

Bearded Collie of NSW Inc Specialty



BEST IN SHOW
Ch Oakcrest Rum Runner



RUNNER UP TO BEST IN SHOW
Ch Bonibraes Charm N Star

In December 2002, Australia was privileged to have a visit from Chris Walkowicz and her husband Ed from the USA.

Chris is an award-winning author, having published more than 800 articles and columns in all the major canine publications. She has also authored or co-authored eight books. Chris and Ed began showing Bearded Collies in 1977. AKC judging was added to Chris's agenda in 1995. She judges all the breeds in the Herding group, several Working breeds, Junior Showmanship, Miscellaneous, and Best in Show. Chris is involved in many other facets of the dog world including being Vice President of the Bearded Collie Health Foundation (BeaCon), Chair of the Bearded Collie Club of America Illustrated Standard Committee and Chair of BCCA Judges Education.

The Bearded Collie Club of NSW Inc was fortunate in contracting Chris to judge a Championship Show on Saturday evening 7 December at Erskine Park. The presence of such a renowned Specialist judge drew the Club its largest entry of Beardies for ten years with entries received from NSW, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and New Zealand. Visitors also came from Western Australia. Although the weekend was particularly bad for bush fires in and around Sydney, most exhibitors were able to attend, with some from the North Coast finding new routes into Sydney.

The show commenced at 6pm with a Parade of Veterans: the oldest at over 16 years was Lynda Brandt's Ch Keiramyst Cassandra Rose. She was followed by: Julie Wardell's Ch Mirdath Pipers Dream who was 15 years old; Ruatha Flying Circus owned by Angela Dillon who was 13 years and at 11 years, Can/Am/Aust Ch Classical Clap For the Wolfman ROM (Imp Can) owned by Tim & Karin Finlayson and Ch

Parade of Veterans



National Dog - The RingLEADER Way

Llanddona Diarmid (imp NZ) owned by Julie Wardell. The "baby" of the group was Ch Ruatha Bohemian Rhapsody CDX ET, owned by Sharon Roche, who was only 8 years old. Each of these precious oldies has made their own special mark on the lives of their owners and some are well represented in the pedigrees of the younger Beardies that were to follow in the ring later in the evening.

Soon it was time for the serious business as judging of the dog classes began. The Open Dog class was a delight to behold as nine well-credentialed boys fought to be placed on a peg. Veteran Dog, followed this class before the seven class winners lined up for the first big award of the evening – Challenge Dog. Chris awarded this to Annette Innes' Ch Oakcrest Rum Runner from the Open Class. "Bundy" went on later to take out Best in Show. Reserve Dog was Tim and Karin Finlayson's Bonibraes Bound To B A Star from the Intermediate Dog Class.

Time now for the tea break where the NSW exhibitors and friends treated the judge, officials, visitors and interstate exhibitors to a gastronomical feast of cold meats, salads & fruit topped off by a magnificent torte and traditional Christmas cake. Those who still had to run around the ring were perhaps a little slower after tea!

Under lights it was time for the bitches to strut their stuff. Chris awarded Bitch Challenge and Runner-up in Show to Tim and Karin Finlayson's Intermediate bitch, Ch Bonibraes Charm N Star who was very capably handled on the evening by Blake Wistuba. Reserve Bitch and Australian Bred in Show was Donna Ellwood's Ch Bonbon Sterling Anivrsy.

Minor in Show was awarded to Sharon Roche's Ulara The Luck Dragon, Puppy in Show to Lyndall and Jim Black's Briarmist Heaven Forbid and Junior in Show to Jessica Buckley and L and J Black's Briarmist Glenfiddich. Veteran in Show was the Black's Gr Ch Bendale Sun Lover (imp UK).



Reserve Dog
Bonibraes
Bound To B A Star



Reserve Bitch
Ch Bonbon Sterling Anivrsy

The first presentation was to Chris from the NSW Club - an original painting by Lynne Mehan of "Tootsie", one of Chris' favourite Beardies. This artwork was also featured on the cover of the commemorative catalogue. The catalogue also listed the winners of all Bearded Collie Club of NSW Shows since the Club's first show in April 1979, along with resumes of the Veterans paraded and Kennel Advertising. Beautiful crystal and glass trophies were then presented along with the Club's Perpetual trophies and product supplied by the show's sponsor, Supercoat.

Lynda Brandt



Veteran in Show
Gr Ch Bendale Sun Lover (Imp UK).

I was honored to be invited to judge your specialty show. I appreciate the fact that you went to a great deal of trouble to change your dates to coincide with our trip. Your hospitality was superb.

Beautiful dogs, friendly people, wonderful food, what more could one ask? My husband, Ed, and I were astounded at your grounds. What a great place for a show! Your trophies are gorgeous. We were absolutely speechless when you gave us the awesome portrait of our sweet Tootsie. (She's 15 on the 27th.) And to put her picture on the catalogue, I had to choke back tears.

But first came the dogs — lovely and bouncy and happy. Even the Parade of Veterans showed our oldsters to be happy and full of that wonderful joie de vivre, as old as 16 years of age! I find that Beardies are similar in the areas I've judged: the US, Australia, New Zealand, and Finland. I never look at a Beardie and say, "Is this a ????" I always know it's a Beardie, and they all have those wonderful eyes that seem to look right into your soul. Overall, I was very pleased with the quality of the dogs Down Under.

Generally the things I look for are type, good expression, with a strong backskull and muzzle of proper lengths, good shoulder reach with a balanced rear, coat texture, flowing lines, muscle tone, proper tailset, level back, and bone with substance, i.e., not shelly. My winners look like they

could work.

Most bites were good. As elsewhere in the world, the breed is not showing the ideal layback of shoulder and therefore lacks a bit in front reach. Pasterns and feet are strong. Most of the adults had good forechests. Although the breed should not have a prosternum that sticks out like a Corgi's, it should have some. Overall, I was very pleased with the quality of your dogs.

It was a pleasure to judge your show and your lovely dogs.

Chris Walkowicz

January 2003

