasks in front of us to get that implemented by January 2025 – but the real challenge is to potentially break old habits pertaining to breeding of German Shepherd dogs in Australia. Conversely, some of the WUSV stipulates are very challenging for some of our breeders and I suspect it will take years for some to align their breeding programs fully with the WUSV goal. With that said, the WGSDCA BOM is chipping away on implementing the schemes necessary by January 2025, but we all need to support these schemes for them to become successful.

On a positive note, we are seeing an increase in ZAP-W “Puppy Test” assessments and the WGSDCA-DZG HD/ED portal is also steadily growing so we are moving in the right direction.

MIKE HARPER, WILD DOG PHOTOGRAPHY



2022 WGSDCA National Championship

Already way behind us but I take the opportunity to once again congratulate all the competitors for their support and whilst it didn't go according to plan for all of us, it was nevertheless a spectacular event which was well planned and executed by Metro and Scenic Rim Dogsport Clubs. We had a record high number of entries and it was lovely to welcome Horst Dieter Trager back to Australia. It was also the first time that we had helpers 'outside' of the WGSDCA and I thank Nicky Kuipers and Luca Campanella for their support. A big shout out to our sponsors, in particular our main sponsor K9 Pro. You can read more about the event within this edition and if you want to get hold of some of the equipment used at the event, then please check out this link:

www.wgsdca.org.au/k9pro

Congratulations to Glynis and Fynn for taking out the 2022 WGSDCA IGP3 National Champion title which earned them a ticket to the 2022 WUSV World Championship. Unfortunately, the changes to the import/export requirements introduced by DAFF in July made it impossible to get a Team Australia to the 2022 WUSV World Championship. The new changes means new challenges with respect to the decision to remove the short-stay import permit route they have had for years. This means new challenges with respect to the necessary blood tests before the dog can come back to Australia and it suffices to state that it has not become any easier to represent Australia at a WUSV World Championship.

On a positive note we are almost back to normal with respect to our clubs hosting trials at a frequency matching that prior to COVID-19 entering our world. Please check our event calendars on our FB and webpage to find events near you.

SANNE PEDERSEN | WGSDCA PRESIDENT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SP', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.



WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO

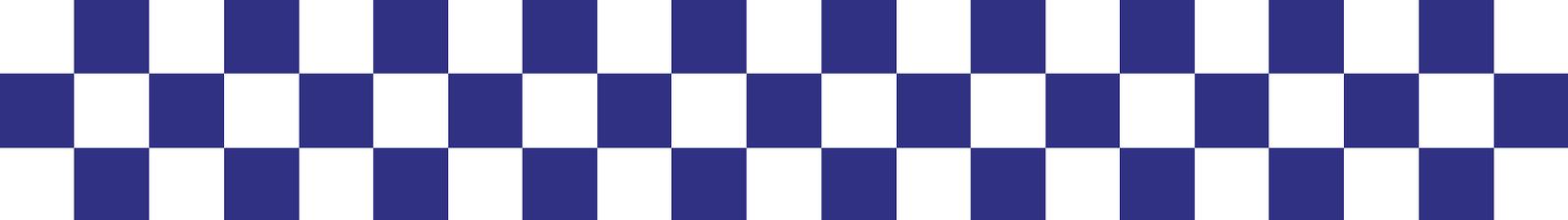
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The German Shepherd – PD Survivor Jeff

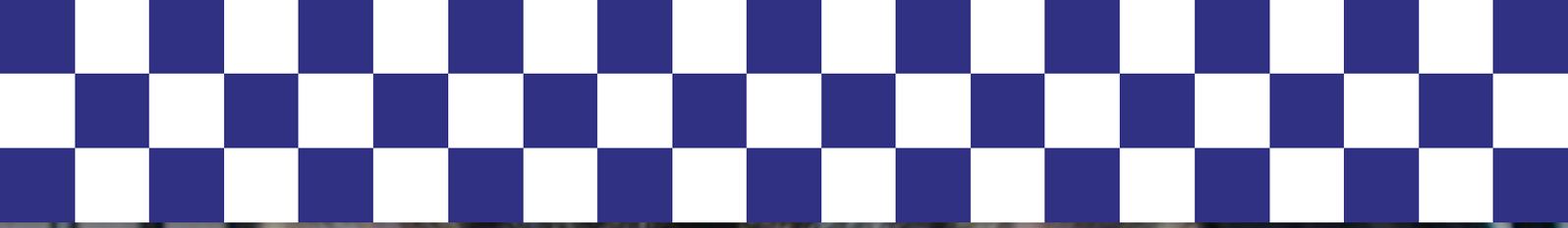
ROGER MAYER

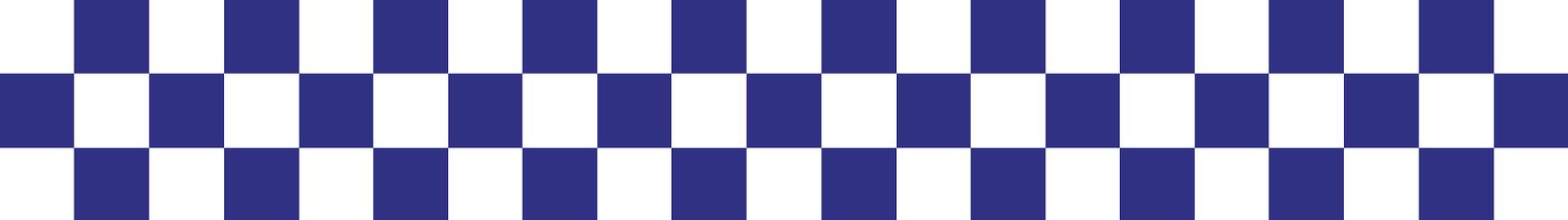
In 2008, I had been a police officer for nearly 30 years and a NSW Police dog handler for almost 20. I was turning 52, not in my prime so to speak, but still able to pass the demanding physical tests that police officers are required to undertake every year. I had recently retired my Police Dog Anja, and despite my age and rank, I was still keen to continue in the NSW Police Dog Unit. As the Department was about to commence the training of four new General-Purpose Police dogs, I begged and pleaded to be allowed to get a successor to PD Anja. My Boss at the time gave in, but I wasn't given a say in which dog I would get – not uncommon within the Police Dog Unit.

I first met Survivor Jeff, a gangly 11month old German Shepherd, in May 2008. He was aptly named as his mother abandoned her puppies so he and his two litter siblings were placed with another GSD female who had a litter on the ground. But only one survived - Survivor Jeff. I was impressed with his length of leg, his boldness, gregarious nature and he was keen as mustard to play. I instantly saw something special in him. So I grabbed him as quick as I could and took him home. The first thing he had to do was meet his predecessor, PD Anja. She looked at Jeff with disdain and immediately put him in his place. A position he was happy to occupy and so they became firm friends.

A bond with a dog is a strange thing – you cannot force it or make it happen – the decision is made by the dog. But when it happens you will experience a wonderful thing that nobody can imagine unless they have had a dog who dedicates itself to you completely. Jeff and I bonded within the first week. He became my shadow. In June 2008, we commenced training with a great group of experienced Police Dog Handlers who all had new green dogs all about the same age, but Survivor Jeff was the youngest. He immediately took to the training with an enthusiasm I had not experienced before. His desire to please and easy-going nature made him a bit of a favourite. To my great pride and satisfaction, we topped the course out of five teams and won the “Chuck Connor” Award for best Re-team course. I was one very proud Dad!







Survivor Jeff proved himself very capable as a General-Purpose police dog: He was able to track human scent from its source to natural conclusion, search bushland for suspects of missing persons, search buildings for hidden offenders, locate discarded or lost property, surmount obstacles within his capabilities, stop and detain fleeing offenders, protect his handler or others on command. He was very social and calm, and although not the toughest or baddest police dog, he could turn it on when need be. His two joys in life were to go to work and be with me. I felt the same and together we would go anywhere and readily face any situation, as I knew we would not let each other down.

In 2009 an opportunity came up for two handlers to travel to the Queensland Police Service Dog Squad in Brisbane to be trained in Human Remains Detection (Cadaver work). This meant a month away from home and I somehow convinced THE BOSS, aka The Wife, to let me go. Bless her. I loved every minute of the course. Jeff took to the training like he was born to it. We passed the course with flying colours and at an age of only two years, Survivor Jeff was now a dual-purpose dog: he was now also capable of locating deceased persons or body parts as well as clandestine grave sites. Once again, a very proud Dad.

NSW Police had one other trained Cadaver Dog, PD Oscar, who incidentally was the son of my dog Anja. Jeff and Oscar were both task focussed, dedicated to the work and capable of working together, which was slightly unusual for two dominate males, it was a reflection of their balanced temperament. Oscar's handler, Dave, a fantastic young handler and I also worked well together! Detection work (locating bodies) took us to many different states, sometimes we travelled together and other times just alone with our dogs.

The first cadaver search almost frightened Survivor Jeff half to death

A poor old fellow had gone missing while walking a neighbour's dogs. The dogs were located but as the old fellow was still missing after a week, we were called in as a search of bushland had failed to locate him. The police had been searching an area where a witness had seen the old fellow but Survivor Jeff searched the area without success. I believed the body might have been in the area where the dogs had been located, about five kilometres from the area that the police had searched. I told the young Constable that I was assisting that I wanted to go to that area. When we arrived, I set Survivor Jeff off to search. He put his nose in the air and away we went. About five minutes later I saw an immediate change in his behaviour. "He got him" - I said to the young bloke and surely enough Survivor Jeff soon located the body of the poor old fellow who was in a very poor state of decomposition. Survivor Jeff was unsure what to do, so he picked up a key laying near the body. I praised him, pulled out his toy and played next to the body to get him over the frightening sight.

The human eye is no match for a dog's nose

There had been a double fatality from a helicopter crash at Turramurra. The site was believed to have been cleared of debris and remains, but as the families of the deceased wanted to visit the site, we were called in to make certain that all human remains had been located prior to the family visiting the crash site. On initial inspection I could not see anything of interest, but immediately after giving the command, Survivor Jeff ran into some bush and pulled out a baseball cap covered in human remains from one of the victims. We thought the site was now cleared, but Survivor Jeff continued and gave a positive response at the actual crash site. To me it looked like leaf matter but on closer inspection, I could see flesh fragments and teeth. Now the site was cleared and the families were permitted to the crash site to say their goodbyes to their loved ones.

The nose knows

Detectives from the Sydney Homicide Squad suspected a body to be buried in the Broadwater area off the Pacific Highway and Survivor Jeff and I were called in to help. The first thing I do at a search scene is a visual check of the area for two reasons: I make sure there is nothing potentially dangerous to the dog (snakes, potentially hazardous materials or sharp objects etc) and I am laying my ground scent down so that my dog investigates the area thinking there may be something I have laid down (the foundation of his training). In this instance we knew we were looking for a clandestine grave, which requires a dog to locate a cadaver scent underground. It needs to have its nose on the ground as opposed to air scenting. To help the dog, I carry a large heavy stainless-steel bar with a sharp point and a T handle that allows me to make pilot holes in the ground and Jeff was trained to put his nose and suck up the air from these holes. The detectives who arrived prior to me had located an area where they believed the grave site was. It was a sandy area with a depression the size of a grave. They merely wanted Survivor Jeff to confirm the site before excavating. Nevertheless, I did my usual field inspection and located a different area which I believed was the clandestine grave site and within 10 minutes Jeff strongly indicated a spot in that area. The detectives were not convinced and they were adamant that the area they had marked out was correct and wanted Survivor Jeff to search that area. Jeff gave no indications at all. I told them that I so confident of Survivor Jeff, that I bet my left nut on it! As it was late in the day, the excavation had to wait until the Police Forensic team arrived the next day. The Detective Sergeant from the Homicide squad rang me the following morning as Survivor Jeff and I were boarding the aircraft back to Sydney: "Your left nut's safe!". He admitted they didn't believe Survivor Jeff and dug up their site first but found nothing – they found the body in a canvas bag about 600mm below the ground where Jeff had indicated. Once again, a very proud Dad.

A lot of our jobs were unfortunately not successful. I still think about the people we did not find from time to time. I don't believe Jeff, Oscar, Dave or I missed them. We may not have been in the right area, or other circumstances out of our control may have been at play. Suffice to say we gave it our best and Survivor Jeff never gave less than 100% to every search. I used to say that only two real important jobs matter for the Dog Unit: 1) bomb or explosive searches. If you miss an explosive device people may be killed or seriously injured and 2) looking for missing persons or deceased. If you miss a missing person they may die, you miss a deceased body and say the area is cleared it may never be found thereby leaving the victim's family without closure.

In 2013 when I finally retired, Superintendent Mick Goodwin – my boss at that time, allowed Survivor Jeff, now 6 years of age to join me in retirement. I must publicly thank my boss for his decision. Survivor Jeff and I had some great times and adventures in our retirement, and Jeff's working talents were utilised within the IGP dogsport scheme.

When Survivor Jeff turned 11 in May 2018, he was fit, active and still loving life. He was occasionally limping due to arthritis which was managed with anti-inflammatory medication. In July, I took him to the vet for a checkup and anti-inflammatory medication. But as we didn't see any improvement, we did an x-ray some days later. Survivor Jeff had a fused disc in his cervical spine area. I was making plans to take him to Canberra for an MRI but the night before he collapsed while eating dinner. It was then I made the toughest but best decision a handler can make for his best mate. The following day, I lifted Survivor Jeff into the back of his ute and drove him to our vet, Sean who was as devastated as me to put Survivor Jeff into his final rest. Four years on, and I still miss him every day.

Rest in Peace my beautiful and loyal shadow
– PD Survivor Jeff 🐾



My track to Sydney Dogsport Club

KATHERINE KELLY

It's a crisp winter morning. The sun's just come up and a light breeze ruffles the grass. I'm sitting on the ground in a field where I've studded uneven numbers of my footsteps with tiny pieces of cheese. I'm prepared to stop random birds or dog walkers from disturbing the track that's been ageing for 15 minutes already. I know I look really strange, guarding a vacant piece of land, but that's the point. Stay away from here! Every so often I hear a doggy squeal of excitement from the direction of my car. Georgie knows we're about to do her favourite thing in the world. If someone had told me two years ago that this would now be one of my favourite things to do, I wouldn't have believed it.

Like so many other people in 2020, my husband and I acted on our long-held goal of getting a dog. Having grown up with a beautiful German Shepherd, I was really excited to have another one. We did our research and contacted a number of breeders. We finally found our way to Anna and Paul Jones in June. I remember watching Anna do amazing things with her dogs thinking, "I could never do that!". We were fortunate enough to be considered suitable owners for one of the Jones' puppies, and Georgie came home with us a couple of weeks

later. We did a couple of different training classes with her, and I got addicted to working with her and teaching her new skills.

It became clear to me that we had a dog with way more potential than I had skills as a handler. Watching her energy, her laser focus on toys and her desire to track every scent she could find, I really wanted to learn more skills to make the most of those innate characteristics. After watching the 2021 National Championships I decided that joining a club and learning from experienced handlers was exactly what Georgie and I needed. Alas, this realization was followed almost immediately by several months of Sydney lockdown.

We finally made it to Sydney Dogsport Club at the end of 2021 and I'm so glad we did. It's an absolute privilege to learn from someone as experienced as Sanne Pedersen. I'm fascinated by the process of developing complex behaviours from instinctive and basic tasks, and how to shape behaviours through a hierarchy. We're still novices, but I'm proud of what Georgie and I have achieved in 6 months. I've always loved spending time with my dog, but as I learn more handling skills, our relationship and the quality of our time together is even better. Now my favourite time of day is first thing in the morning when we track or work on obedience through play.

Now I'd better go - my track's ready! 🐾

Karma K9

BY VICE PRESIDENT JEREMY WIKNER

Karma K9 Inc. is the sole IGP dog sport club in Canberra, ACT.



The club started out as a small group of enthusiastic handlers who wanted to be involved in a dog sport that was uncompromising in its difficulty and provided their dogs' with the opportunity to express their full genetic potential in a safe and structured way. Current club President, Luca Campanella, established the club based upon his years of experience competing and decoying in Italy, and he provided instruction and guidance endlessly in the beginning and still to this day six years later. Within our first year of starting the club we had multiple BH successes and our venerable and honorary (KK9) Vice-President, Dizzy, achieved her SPr 1. A great start for a club of only four people in its beginning. Since then, we have grown exponentially into a club with over twenty active members and a significant waiting list we wish we could support to enter the sport.

The club is predominantly made up of German Shepherd Dogs (and their human handlers of course) however, there are also several Belgian Malinois, Dobermans, Rottweilers, and a few other breeds such as (but not limited to) a Dalmatian and a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever.

Karma K9 focusses entirely on the promotion of the IGP sport in Australia, and we welcome guests to come see our training sessions from other disciplines on occasion for the purpose of building community and creating more understanding between the various dog sport disciplines. Some of our trainers are working dog vendors to police and military organisations who offer a perspective on the character test that creates a more strategic mindset - that this sport isn't just a sport for the physical and mental welfare of working dogs, but a breed test that helps ensure working dog supply for the future in this country. It is this strategic awareness which

underpins our mindset and focus to collaborate with others and be kind.

Karma K9 is affiliated with Working Malinois Australia Inc, but we were very excited to apply to become a kindred club of WGSDCA. Given the size of the IGP sport in its totality in Australia, we are motivated to build links with other organisations that are passionate about the sport of IGP and the preservation of the workability of breeds like the GSD and the Belgian Malinois. Creating more opportunities to trial under other Australian IGP licensed judges is also another big benefit of the kindred club membership which we value and appreciate.

What we are hoping to gain from this kindred membership to WGSDCA is the establishment of an even stronger IGP community, and to strengthen our linkages closer to our region in Canberra and its surrounds. Our membership to Working Malinois Australia is a geographically distant one and presents some limitations in terms of workshop opportunities and trialling, particularly during the COVID border closures. The recent fuel price increases have also caused some legitimate issues for some of our members being able to afford to travel to Queensland at times for trials, competitions, workshops, etc. The opportunity to trial and attend workshops in a reciprocal manner is one that we believe will enable greater development of handlers skills within clubs, and further the sport of IGP in Australia in general.

We are very grateful to have the kindred membership be approved by WGSDCA. Our recent Karma K9 club trial judged by the fantastic Sanne Pedersen is a promising start to the type of future we would like to see - a future where there is mutual support and collaboration between clubs and organisations. 🐾



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY WILD DOG PHOTOGRAPHY

Kindred Club Membership of WGSDCA

Fenrir Dogsport Club Inc. was established in 2016 as an IGP dog sport club with the goal of developing teams and individuals to reach their highest potential.

Our intent was and is to provide members, with access to world class trainers and helpers, and club level support to achieve their competitive goals. We aim to provide inclusive trials utilising international judges and helpers, inviting the Australian IGP fraternity come together to compete, socialise and support one another in an inclusive environment. We have been fortunate and take pride in the fact that IGP dog sport enthusiasts from other associations have felt comfortable to come along to our trials and training events.

Today, our member base comprises of a large number of competitive IGP and ANKC teams, along with several members who are new to the sport. The breeds our members train vary, from Malinois, German Shepherd and Dutch Shepherd, Rottweiler and occasional other breeds. Fenrir members' aspirations range from successfully competing in their first BH to success on the national and international championships fields. Fenrir members have competed at events run by both Working Malinois Australia and Schutzhund Australia prior to being able to be a part of WGSDCA activities.

When WGSDCA made it possible for members of other associations to compete at their events, it opened the door to many of our (Fenrir members) GSD owner/trainers to trial at their breed specific National Championships; as well as increasing the options for non GSD owner/trainers to compete as well. This made our choice quite simple. We could maintain our club identity, participate in well organised competitions and also support the WGSDCA teams that earned the chance to compete at their World Championships. All of these developments are in line with the Fenrir Code of Conduct and Mission Statement.

Fenrir Dogsport Club is looking forward to the future, confident that the more we work together across the various association, the greater our progress will be, not only as individual teams but also, IGP dog sport in Australia. 🐾



PHOTO SUPPLIED BY WILD DOG PHOTOGRAPHY



2022 National in photos

WILD DOG PHOTOGRAPHY



Judge: SV Judge Herr Horst Dieter Träger,
Helpers: Mr Shane Asanuma, Mr Nicky Kuipers, Mr Luca Campanella and Apprentice Judge: Mr Istvan Lakatos







Our National winners

*IGP 3 and Australia's 2022 WUSV World Championship qualifier.
Glynis Hendricks and Haveloc Fynn*



*IGP 2
Sanne Pedersen and Kanikular Blast of Bindee*



*IGP 1
Lacey Taylor and Nordenstamm Ellie*





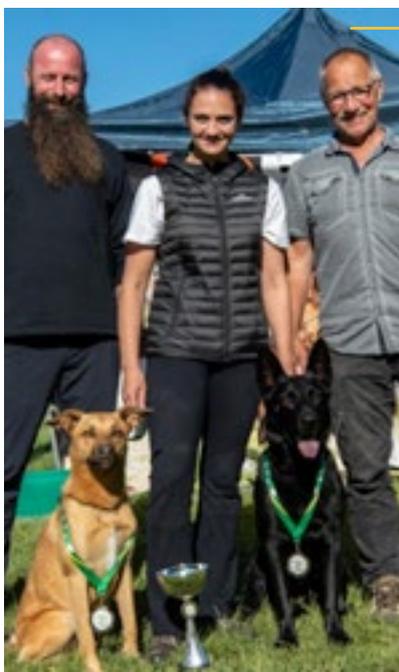
*IFH-V
Julie Ulbrich and
Kayrossi Prime Suspect*



*FPr 3
Lyn Ellerton and
Haveloc Chanz*



*FPr 2
Henna Kuusisto and
Pampard Phirst Home*



*FPr 1
Lauren Bucksath and
Shadow*

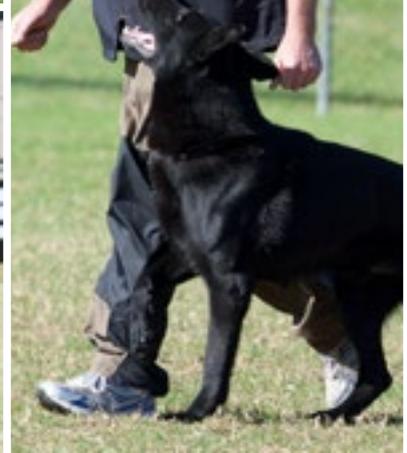


*UPr 3
Julie Ulbrich and
Vomambach Cracker*

Celebrating 20 years of IPO/IGP Nationals











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