



April 2022

Welcome

Well the 2022 trial season has started and it has been very enjoyable to see everyone. We are lucky to be able to continue with our sport within the limits of Covid 19 and that ever changing situation.

This is the first edition for 2022 and also my first edition since taking on the newsletter from Jane Dorrell. Thanks Jane for your handover notes to help me on my way. I hope to develop the newsletter with each issue. If you've got ideas for what to include in the newsletter, interesting snippets that you've found or photos that you would like to share with the membership please email newsletter@westaustralianworkingsheepdogs.com.au

This is your newsletter, we hope to hear from you ALL.

In this edition you'll find two feature articles; one on the experience of trialling for the first time and the other is the first installment in a series on great sheepdogs past and present. Six dogs have been suggested so far, let me know what dogs you think should be on the list.

Special thanks to Nan Lloyd and Simon Wallace for permission to use their photos originally posted on the WAWSDA Facebook page.

Des Davies

(with assistance by Sarah de B)



Three time state champion: Glenview Spotty

WAWSDA members suggested to interview Tony Boyle as part of the focus article on great dogs past & present, Tony agreed to an interview.

Glenview Spotty was Tony's special bitch who became the foundation of the Boylee breed line. She was out of a litter of five, from Doug Connor breed lines who gave the dam & sire to Jeff Blight who bred the litter. Tony remembers she was the runt of the litter, a little sick and underweight for no obvious reason. Tony questioned whether he should take the bitch home, but as she was the only one left in the litter and he liked the way the puppy's parents worked sheep, he did.

So, the journey and history making of this puppy started after two weeks when the puppy's health improved. Tony discussed how Spotty loved to play with any toy, but balls were her favourite and with Tony's guidance, he would throw the ball and name the direction. Spotty loved this game and at the same time direction commands were being trained. Tony explained this is known as 'dry training' and trainers may use food as the reward treat, but for Spotty a ball was the only item required. The first time Tony became aware of her ability was at 3 months of age on the back of the ute. Spotty ignored a mob of 500 sheep as she was too busy eating a bone. However, it was a different encounter on his return trip. Spotty decided it was her turn to become involved with the other dogs and moved a mob of 500 sheep. On reflection Tony thought she may have what it takes to become a good sheep dog.

At thirteen months old Spotty won her first open trial and won yard, utility, brace and three sheep trials. She was a television star when a challenge from a TV company was on offer to move 150 sheep through Claremont to the Royal Showgrounds. Jeff Blight and his lead dog Rex were out front with Tony and Spotty at the rear working their way through the public, buildings and traffic to arrive at the destination without losing a sheep.

Tony stated that Spotty had a natural gift, so his job was to add the finishing touches to her natural ability. The only aspect that Tony was concerned about was her cast. She had the distance, but Tony thought she was too straight. He decided to train that aspect by setting up a ring lock fence on the right and left with a gap at 6 and 12 o'clock. He'd cast her on the outside of the fence so she would move in an arch and then command her to stop at 12 o'clock. Then with Tony's instruction she could come through the gap to work the sheep. Tony was now happy with Spotty, she was simply perfect.

Tony bred Spotty to a three different dogs but he never got the puppy that he was looking for. Then he bred Glenview Spotty & Glenview Loftie and the litter became known as the 'golden litter'. This mating produced four puppies. Tony kept two puppies called Pepper and Salty, Ken Atherton took one puppy called Doug and Carolyn Bell had one called Clyde. All this litter demonstrated their expert skills which earned them the affection and reputation as the 'golden litter.' Tony with Pepper and Ken with Doug were open champions and Western Australia state representatives for national competition in the eastern states. The eastern states sheepdog committee in conjunction with the 2000 Sydney Olympic games hosted a demonstration of a three-

sheepdog trialling which was broadcast worldwide and showcased Australian working sheepdogs.

Glenview Spotty was the foundation bitch for Tony's breeding. All his dogs/bitches, when traced back, return to Spotty. In Tony's words, "If I find another Spotty, I'd be incredibly happy. I am always on the lookout."

I would like to thank Tony for giving up his time and providing the photographs.

NEXT EDITION: Ivan Solomon with his special bitch Perangery Jill.





Not bad for a pound dog



When you're new to trialling there's a lot to know and none of it is second nature. No matter how many times you read the rules, it's different when you get out there. Petra Guse talks about completing in her first trial.

When I brought a skinny, terrified little black kelpie home from the pound, I had no idea that years later we would be entering our first sheepdog trial together, and that working sheep would turn her into a dog happy to sleep 23 hours a day (when not working)! After moving to Australia, I fell in love with the kelpies I met socially, and I knew I'd signed up for a high energy, wickedly smart dog. For the first few years we had a ball trying out any and every dog sport around, and then decided to give herding a go. To be honest I didn't really like it at first- too much shuffling around a pen in circles muttering directions that Mouse clearly thought were a load of rubbish, since she already knew what she was doing. But gradually things came together, and we started being able to move sheep in some sort of pattern around a paddock (providing one took the obstacles as "merely suggestions" and ignored the fact that these were very well-trained sheep). Over time and countless repetitions Mouse gradually started acknowledging that I might have something to say about where we were taking the sheep, and it all became a bit of an addictive partnership.

No amount of training in the paddock prepares you for that first trial though, it really is a whole different world! To start off with the ground felt absolutely huge, even though it's one of the smaller ones. Then there's the million things to keep in mind once the buzzer goes off ("don't stop walking, don't trip up, don't forget where you're going next, watch the sheep") as well as the thrill of seeing what sheep are going to come bouncing through the let out. My original goal for my first go had been to get the sheep into the circle without losing them over a fence or being trampled in public. Unfortunately, my mental planning hadn't really gone beyond that, so I was caught a bit unawares when Mouse and sheep arrived in the circle without a major mishap. The walk back to the other end of the grounds seemed to take an eternity, and was accompanied by several sharp shoves in my back from Simon, since apparently both walking and watching sheep at the same time is more of a challenge than I realised. It was almost surreal to arrive at the second winding pole and have an obstacle in front of me, and after completing the race I was so flustered I very nearly stepped off in the opposite direction to the bridge. Completing the course was probably the biggest buzz I've ever had, and definitely set me up for long term addiction to the sport.

I think having the opportunity for beginners to go out the first few times in a lower pressure environment with support is invaluable, as without the back prodding, a sharp grab on the back of my coat before I walked off in the wrong direction, and some not so quiet muttering about my incompetence, we would have had no chance of completing the course, and that initial taste of success (even though it wasn't achieved solo) was absolutely thrilling. Taking what we learnt in training and seeing how it works on the trial ground also really clarified the 'picture' for me in terms of

what we are trying to do and gave me a great list of things to work on for the next season, where I hope to see what else the little pound dog can do!

A word from the President



WAWSDA AGM Presidents Report – Rodney Forsyth

AGM Friday 1st April 2022 Pingelly Recreation Arts and Cultural Centre

We were very lucky to have been able to complete all of the scheduled sheep dog trials during 2021 even with the occasional Covid 19 restrictions. With the Esperance club holding two trials at their new home ground in Pingelly and Great Southern club rescheduling their Albany trial to Muresk it was a busy trialling season. The Pingelly trial arena is a great set up thanks to the collaboration between the Esperance Working Sheep Dog Club and the Pingelly community. Hopefully we will be trialling there for many years to come.

Another positive for 2021 was the number of new members taking up the sport and having considerable success Congratulations to all the clubs' executives, workers and helpers for conducting some great sheep dog trials. Also special thanks to Gordon and Sara and Ken and Jenny for allowing us to trial on their properties.

Congratulations to Peter Gorman, Nigel Armstrong and Ken Atherton for winning the State Arena, State Yard, and State Utility titles for 2021 respectively.

As required by the Associations Incorporation Act 2015, a review of the old WAWSDA constitution was undertaken. Early in 2021 a sub committee was formed to update the constitution. At a special general meeting held at Ballidu in September more than seventy five percent of WAWSDA members voted to adopt the new constitution. That constitution was registered with the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Consumer Protection in October. Consumer Protection accepted the revised constitution though they found some errors which will require some minor changes for it to meet all the requirements of the Act.

I'd like a thank Jenny Atherton for her continued work as our Secretary/ Treasurer, Karen Buller our Yard and Utility Secretary, the members of the constitution review committee, all the Club delegates, members and workers for their continued support throughout the year.

Joan Gorman for Life Membership

I'm not sure exactly how long Joan has been involved in Central Districts but knowing Joan, she would have been involved as long as Peter, so 50+ years is my guess.

I remember when just after I started working for Peter and Joan on the farm at Ongerup in 1987, my first trial at Kojonup involved a convoy of 4 or 5 vehicles leaving Ongerup and heading for Kojonup. This many vehicles were needed to carry all the food Joan and her mum Ettie had spent the previous weeks preparing for the morning and afternoon teas. There was also the food for Joan's famous Saturday trial night meals. These behind the scenes contributions are the reason for Centrals very healthy bank balance. I would not like to guess how much money Joan's efforts raised in funds for the club.

Joan also taught me how to organise the draw for the trials in my early days. I clearly remember the fun I had trying to decipher the handwriting.

Joan's efforts to attend trials to assist their smooth running are second to none. Despite a hip replacement and broken wrists at different times Joan went against doctors orders and found a way to attend.

Joan has also stepped up to take on the Secretary and Treasurer roles at various times when called upon. As our current Treasurer, Joan has done an excellent job controlling the finances.

Joan's passion for the betterment of the club is second to none and is extremely deserving of this Life Membership Award.

Adrian Wise

Trial Results



Open Winners (L-R) : Peter Gorman (3rd with Lucy), Nigel Armstrong (first with Scope) and Tony Boyle (.2nd with Sugar and 4th with Midgit. Photo: Nan Lloyd)

Wagin Arena

Wagin Woolarama was cancelled due to Level 2 Restrictions shortly before the event, but that didn't stop the CSDSC from organising a three sheep trial from 9 March - 12 March. The trial attracted 163 entries across Encourage, Novice, Improver and Open.

For full report see click here [Wagin Arena 2022 – West Australian Working Sheepdogs Association](#)

Encourage

Robert Smith with Boonining Duck

Novice

1st Peter Gorman with Pandalup Lucy
2nd Rose Cassidy with Nolans Shana

3rd Nan Lloyd with Binnaburra Merlin
4th Jan Cornish with Bellevue Ted

Improver

1st Nan Lloyd with Kumbark Lexie
2nd Dave Lacey with Farnham Will
3rd Simon Leaning with Marionvale Di
4th Gordon Curtis with Kumbark Scotty

Open

1st Nigel Armstrong with Yarralonga Scope
2nd Tony Boyle with Boylee Sugar
3rd Peter Gorman with Pandalup Lucy
4th Tony Boyle with Boylee Midget



Open Winners (L-R) : Tanya de Bilj (3rd), Ivan Solomon (5th), Dave Lacey (2nd & 4th and Ken Atherton (1st)

DogPro Plus Mayanup Arena

Mayanup Arena was held across Friday 18 - Sunday 20 March. The scores seem to be suggesting it was tough out there on the trial ground!

For a full report see click here [Dogpro+ Mayanup Arena 2022 - West Australian Working Sheepdogs Association](#)

Encourage

Shelby Harries - Waterlea Tas

Novice

1st Robert Smith with Boonining Duck
2nd Ivan Solomon with Nolans Bart

3rd Ken Atherton with Ramulam Judy
4th Ken Atherton with Ramulam Lady

Improver

1st Ken Atherton with Ramulam Charlie
2nd Per Ostberg with Karridowns Zoftie
3rd David Lacey with Farnham Will
4th Robert Smith with Boonining Duck

Open

1st Ken Atherton with Ramulam Charlie
2nd Dave Lacey with Farnam Will
3rd Tanya de Bilj with Boylee Scout
4th Dave Lacey with Akoonah Holly



Dogpro Plus Tarwonga Yard and Utility Trail

The Tarwonga Yard and Utility trial was held across Thursday 7 April - Sunday 10 April.

For a full report click here [Dogpro Plus Tarwonga Yard & Utility – West Australian Working Sheepdogs Association](#)

Encourage

Tara Herbert with Marionvale Tess

Novice Utility

1st Karen Buller with Boonining Maisey

2nd Ken Atherton with Ramulam Pickles
3rd Blake Robinson with Ramulam Kick
4th Simon Leaning with Marionvale Andy

Open Utility

1st Gordon Curtis with Whites Joe
2nd Tanya de Bilj with Daleview Walley
3rd Simon Leaning with Marionvale Lad
4th Rod Forsyth with Kumbark Todd

Novice Yard

1st Gordon Curtis With Kumbark Scotty
2nd Ken Atherton with Ramulam Fella
3rd Ken Atherton with Ramulam Charlie
4th Simon Leaning with Marionvale Di

Improver Yard

1st Shelby Harries with Waterlea Tas
2nd Nan Lloyd with Binnaburra Merlin
3rd Alan Dunn with Small Change
4th Blake Robinson with Ramulam Kick

Open Yard

1st Alan Dunn with Gogetta Thor
2nd Nan Lloyd with Kumbark Ace
3rd Simon Leaning with Marionvale Lad
4th Rod Forsyth with Kumbark Todd

Interstate representatives

Len Morton represented WA for Dog of the Year at Port Fairy and placed equal fifth. Click [here](#) for results.

Well done Peter Gorman who came fourth in the National Championships in ACT with Pandalup Steel. There was only 5 points difference between 1 place and 4th. Click [here](#) for results and the image gallery links.

The Australian Yard dog championships were held at Cressy in Tasmania from the 6th to the 9th of April this year. WA's state rep was Nigel Armstrong. Nigel placed third in the Australian Yard Dog Open Championship.

1st - Aoidh Doyle - Cash 157.5

2nd - Kate Jubb - Woodja Cruise 152.5

3rd - Nigel Armstrong - Yarralonga Scope 150

4th - Robert Cox - Karrobar Bruiser 148.5

5th - Vin Gedye - Scoriochre Pontus 147.5

6th - Matthew Sherwood - Boco Wonder 137.5

Vale Judy Jones 28.12.21

by Caroline Bell

I met Judy through Bernie Jones at the Margaret River Hash House Harriers (running group). We were all part of group and became great friends.

Judy passed away just shy of her 71st birthday. She was a Type 1 diabetic and had many ups and downs with her health. Judy's funeral notice said, "wear something colourful" because that was Judy, she always had a smile for everyone and the colour matched her spirit for life.

I introduced Judy to trialling through a special dog, Alroy Kevin. He had a leg injury and every time he came back to work he would re-injure himself...so he was destined to lounge at Judy's where he had a lovely life and not competing with other dogs he eventually healed. Judy and Kevin had their first encourage at Wagin and Kevin scored 99, but as it was an encourage she could not keep that score. But Judy was certainly hooked on trialling from that moment well and truly.

Judy and Bernie put lots of effort into the Mayanup Working Sheep Dog Club and became a life member. They both did a lot of work when I left trialling especially at the Margaret River trial.

Judy always wished she could continue working dogs, but she became unwell and needed to stay near her four daughters in Perth and to be close to hospitals. Judy had a zest for life and it was lovely to have known her.



Announcements

Congratulations Ivan and Marge Solomon on your 60th wedding anniversary in February.

Northern Districts Arena Trial **will not** be held at Ballidu Sports Ground this year. It will be held at Rod Forsyth's

If you have some news or announcements to post in the newsletter please send your notices to newsletter@westaustraliaworkingsheepdogs.com.au and we'll publish it in the next newsletter.

property at Kellerberrin. The same dates apply ie 29 July - 31 July 2022.



Upcoming yard events

Northern Districts Yard & Utility
July 1 - July 3 2022
Binnaburra



Upcoming arena events

Stirling Arena
Kendenup Recreation Ground
May 20 - May 22 2022.

Favourite Photos from WAWSDA Facebook group



I love this photo because it looks so perfect.

Club Contacts

AN UP-TO-DATE CONTACT LIST IS MAINTAINED ON THE WAWSDA WEBSITE - CLICK ON THIS BUTTON TO GO THERE.

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Club Contacts

Northern Districts Working Sheep Dog Club

Home Grounds – Ballidu & Kellerberrin

NDWSDC 2022 Events

Binnaburra Y&U 1 July - 3 July
Kellerberrin Arena Trial (formally held at Ballidu) 29 July - 31 July
Dowerin Field Day Arena 24 August - 25 August.

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Frank Sutherland

Association Delegates

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Home Ground – Ongerup & Pingelly

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Secretary

Jill Wallace

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Great Southern Working Sheepdog Club

Home Grounds – Albany, Muresk (Northam) & Corrigin

Membership \$60.00, Newsletter \$10.00

President

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Many thanks to WAWSDA sponsor for their continued support.



xx kg bags available at all trialsdbfjhedbrfjhabfh



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