

Moira Sherwood

Imlay Long Hairs

'You're wearing a suit you know! 'Why do I have to wear a suit?' 'We are going to the Royal, you have to wear a suit.'

Sound familiar? Mother talking to small son? Wrong! Then who? When? Where?

Answer – My mother talking to her six foot plus son, retired policeman, respected businessman and potential millionaire – well there are now two shops – approaching the sunny side of fifty in Melbourne last year.

I was the child of a Dog Show Junkie. Beware Nicholas (Yardley) ... just such a fate awaits you. A dog show orphan! It's great when you know everyone at a country agricultural show by name. As a small child, as a larger child growing up, as a teenager I was dragged around the country to **Dog Shows** ... and guess what? She is still dragging me around the country to Dog Shows.

Guess who went to the National in Queensland? Yep, you've got it. None other than me. Me, who owns a proper dog, you know, one that comes up past the knee, one that doesn't continuously yap, one that does as he is told, and one that does not have a Gaelic name.

Yes, I tried Dachshunds, Child Handlers in fact but ... I didn't handle them properly. She really handled them better than me. So my Ring career was not long.

Imagine coming home, ready to flop, when the first thing you heard as you came through the door was

'No, no Moira, I think that that should go for Baby Puppy in Show.'

'No Rhonda, I don't, I think ...'

And there they were in the lounge room, the floor literally covered in precious things that some extraordinarily lucky exhibitor was going to win. My mother and Rhonda Phillips ... what a pair! This boy soon learnt to tiptoe over and around the piles and piles of trophies and make himself scarce.

Mother has an extraordinary knowledge about everything to do with Dachshunds. Visit her today ... she takes it for granted that you know all about every dog in the kennel. I'm very good at answering 'Yeah, yeah!'

She takes enormous pleasure when she wins, especially if it's a big win, like a Royal. This keeps her going. We are really very proud of her achievements. The high regard which her friends and fellow breeders hold for her is fantastic, a regard that I hope will protect me if I appear at the Show – I'll be the one in the trench coat and big hat – because I know that I'm going to have to pay for writing this.

Why am I writing all this? Why do I go to Queensland, not to lie on some beach in the sun? Why? Because she is Moira, my mother.

There is just one question that I'd like answered. *Why did we have to get dressed up for Dog Shows?*

Stephen Dunn

Dog Show Orphan

Moira commenced exhibiting Long Haired Dachshunds in the late '50s and has been actively involved in the dog world ever since.

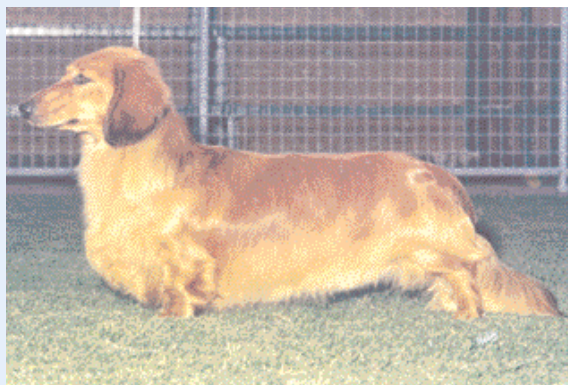
Her Imlay Longs have always been prominent in the show ring with the elegant Ch Imlay Treun Caileag (Brandy) ranking as one of the best long bitches we have seen in this country.

She was a Best in Show winner and won an incredible seven Royal Challenges, a feat that has never been bettered by a Long.

Moira imported the red dog, Ch Coobeg Summer Sun from the UK and 'Gilly' was to rule the roost at Imlay for many years. He was a great charmer.

Miniature Wires attracted Moira's attention and in 1978 she imported Redenhall Wild Rose and Ch Drakesleat Star Wars from the UK, and later acquired Ch Drakesleat Double Up. She exhibited her Mini Wires with success and the dog, Ch Imlay Cordierite, was probably the best of her Wires, particularly as a sire in Victoria, with Phyl Frederickson

Longs, however, have always been Moira's number one love and she has been enjoying great success with a litter sired by Australian and American Champion Boondox Jumping Jack Flash (imp USA) carrying all before her with three Champions from the one litter. Two males, Ch Imlay Olaghair and Ch Imlay Tearlach, both have Best Exhibit in Show awards to their credit – a truly fantastic effort! Moira recently imported Eng/Aust Ch Darsoms Zwagman (imp UK) and he has been a significant winner since his arrival.



Ch Coobeg Summer Sun (imp UK), here winning BOB Brisbane Royal 1975, 13 months on the day and just out of quarantine



Ch Imlay Stephanite Star Bitch Challenge Sydney Royal 1981

FOR THE RECORD
40 Long Haired Champions (bred/and or owned)
3 Malaysian Champions
15 Miniature Wire Haired Champion
1 New Zealand Champion
1 Saluki
1 Whippet



Moira (left) and Rhonda (right)

Rhonda Berge Phillips

Lohengrin Standard Longs

They come in every era - comets, shooting stars that, unfortunately, burn out before their time.

Such a comet was Rhonda Berge Phillips who crossed the Dachshund firmament for over 30 years - and left us, just nine years ago, with a record in the Dachshund world still unappreciated by many today who, probably unknowingly, have her to thank for the solid background to breeding lines still found in current pedigrees.

For a young woman who, at age 26 years, had never been allowed the

pleasure of owning a domestic animal of any kind Rhonda adopted my love of animals - and Dachshunds in particular - with an ardour that gradually built into a magnificent obsession.

I was introduced to Dachshunds at the age of ten when my eldest brother arrived home with a Wirehaired Dachshund of unknown pedigree who was promptly named Mops by my mother after Queen Victoria's (then) well-known Dachshund.

In 1945 I acquired my first Standard Smooth Lynder of Padoma (by Junker of Devon ex Ch Chinska of Padoma) who were both out of early imports to Australia from the famous Querns and Firs Kennels in England - and thus began my lifelong interest in the breed by showing Lynder at the 1946 Royal Easter Show.

It is that background that I brought with me when Rhonda and I were married in early 1956. Within weeks I took Rhonda to the 1956 Royal Easter Show (her first ever visit) to watch the judging of Dachshunds which were at the time one of the most popular breeds.

Late in 1956 I bought a Standard Smooth black and tan bitch, Fundac Cassima, from Claude and Marion Funnelle without telling Rhonda of my intentions. In about July 1957 we took Vicki (as she was called) to Manly and District All Breeds K C Show at Brookvale Oval to be shown for the first time. With Dachshunds at the top of their popularity there was a large entry of practically all black and tan Dachshunds. It was Rhonda's first ever show and after seeing all the other exhibits she pleaded with me: *Don't let Vicki off the lead as I'll never be able to recognise her among all these other dogs!*

At that first Show Vicki won Minor Puppy, Puppy and Reserve Challenge, lots of ribbons, cards and prizes - AND Rhonda WAS AWAY!

And from that somewhat reluctant beginning was born an enthusiast who probably has had more influence on the Dachshund breed generally and upon Standard Smooths and Standard Longs in particular than any other person before.

Rhonda turned her particular talents to good use and became an enthusiastic exhibitor, a top handler, an organiser and most significantly, a breeder of Dachshunds known and respected throughout not only the Australian Dachshund world but also in the U.K. and U.S.A., South Africa and Asia.

Whilst she was prominently involved in all aspects of the Dachshund breed she made her particular mark in breeding good Dachshunds. That was her real passion. To win in the show ring was good; but to breed a better example of the breed than the last generation was what it was all about.

Ch Fundac Cassima, mated to the prolific sire Ch Silvae Keepsake (imp UK) produced the outstanding Ch Lohengrin Black Velvet who, the first of a long line of Lohengrin champions, went on to sire a number of champions.

In 1964 we moved Lohengrin Kennels to Dural, some forty kilometres out of Sydney, where we were able to establish quality kennels and breeding facilities for what had, by this time, become the dominant interest in Rhonda's life.

Our first import, Ch Womack Wright Royalshow (imp. UK) [Simon], bred by Bob & Rene Gale in England proved to be not only a spectacular show exhibit, going on to win BIS All Breeds at Melbourne Royal Show from an entry in excess of 4,000 under English Judge, Judy de Casembrook in 1966, but also the most dominant Standard Smooth sire since Ch Silvae Keepsake (imp UK) in the 1950s.

Simon's influence on the Standard Smooths was profound, being used extensively at stud, siring no less than 43 champions and placing Lohengrin at the forefront of Standard Smooth dachshund kennels.

During those early years Rhonda had expressed a great interest in Standard

Below and right
Ch Lohengrin Red Ribbons

