

Camp Tailwaggers



We had a great day - grey and overcast so not as hot as predicted. Judge and Trialler Garry Somerville and his fabulous Goldies spent the morning in the ring covering puppies and Novice. We had 2 hours off for lunch so campers could have a lie down or go on a rainforest walk. After lunch we had an open forum and people fired questions at Garry mostly on judging and then he brought individual dogs and handlers into the ring for a 'pick' session. It is a great way to learn by watching someone in a ring and have a judge explain why things are not right - etc. Dinner and rest time followed by doggie trivia round the huge bonfire in teams and some cheating going on too! The bonfire was still going the next morning... We cooked breakfast for everyone in the marquee - Tony got the Sunday papers for everyone - so all campers happy!!

Sunday morning was spent in the ring with Garry and his Goldies demonstrating and teaching Open and UD. Some of the Judges came down from Brisbane and about 35 in all sitting under the marquee by the side of the ring. Then he took individual dogs and handlers into the ring and explained the exercises as they worked. He gave very good tips and help to quite a few people (particularly folk from up north Gladstone way who have no help or experience in that neck of the woods).

After lunch we were going to play games in the main ring, but it was too hot (even though overcast) so we opted to take convoys down to our huge dam and let the dogs (and people) have a swim. We have an old land rover and Tony took loads up and down. About 20 dogs had an absolute ball swimming and chasing frisbees into the water - but were they startled and surprised as Tony came soaring down the hill on the flying fox and landed in the dam - that started a trend and lots of people did the flying trick.

Garry and Ella had a lovely time sitting under the trees watching the dogs playing and having a ball. No-one wanted to go home and at 4pm. the Gladstone folk tore



themselves away as they had a 9 hour drive home - to work the next day!! With many hands we pulled down the marquees and cleared up the whole place in less than an hour - marvellous.

We were sorry to see them go - Garry is without doubt one of the greatest dog trainers and handlers around. I had to take photos of him with 10 Goldies surrounding him (his 4 and our 6) and he had a little bit of left over bolognaise and was patiently giving each one a tiny bit on a fork. They were also delighted that their 4 male entire Goldies have spent the past week with our Goldies in the house paddock, dam and all in the house at the same time and just been the best bunch - Shortly after that he was up the paddock rolling around on the grass with his 4 dogs delightedly jumping all over him. All this with an 82 year old man!!!

And so an end to Camp Tailwaggers for this year - what will we plan for next year - I wonder???? Three camps are planned for March, July and November with top presenters - watch our web site www.coolangattapetmote.com

Ann and Tony Bulke

