

In a time of sadness

ERICA THOMAS HOWE.

Erica passed away in the early hours of the morning on the 23rd July, after a three day illness. Erica was born on 1st April 1955, the first born of undiagnosed twins, to Fred and Joy Thomas. She was a sister to Roslyn and to Edwina, the second born twin.

She was educated at Woodley Preparatory School, Lane Cove Primary School, SCEGGS Redlands and Sydney University, where she gained her BA degree. She was always very successful in her professional life and worked mainly in shipping logistics, creating a network of professional friends and acquaintances world wide.

Erica's passion in life was Standard Poodles, which she bred in partnership with Roslyn and Edwina under the Marechal prefix, as well as American Cocker Spaniels. Marechal Standard Poodles have changed the face of Standard Poodles in Australia and have been, under Erica's eagle eye, very influential in many countries around the world. The number of Champions bred both in Australia and overseas is numerous.

Erica was a well known and respected international all breeds judge and has officiated in all states of Australia, as well as USA, New Zealand, Scandinavia, Europe and Japan, to mention a few destinations. Her opinion was greatly respected, and she always made a huge effort to be well informed about breed standards before each assignment, particularly with the rarer breeds. She believed that when you stopped learning, you should stop judging.

Erica was a great entertainer and cook, and loved to have people to her home. She loved clothes, good champagne, antique furniture and collectables. She gave freely of her time and experience and was always ready to help a new comer. There are many people active in Poodles today who just never would have been there if it had not been for a helping hand from Erica. She loved to win and was a talented handler, who always made sure her dogs were presented perfectly in the ring. She was always up with the innovations and new styles from America and other countries and was ever ready to have a try at something new.

Her knowledge of Poodle pedigrees was unequalled and it was not restricted to paper – she knew the virtues of every dog in the pedigree as well.

Rest well Erica – you are sorely missed by Poodle people all around the world, by your many friends and work associates, but most especially by Roslyn and myself. **Edwina Thomas**



BESSIE SOUTHALL (BETTER KNOWN AS BETTY) NEE CHARLESWORTH 23 DECEMBER 1914 - 30 JUNE 2008.

Bessie Southall, better known as 'Betty', was born in 1914 and grew up on Derby, a cattle station in the Goondiwindi (Qld.) area. When Betty was about ten years old, an accident while kangaroo shooting (he was shot in the hip) forced her father to sell Derby. Betty married Gerald Southall in 1934 and returned to Derby with Gerry, to manage the station with him. Gerry served, in New Guinea, in the Australian Army during World War II and, after the war, was allocated a soldier settlement block in the Atherton Tablelands (Qld). He had, however, developed cancer during the war and became unable to help Betty work the farm which, like many soldier settlement farms, was not profitable.

A dying husband, children to care for and mounting debts – Betty walked off the farm when her children were old enough to get jobs. She took whatever work was available and, from her savings, bought a small property in Tolga, near Atherton, where she could run a few cows and raise calves for sale. Betty began breeding Australian Cattle Dogs in 1966 with Welcome Stanza as foundation bitch. Her kennel prefix, Geraldmine, is a tribute to Gerry. (See our RingLeader - The National Dog Annual 2007 for more on Betty and photos of her dogs).

Betty's marriage to Gerry was arranged by her mother, whose forcefulness Betty inherited. "But I came to love him", Betty said, and her devotion to Gerry is evident in her choice of kennel prefix, Geraldmine. Betty's active interests after her move to the Atherton Tablelands were not limited to dogs. She bred and showed poultry and was active in the horse world. During her last years, she campaigned strongly for the preservation of trails to be enjoyed by pleasure horse-riders.

Those of us who were privileged to be numbered among Betty's friends remember her for her generosity and kindness, for her strength of character and for her profound knowledge of Australian Cattle Dogs. **Noreen Clark**

Betty Southall passed away on 30 June at age 93 at her nursing home in Atherton. Betty was an icon in the Cattle Dog world, someone who had been around for years and seen it all. She bred Cattle Dogs under the Geraldmine prefix for over 70 years and bred numerous champions in that time. She was known by most as "the Cattle Dog lady" and was always up for a chuckle and smile. Betty had an incredible fighting spirit, a fierce sense of independence and would always wave away "help" if she didn't want, or need it

North Queensland has also lost two more special people from their especially close community, Sonia Struber, not long ago relocated from Mount Isa, recently lost her childhood sweetheart, Glenn, in a nighttime accident on the Mareeba Biboohra Road. Jan Bradley, recently relocated here from the Territory, lost her husband, John, in most tragic circumstances.

*Our thoughts are with both courageous women and that has been wonderful to note the support given by the FNQ local dog showing fraternity. **The Hannan Family***



Terry Thorn

Terry Thorn, one of the most well known judges in the world of dogs, has died.

Terry had retired from judging in February this year owing to his continued ill-health, and had spent the last few weeks in a hospice surrounded by his family.

He was the only person in the UK currently to have been approved by the Kennel Club to award CCs in all of the breeds. He also judged all 7 Groups plus Best in Show in the United Kingdom and was approved by the FCI for all breeds, Groups and Best in Show.

Terry became a member of the Kennel Club in 1970 and held positions there, including Chairman of Crufts until shortly before his death.

He had judged in Australia on several occasions and his judgement was always keenly sought.

Terry Thorn (left) with Peter Mann



ARTHUR LANE

Many Northern Territory dog folk are mourning the passing of Arthur Lane, who passed away at the age of 90. He was the only All Breeds judge in the NT. As Sandy Irlam says in her Communic8tor notes this month, she and Arthur decided to publish a tribute to him while he was still around to enjoy it. Arthur had a long and fruitful career in dogs as both an All Breeds judge, breeder, exhibitor and author. Arthur started with the German Shepherd Dog and continued with his beloved Shibas. Arthur told me he was the first Australian judge to officiate in Japan. Arthur was on the ground floor of the judges training scheme in Victoria and the NT and was a mentor to many of our

current judges today. War Hero, family man, mentor, author, friend to many... how does one describe him. "One in a million"

My sincere condolences go to Arthurs family, Alison and his many close friends. Rest In Peace Arthur you were one of nature's gentlemen. **Sandy Irlam**

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We would also like to extend our condolences to Karen Paul on the sudden passing of her husband John, and to the families of famous Dachshund breeder Ruth Simons and greatly respected veterinarian Aubrey Juleff, both of whom also have recently passed away.