

DOGS FOR INNER CITY LIVING

The Toy Dog Club of North Queensland pawed its way into history, when, on 29 April 2007, the Townsville City Council sponsored the Club's Open Show to promote dogs for Inner City Living. The pooches, fifty three Toy dogs from eighteen separate breeds and exhibitors coming from as far North as Innisfail and Cairns, took Centre Stage in the Flinders Mall for the first time ever with thousands of spectators from all walks of life witnessing the unfolding of what was believed to be the Club's Secretary, Mrs Tui Dixon's "Impossible Dream".

For the past several months, with much enthusiasm Mrs Dixon worked tirelessly with Mrs Lynn Nicholson, co-ordinator of Townsville City Council's prestigious Cotters Market (Arts and Crafts), Canine Control Council (Q), and local media (newspaper, radio and TV) ironing out every legal obstacle as it arose to realise this dream and bring it to fruition.

To ensure the success of this "history-in-the-making" show, the Council well publicised it prior to the event. Nothing was spared nor was it too much trouble in the preparation of the Mall. The Show Ring and Assembly areas were cordoned off from the general public by portable trellis fencing, the official pencilling was carried out on the stage above and overlooking the judging area and a commentary, over the microphone, was given by the Club Vice-President Mrs Vera Davison, explaining what was taking place as the judge, Mr Shane Thomas tabled the dogs.

Townsville Radio and TV personality, Mr. Steve Price (Pricey) judged the "Fun Segment" of the Show, Pricey's Perfect Pooch, the prize being a personalised portrait of the dog painted and donated by well known artist Sue Hollamby. Exhibitors and their dogs well and truly got into the spirit of things, some dressing their pooches in Harley Davidson jackets complete with caps and goggles, making this segment of the show a memorable occasion for the public, leaving pawprints of these lovable guys and gals on their hearts.

Pricey's Television Crew were there for approximately an hour and a half. Steve having a wonderful time enjoying himself immensely stayed until the end of the show. Monday morning on Tallk Back Radio a number of phone calls of congratulations to the Council and The Toy Dog Club of North Queensland on their successful achievement were of significant interest. Local TV Channel 7 News covered the show and Steve Price devoted quality time on his TV programme to the event.



The Townsville Bulletin also gave a half page coverage of photographs and a favourable write-up in their Monday edition.

Townsville City Council donated all sashes and ribbons and exhibitors were presented with quality electrical goods as prizes by Councillor Dale Parker, standing in for the Mayor. Council has invited the Toy Dog Club of North Queensland to make this an annual event commencing with a Championship Show in 2008. This show will also be sponsored by the Townsville City Council.

Thank you Tui Dixon and all her co-workers for a job well-done and to the Townsville City Council, BOUQUETS! It is indeed gratifying to see a Council so humane and involved in the promotion and wellbeing of these little guys and gals who give numerous proven health benefits to their owners/companions. Ideally they are the "Perfect Pooch for Inner City Living".

Best in Show - Italian Greyhound, Vivace Snow White owned by A & T Dixon, Bred by C Alexander (NSW)

Reserve in Show - Pomeranian Ch Timpana Twilight Star owned by V Davison and bred by Mrs. Muller.

BEST DOG - each exhibitor took home the best dog!

Written by Lorna Winter.



Vivace Snow White



Ch Timpana Twilight Star

