

# A Wow of a Week of Whippets

What a Wow of a Week of Whippets it Was! Firstly, the two-day 4th Whippet World Congress on September 16 and 17, secondly the first Whippet National Championship Show on September 18 and 19 with 262 entries, and thirdly, the Royal Melbourne Show on Tuesday September 21, where Whippets topped the individual breed entries! To cap off a wonderful Whippet week, the 'Royal' Best of Breed winning Whippet finished Hound Group 2nd! Meanwhile, social activities and Whippet get togethers, like a trip to the wineries and the Healesville Wild Life Sanctuary, were organized in between to fill in any spare moments.

The affair was a huge task for a small band of workers. Not only the week itself, but also the planning that had been happening for ages. When we were contracted to do the video eighteen months ago, the plans were already well underway! Noreen Harris steered the ship and what a tight ship it was! Throughout the lead up and during the entire function itself, the reply to any question was 'ask Noreen'. And everybody did! To her credit she remained outwardly unflustered and patient with us all during the entire time.

Co-organiser Sue Delaney worked quietly behind the scenes and among her many tasks was the catalogue. The mind boggles at the work of listing some 262 Whippets, each with a four-generation pedigree! Together with pages of full colour advertisements, this catalogue is not only a collector's item, but it must certainly be a Whippet pedigree researcher's dream for years to come!

No function of this scale could happen without a supportive committee. Peter More did an amazing job as Treasurer, juggling monies from all directions, taking entries and generally looking after the purse whilst keeping his cool. At the functions, John Thompson was Noreen's right hand man, not only as Ring Steward during the entire Show, but also on the scene at the Congress. The ever-reliable Secretary, Rae Mitchelson, and the rest of the Committee worked very hard as well. Each attended to their allocated job both before and during the function in a totally professional manner. I apologise that I cannot single out everybody. But, due to each and every one of you, everything went extremely smoothly.

The entire affair was held at the 'International', a Conference centre just outside Lilydale some 40 kilometres east of Melbourne, and picturesquely set among hills. On the eve of the Congress, the overseas visitors who had already arrived in Lilydale enjoyed a 'Welcome' in the upstairs bar area. This got the week off to a cheery start. The next day, the Congress began in earnest in a room containing all professional acoustic and lecture facilities, as well as comfortable seating. Next door was a constant flow of tea and coffee, and the excellent cuisine was served. Attendees were greeted at the door with a bag of 'goodies' that included lecture notes from each speaker. The Conference covered all sorts of interesting subjects, both veterinary and breed specific, plus a pictorial history of the importation of these attractive sight hounds into Australia. I particularly enjoyed the discussion on the breed standard in

which opinions on all sorts of technical aspects of the breeds were fully debated by everyone. It is interesting indeed, to get an American opinion, an Asian one, a Scandinavian one, the South African one, the UK point of view, and of course opinions from our neighbours, New Zealand.

Combined with input from our best-known Australian breeders, this discussion was extremely entertaining and lively. I felt this session particularly reflected what World Congresses are all about.

At the conclusion of the first day of the Congress, the 'Contest of Winners' was held at a formal dinner. 20 Whippets qualified by winning a Challenge at certain nominated Speciality and Royal Shows during the past year. 18 competed on the night. It always adds to the atmosphere to get dressed up in formal attire. This was well attended and judged by three 'mystery' Whippet Specialists. These were Cathy Gaidos from USA, Ian Smith from New Zealand and Vanna Skelly from UK. Photos of the winners appear separately.

Then came the Championship Show that was held underneath the 'International' in a light and airy roofed, well-sheltered car parking area. The hilly surrounds made it a picturesque spot, despite the climb to the judging ring that seemed to get steeper as the day wore on! However, adequate seating was provided and appreciated. The bar close to the ring made a meeting place for those not-so-dedicated patient partners who accompany enthusiasts on these long hauls! Tea and coffee was always available, as well as food platters at lunchtime plus at the 'happy hour' held after the show. These thoughtful extras make such a long event so much more enjoyable for all who attended.

The results appear photographically. One might say a Show is a Show but what a difference to the spectacle having some ten separate overseas judges officiating! The prime judging spot of the 166 strong bitch entry plus General Specials was the responsibility of Mrs Mary Lowe from the UK. Her experience was obvious when it came to sorting out classes of up to 33 Whippets! Judging the dog classes up to and including Challenge Dog was the task of Mr Magnus Hagstedt from Sweden. He had a very slick, consistent ring technique that was interesting to watch.

90 Special Classes entries were judged by Mrs Iva Kimmelman from USA. The Futurity Sweepstakes 6 - 9 months were in the capable hands of Eva Ekstam from New Zealand, the 9 - 12 months puppies were judged by Diana Hansen from South Africa, and Merle Powley also from New Zealand judged the 12 - 15 months class. Then, the three ladies gave a combined decision between these three class winners for the Best Exhibit in the Futurity Sweepstakes. Finally, Shirley Rawlings from UK chose an additional winner of the Australasian Sweepstakes.

All the winners now have marvellous ribbons, rosettes and trophies. These crystal trophies, laser etched with not only the National logo, but also the name of the judge and the award, provide a wonderful memory for the successful exhibitors. For those who could only admire the trophies, these reflected the attention to detail that made it such a special and memorable weekend. For those who missed all or part of the proceedings, don't worry - it was all professionally recorded on video! Congratulations to everyone who played a part in the Wow of a Week of Whippets.

JANE HARVEY



Challenge Bitch and Best In Show  
Ch Statuesque Scarpetta



Reserve Challenge Bitch  
Ch Peperone Love Of Gold



Dog Challenge and RUBIS  
Ch Peperone Solid Gold



Reserve Challenge Dog  
Ch Swd/Nor/Dan/Fin Int Ch  
Statuesque Extortion (iid)

Show Photos Rob Russell  
Logo & Trophy photos Rangeaire Vision



Best Baby Puppy in Show  
Baronrath Starry Night (left) and  
Opp Baby Leytesa Tay Lamayd (right)



Best Minor Puppy in Show  
Alltalk On Angels Wings (left)  
Opp Puppy Marchpast The Emblem (imp UK) (right)



Best Puppy in Show  
Martinique Ballyfergal (left)  
Opp Puppy Martinique Bally Bronze (right)



Best Junior in Show  
Tezer Feel Free To Stare (left)  
Opp Junior Alltalk Moon Dance



Best Intermediate in Show  
Daneson Storm Cloud (right)  
and Ch Sheberghan Silk Road



Best Australian Bred in Show  
Ch Martinique Bally Brogue (left)  
and Ch Byerley To The Manor Born

