



A busy month with Darwin and Brisbane Royals kicking off this exciting time of the year as always, but dominated from the animal point of view by the horrible outbreak of Equine Influenza which has almost paralysed the horse industry, made it extremely hard for some of the Agricultural Shows to even meet their expenses, and so many of our dog people also own and compete with horses so it is a particularly difficult time for them. It is particularly devastating as we have always been revered world wide for our outstanding quarantine record, and brings home all too clearly what it would be like if we suffered the same breakdown in Rabies and/or Foot and Mouth. At one stage for a few hours the media even toyed with a story that US President Bush would be accompanied by his dogs when he arrived for the APEC Summit in Sydney, however the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service very quickly came on air to say there was of course no possibility of this! At the same time mention was made of the need for the American contingent to be accompanied by US trained sniffer dogs, but this was almost immediately quashed as well, with the information that Australia has a very superior force of sniffer and detection dogs of our own. With respect to APEC, Australia should be very proud that NO major disruptive incident occurred during the Summit and that we clearly demonstrated to the world that we are still a very safe country to visit. The demands of crowd control were also potentially increased by the fact that NO Mounted Police horses could be used due to the Equine Influenza and the police had to resort to push bikes! Could EI affect dogs? Cornell University research in 2004 indicates there had been a cross species outbreak in New York State. Denise Humphries sent us an interesting note which you will find on page 26.

Do make a point of reading our Communic8tor and Informant notes each month. They continue to increase in quality and valuable information and again we thank the contributors who work so hard for their State and their Breed.

From Victoria, and raising a matter of increasing importance to our exhibitors ... *One international judge in particular drew comments from exhibitors when he chose not to go over the dogs but merely walk them all, through the BIS classes. While judging breed classes the same judge declined to go over some dogs, which he claimed were too tall to bother with. He would not allow them to be measured when the exhibitor justifiably called for an 'official' measure. I'm not sure how we guard against the eccentricities of FCI judges who refuse to follow Australian judging procedures.*

Throughout Australia, there has been considerable discussion on numerous incidents where FCI judges do not appear to have been properly briefed on acceptable judging procedures in Australia, the latest round of International judges at various Sydney shows also drew considerable negative comment. I personally am a great supporter of the FCI method of judging when it is properly applied, its objective is to grade dogs according to their degree of excellence and conformation to the Standard in the eyes of the judge, and

surely that is what ALL judging should be about. However because we do not hand a written critique to an exhibitor in this country, or even give an oral one, the major methodology of FCI judging is applicable ONLY at shows conducted under FCI regulations. Any judge is entitled to withhold an award and should most certainly do so if they feel the exhibit is of insufficient quality. However, in this country, we do not have disqualifications and we are also justifiably extremely angry if a visiting judge clearly demonstrates they are not familiar with the ANKC Breed Standards, some of which differ quite significantly from the FCI versions for the same breeds. The more we talk to long term exhibitors the more we hear yearnings for "the good old days" when the bulk of our judges came from the UK. The reason so few UK judges officiate here now is a sad reflection on a long ago fall out between the ANKC and The Kennel Club over the way records were kept of judges' qualifications and Australia decide that UK judges would ONLY be approved for those breeds in which they give Challenge Certificates. This has varied and been a little relaxed, but to judge a Group here a UK judge - so far as we can work out from a quick glance at the current wording of the Regulations - has to award CCs to 70% of the breeds in the Group. This is well nigh an impossibility in the UK system, so it means a UK judge can seldom "earn their keep" for an Australian club, currently I think there are only five judges in the UK approved to give CCs to virtually every breed. Firstly one has to be invited by a Breed Club to give CCs and then approved by The Kennel Club to do so, many people award CCs in just a handful of breeds but are vastly experienced at the huge Open Shows on a very large number of Breeds, judging hundreds of entries of quality dogs at those shows. And speaking of quality - just ask any of the hundreds of Australians who are travelling so widely now what they thought of the quality of the dogs overall (not specifically their own breed) at what is called a General Championship show in the UK - like Bournemouth recently, over 12,000 dogs. In "protecting" Australian breeders from judgements handed out by someone who does not award CCs to that breed in the UK, we believe the ANKC is in fact denying those same breeders access to some of the most knowledgeable judging able to be found in the world, where the emphasis is still where it should be, on the Breed Standard at Breed level and not on the exhibit which is going to be the most eye catching at Group or General Specials level. By comparison, because of the way our Regulations are worded, many International judges officiate here now on breeds with which they can have had no experience whatsoever, but because they are All Rounders in their country of residence, they meet the ANKC requirements.

In our Chi notes, *"the people who run the Tennant Creek Show, (bearing in mind that this is their fourth dog show that they have ever run) were just the best and such beautiful people and welcomed everyone. They gave out \$100 for BIS plus \$50 fuel vouchers for other prizes. Ian and Gail plus their daughter Carrienne work all year fundraising for this show, they put on a free BBQ both*



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START A GOOD HABIT!

From Melanie Buckley ...

Baby is my little girl - Aeryn Monique Stehr, sire is Neil Stehr, dam is myself, DOB: 7 June 2006. ***She just loves all the dogs already and stands at the back door licking one side of the window while the Deerhounds lick the other - hee hee hee!***

nights for all the dog show people and their families. Well done to the Tennant Creek & DS Society and the Red Heart KC for the hospitality shown to their visitors."

From Nth Qld ... *"Mareeba KC recently held an amazingly successful fundraising sausage sizzle at Bunnings in Cairns. The small crew of stalwart workers donned aprons emblazoned with their respective breeds - and some even wore ears!! Many questions regarding dogs and behaviours were fielded and we are told that over 800 sausages were BBQed!"*

From Tasmania ... *The Whippet was handled by Jaidyn Walker and I wish I had a camera to take a photo of this young lad's face when he won BIS. Jaidyn is our up and coming handler who is just 9 years old - is he the youngest handler to win a Best in Show?"*

From WA ... *WA Pure breed dog activities have come a long way since the inception of such events back in the early part of last century, when such affairs were run by the WA KC of the time. Later, the RAS took on this role and so remained the governing body here, until 1977 when the move for independence was made. The rest, as they say, is history. The decision to break away and stand on our own has gone from a concept to reality and there would have been few people among those who gathered around the celebratory cake on that weekend, who would not have counted the blessings of standing on a sunny winter's day in the middle of a multi million dollar complex that many have described as world class.*

And we noticed in the NSW Canine Journal that the New England Celtic and ABKC has been formed, with a separate judge to do Celtic Terriers, Celtic Hounds, Celtic Gundogs, Celtic Working Dogs in their own ring, with Best Celtic Dog in Group and In Show to be also judged after regular Group and General Specials. Congratulations for such a great innovation - these re the kinds of initiative which will bring people back to dog shows and the public to the grounds.

WENDYE SLATYER Editor



NEW ZEALAND'S COMMITMENT WINS THE DAY!

Congratulations to the New Zealand dog world who fought the good fight successfully on the matter of Banning Tail Docking, with the result that a select committee of the New Zealand Parliament has just issued its report on the Animal Welfare (Restriction on Docking of Dogs' Tails) Bill which was promoted by a backbencher - that is, not a Government bill. There are seven lines in the report, recommending that the bill not proceed. Politically the bill is history. Now there should be just a few procedural steps which will see the formal and final disposal of the bill. If they could do it over there, why couldn't we - "big, bad and ugly Australia" - manage to do the same?

Phil Lyth of the NZKC stated "My personal view is that now the mission in NZ is to build up a positive climate about people breeding pedigree dogs"