

PEDIGREE JUNIOR HANDLERS AUSTRALIAN FINAL 2006 RNSWCC Spring Fair

Judge Steve Greer (NZ)
Steve was introduced to the Dog Show fraternity by his parents, both of whom are judges and have been breeding and showing Shetland Sheepdogs for 35 years. Steve began showing Shelties at age five in both the All Breeds ring and Junior Handlers, first winning the All Breeds Best In Show with a Sheltie at age 17, he also titled the first NZ Grand Champion Sheltie. Steve has successfully campaigned more than 18 breeds to Champion titles. In 1990 Steve was a finalist at Crufts representing NZ, Steve's many achievements include being the only person in NZ to show Westminster, Melbourne Royal, Crufts and NZ Kennel Club National at the Melbourne Royal several times at breed levels. He also trained under Peter Green (2005 Crufts winner) a professional and respected handler in the USA in Greensville Pennsylvania.

Competing in all Pedigree Blue Ribbon/Pro Plan Premier Awards open to any dog that has a BIS All Breeds within the year, Steve has been runner up three times. Campaigning Rottweilers since 2001, Steve has successfully campaigned three top Rottweilers to their NZ Grand Champion titles. Steve also handled the Rottweiler who won the 1st NZ Rottweiler National. Most recently a USA import to Australia in 14 months. Also during this time he has successfully campaign his Border Collie to NZ Grand Champion.

Judging the NZ Pedigree National Junior Handlers Final in 2000, since judging heats both in the North & South Islandes, Steve is honoured to be judging the Pedigree National Junior Handlers Final today. Outside the dog world Steve enjoys jet skiing, motorbike riding and spending time with his lovely wife and children. Steve also has a business Lenden specialising in hair colour and retail from Barcelona, in Spain. Steve would like to congratulate all State Final winners for coming this far competing in the Australian National Final you should all be proud of yourselves as you are all winners.

1. Nicole Hammond Qld - German Shepherd
Nicole was born into the Dog World having attended her first dog show at only three years old. She began handling dogs and showing different breeds at ten years of age. Nicole first showed a Basenji and has since handled over 40 different breeds in all seven groups. Nicole has a natural ability and excellent rapport with dogs and looks forward to a career with dogs enjoying all aspects such as their health, welfare, nutrition, grooming, training and handling. Her favourite breeds are German Shepherds and Siberian Huskies. Nicole is a trainee vet nurse becoming fully qualified in the coming weeks. Nicole is extremely proud to represent Qld at this Pedigree national Final.

2. Victoria Baxter WA - American Cocker Spaniel
Victoria began showing at five with her Mum's Australian Silky Terriers, since titling several breeds. First competing in Junior Handlers at age ten, Victoria's highlight so far is being awarded State Final winner this year. Victoria has handled Poodles, Portugese Water Dogs, Gordon Setters, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and American Cocker Spaniels. Victoria's future aspirations include becoming a judge and continuing to held younger junior handlers. Victoria would like to thank Michelle Roberts, Helena Fitzgerald, Tracy Mol and her loving mum who without, she would never have gone this far. To all junior handlers Victoria wishes all the very best.

3. Emily-Kate Furlong NSW - Chihuahua (Smooth)
Emily started competing in Junior Handlers in 2001 but the love affair with the dog world starting long before. First showing at age seven with a toy poodle. Emily had not looked back, moving from Qld to

NSW in 2001 she learnt more rapidly and began handling seriously. When moving into Senior Class she never dreamt of making a National Final and is honoured to be representing her state. Emily's favoured breed are Chihuahua's and Papillon's and away from the dog world she loves writing and photography, rarely leaving home without her camera and a roll of film. Emily would like to wish all handlers the best of luck today.

4. Jason O'Mahony NT - Dobermann
Representing the Northern Territory for the second year in a row Jason began handling at nine years of age with a Schnauzer. He predominately shows Labradors, German Shepherds and Shiba Inus and after last years success has had many more invitations to handle for breeders. Currently finishing Year 12 and looking to enter the Army, Jason has not put aside the idea of becoming a Vet. Jason is also a volunteer fire fighter and spends most weekends showing dogs. Jason would like to thank everyone that has helped him to this point.

5. Clare Tyler Victoria - Shetland Sheepdog
Clare showed her first dog at just 4 years old and has since had great success in both Junior Handlers and the conformation ring. Finishing top three in the State finals for the past seven years and Runner's up twice Clare is finally here to represent Victoria in 2006. Clare has shown a variety of dogs to some wonderful awards including Best In Show, Group placements at Royal shows and this year a group first at the Royal Melbourne Show! Clare spends almost every weekend at a dog show, showing not only her own German Shepherd, but many other breeds. She is in Year 9 at Oxley College and any spare time is spent on the basketball court.

6. Kayla Maher Tasmania - Siberian Husky
Kayla's passion for dogs began at three with her first pet dog and she began showing in 2003 with her aunty Tracey, who owns Shiba Inus and Siberian Huskies. Kayla exhibited a Shiba Inu who she titled in 2003 and has since handled Siberian Huskies and Boxers and now looking to handles Dalmatian's in the future. In her first Pedigree Junior Handler competition in 2005, Kayla won the Junior Class and now her first year with the senior's is here to represent Tasmania. Kayla's hobby is horse riding, she owns and adores her chestnut Arab, Wazza. Kayla also loves spending time with her three dogs at home which were rescued from the pound.

7. Tina Sunman SA - Siberian Husky
Tina started handling in Pedigree Junior Handlers with her twin brother Alex at age seven with Chihuahua. Born into a dog world Tina's entire family are involved in showing. Having qualified for the state titles every year since she began handling Tina also won the Junior Class in 2003 and overall Runner Up in 2005 for South Australia. Each show you will see Tina running from one ring to another to show numerous different breeds. Tina loves sport of any kind, also involved in basketball, soccer, gymnastics and softball she is excited to representing SA in the National Final.

8. Ayla Douglas ACT - Dobermann
Our youngest competitor, Ayla started showing in Pedigree Junior Handlers at age seven with a Border Collie. Since then, she has since come a long way having handled many different breeds, her favourite being the Dobermann. Ayla came second last year in the juniors and with much practise won the ACT final this year at only ten years of age. Ayla would like to thank everyone who has entrusted her with their lovely dogs. Aside from showing dogs Ayla enjoys swimming and school and when she grows up she would like to become a professional handler. Ayla would also like to wish all the finalists well today.

