



## TEVRA TIMES - June 2010

### FROM THE BOSS!

Yes I know that it has been cold, and that it has been windy, and that it has been wet, but what about when it is summer and it is too hot? We are just never happy and it is always easy to find an excuse. Recently Susan Cosgrove won Novice both days at Blenheim on excellent marks and even won the trophy for the best retrieve and how did she do it? She trained her large golden retriever in the garage because of the weather, knowing that the retrieve needed some extra work!!!!!!! (look out Susan, they will be calling you names soon)

As you will see by the reports from afar, our Australian cousins (I hear that the Australians are trying to adopt NZ in light of our All Whites success haha!) & their dogs are all going really well which is great. Tallan and Howie have both gained their CCD titles, while Tallan has also gained his tracking title. Bullet has gained his UD pass and is now on the road towards his Australian Championship title before he comes back to NZ with a dual title of NZ and Aust Ob Champion, which has never been achieved before to the best of my knowledge.

Next week a group of us are off to Dunedin to attend a seminar with Kamal Fernandez, who is a well known UK trainer. We are so looking forward to it and hopefully we can pass on some new ideas. We have been lucky enough to not only secure a private training session with him but Carol and I will be handlers for his two day seminar.

Last and certainly by no means least one of the highlights of my dog training career occurred at Nelson Show on the Saturday of Queen's Birthday Weekend when Liam, handled by Anne Morgan, gained his CDX Gold at the grand old age of 13 years and 3 months. Liam is the oldest dog in NZ to gain this. Liam is now officially retired, being not only an Obedience Champion but he also has titles in agility, sledding and his companion certificate. Liam was the start of Tevra Dog Training and all that it has become since that day in November 1997 when I first bit the bullet and became a professional dog trainer (with 4 pupils in the cemetery next to the house here!).

This month's **free lesson award goes to Janet Cornelius and Midge** for their outstanding improvement over the last month. Well done Janet and the next training session is on me.

Well I think that is all for now so out you go into the garage and train your dog.

*Regards*  
*Janice*

***For those who didn't venture North to the Blenheim Show at Queen's Birthday Weekend, this photo shows what the road (yes, ROAD) looked like on the Monday morning coming back home!***



## **AGILITY TRAINING REPORT**

### **Beginners Pre-Agility Training**

**Welcome Debbie and Campbell to Pre-agility – hope you have some fun...**

Pre-agility is for dogs between 12-18 months old (and often older dogs to help with the basic experience of agility). This class introduces agility - jump basics, learning a simple weave, some 'contact' training, and tunnels.

*Saturday mornings - 9.15am - 10.15am (note – some weeks there will be no training due to adverse weather conditions &/or shows)*

The full four week course costs \$40.

### **Advanced Pre-Agility Training**

**Congratulations to Cynthia and Kiki for taking the plunge and competing at the CCOC ribbon trial..... Two great runs, and a lot of fun... Keep it up folks.**

**Saturday mornings - 10.30am - 11.45am**

**Cost: \$10.00 per session.**

**Please contact myself or Janice if you are interested in attending either of the above classes.**

Linda George [Linda.George@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Linda.George@xtra.co.nz) or Janice Kirk [kirkj@clear.net.nz](mailto:kirkj@clear.net.nz)



# CERTIFICATE CLASS REPORT



I hope everyone is keeping as warm and dry as possible, what a start to the winter, so much rain.

If you are like me you will be looking at ways to keep your dogs entertained and happy. I have several "Chunnel's" in my back lawn dug by the puppy & it is also starting to look like a racetrack with her & her uncle playing chasing. When bored I give the dogs carrots to chew or boxes to rip up, makes a mess but keeps them happy.

Some of you tell me you haven't been practicing because of the weather, the cold, or the dark well...it is a good time for spending quality time, grooming, teaching tricks or hide the treat or toy. Practice your stays, sit & down, sendaways & scent in the hallway.

April saw assessments of Elementary & Intermediate, what a wonderful pass rate we have I was so proud of you all.

## **Elementary Passes Congratulations to:**

Reiko & Happie, Robyn & Caesar, Gretchen & Mani, Julie Anne & Santos, Debbie & Campbell, Michelle & Rose, Mark & Douglas, Diane & Jack who are now all in Intermediate. **Reiko is leaving for America after several years of training with Tevra with her poodles, we are going to be sorry to see her go but we wish her all the best for her future.**

## **Intermediate Passes Congratulations to:**

Steve & Dexter, Rebecca & Blue, Lynley & Riley who have now gone on to Advanced Hope I haven't forgotten anyone!

I am hoping to have further Assessments in July either the 10<sup>th</sup> or the 24<sup>th</sup>, I am not sure yet, I have to get confirmation from Carol as to which day is the most suitable for her, she is so busy at present. I can tell you my Intermediate class will be up for assessment on one of those dates and I have a couple of Intermediate people who will be doing both Elementary & Intermediate assessments.

## **Current class times are:**

### **Elementary**

Thursday - Clarkville Hall 6.30 pm

Saturday - Ouruhia Domain 10.30 am

### **Intermediate**

Saturday - Ouruhia Domain 9.30 am

*Barbara*



## **WET WEATHER CANCELLATIONS**

Please remember to check your emails for cancellation notices in cases of inclement weather. Notices will be emailed out by 7.30am for Wednesday classes & 8.30am for Saturday classes. If you need to receive your cancellation via a different means, please let your instructor know. Also, if you cannot make your class or lesson time, PLEASE let your instructor know, there's nothing worse than waiting around for someone who doesn't turn up.



## **COMPETITIVE TRAINING NOTICES**



### **NDTA TEAM TRIALS**

The 2010 NDTA (National Dog Training Assembly) is to be held in Taupo over Labour Weekend. Nominations for those who wish to take part in the Team Trials are now being called for. You have until June 30<sup>th</sup> to put your name forward for the trials, no late applications will be accepted. Trial dates are July 18th Timaru, August 1st ChCh (double) and if necessary August 22nd at Timaru

If you are interested, please contact Arend van den Bos (Southern Region Chairperson) to obtain a nomination form & further details. Arend can be contacted via email [arend7@xtra.co.nz](mailto:arend7@xtra.co.nz) or phone (03) 349 6243. Alternatively, if you want to know more, ask Janice as she has once again been appointed as "Team Coach" for this year's event (well done Boss)

### **GOOD LUCK/CONGRATULATIONS**

To the members of the CDTC Mini Assembly Team, which is made up mostly of Tevra handlers. Test C - Dawn Prattley and Maiyah, Test B - Jo Donachie and Chloe, Test A - Marilyn Hengst and Bailey, Novice - Janet Cornelius and Midge. Go for it on the 18th July!!!!

### **TEVRA TEAMS DAY**

This is still in the planning stages but we are looking at holding another Tevra Teams day on either Sunday 25th July or Sunday 15th August at the Clarkville Hall, starting at 10.00am, with a shared lunch. There will be more details sent out to you in a couple weeks.

### **TRAINING BOARD/MORNING TEA SHOUTS**

Please make sure if you are doing the morning tea shout, that you write your name on the board and not just tell me. Also, there is room on the board now for Carol's people so please ensure that you fill it in so that we know to contact you in case of cancellation. Another reminder also, please bring your own cup with you on Wednesdays if you are going to join in on our morning tea shout.

## **DOG JACKETS**

One of our suppliers is clearing his stock of Micro Tech heated rugs. We use these on our older dogs as they are great for warming up once they have been on for a short while. They are used extensively on the greyhounds to warm up and relax the muscles before racing and some of the breed people also use them before entering the ring for the same reason.

These are being sold at almost half price and are available in sizes 25 cm - 60cm at a cost of \$1 per cm in length. If you would like one let me know.

## **REIKO ITOH**

Some of you will remember Reiko with her little toy poodle Nemo, and more recently with her new toy poodle Happie. Almost 6 years ago Reiko came to a domestic session with me and I am not too sure who was shaking the most Reiko or Nemo. At this stage Nemo was around 9 months of age. To cut a very long story short Nemo, with Reiko's perseverance, went on to be the first dog to complete our advanced certificate as well as to compete in agility. While all this was going on she even managed a return trip to Japan with Reiko.

Then along came Happie who was a completely different dog and she nearly drove Reiko (and Nemo) to distraction with her outgoing personality and rather dominant approach to life. Once again Reiko proved to be as determined as the dog and completed our elementary class in fine style and went on to work in our intermediate class.

On Monday Reiko, Nemo and Happie left NZ to live in Illinois, USA. As Reiko takes up her new career, we would like to wish them all the very best and I know that they will be missed. I mean to say, who else among us dresses our dogs in matching outfits to ourselves!!

As a going away gift Tevra presented to them one of our vests for Reiko and two matching knitted jackets for Nemo and Happie.

Please do keep in touch with us Reiko as we would love to hear all about life over there.



**The Tevra contingent at Reiko's farewell!**



**Reiko, Nemo & Happie**

## **CHUNKY DOG ROLL**

I now have a regular supply of Superior Chunky Dog Roll, which we totally recommend for all types of training. If you haven't used it before, this roll is very good quality & condensed so is perfect for chopping up into treat sized portions (it doesn't go mushy or crumble) It can also be frozen in small cubes & remains free frozen. The cost will be \$6.50 and I can bring the rolls to training whenever it is required.

## ***TEVRA'S A ONE (AKA REBEL) - NEWS FROM OZ***

Since my last report, I have been training hard for Open. It's a LOT harder than Novice and the test goes on and on.

The weather has been very strange, we have had flash floods and had to trial in ankle deep water, strong winds and heat. Could someone call the RSPCA on Mum?! You would never believe what she did to us. She gave Howie, Bullet and I a shower under the cold hose and it was in the front yard! Howie was entertaining to watch, he was jumping around that much that Mum was wetting Grandma Lindsay..... lucky it was a nice sunny day.

Thank you all for voting for me in the photo competition.

Have to go, lots to do.....  
Lots of Wove Rebel XOXOXO.

## **BULLET'S 'BULLETIN' FROM AUSTRALIA**

Hi to all my friends over in NZ.

Well much has happened since the last newsletter. I got another pass in UD and won the ring in May, then just to show them it was not a fluke I got another pass and won the ring on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. That's my UD title & I now have a new name.....you may all call me Likabullet UD.

Now I only have to get 5 more scores over 185 to be an Australian Champion.

I'm feeling so good and a bit cheeky, I have been known to give Mum a playful nip on her bum in the ring or even bark at her when we take up position to do the directional jumps. The judge the other day said to Mum, "how old is the young fella"? Mum said I was 9 years young, but the judge did not believe her. He said I looked like a 3 year old and worked liked a 3 year old.

Well that's all from me.  
Wove Bullet. XOXOXO.



# TALLAN'S TALES

## TALLAN CCD TD



Janice has made me promise to keep my enthusiasm down to 10 pages! Not fair, because I am so proud of my little Kiwi/Aussie. Tallan gained his CCD Obedience Title 2 weeks ago (the first step of our Obedience ladder) and followed up last week with his Tracking Dog Title. As most people are familiar with Obedience I will concentrate on Tracking in this Report. Last year when I started training Tallan for tracking, there were many times when I nearly gave up. He didn't like the grass seeds, he didn't want to pull out ahead of me and he was so distracted with everything. He has very 'fast' eyes. Twenty years experience tracking dogs (very determined Curly Coated Retrievers) didn't prepare me for Tallan. His lack of confidence on the track initially worried me and I had to spend a lot of time building his

confidence enough to work ahead of me, any tension on the lead he would take as correction and come back to heel position – such obedience! I would often come home despondent and disappointed with my lack of ability to 'explain' to him what is required. He was always very happy just being with me. We would have long talks explaining that he is half Siberian Husky and to what they were bred for – to pull out in front for goodness sake. In Australia we only track from April until August as the weather is too hot at other times and more importantly, we have horrible poisonous snakes that never seem to go to sleep. The only tracking training over a very hot summer was on 'article indication' in the park. During a Trial a dog has to indicate a number of dropped articles on the track by stopping and waiting for the handler to come up and retrieve it and only then can they move off and continue tracking. The number one rule I tell people when tracking is to 'trust their dog' and I realized that most of my concerns were caused because I broke that very basic rule. He was so different from my other dogs and it threw me! I was learning along with him so, this tracking season decided to turn myself over to him and trust him, and he just blossomed. Of course, I train for what I want, and then I have faith in my training and trust .... Boy, what a difference it made. After all, he is the only one in the partnership who knows where to follow the 'ghosts'.

Our last trial day was extremely windy making it difficult for Tallan who prefers to 'air-scent'. He worked it beautifully – he was dead on track and tram-lined the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> turns, then with a strong wind behind us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> leg overshot the 3<sup>rd</sup> turn by ½ lead length then indicated loss of track and worked back into the wind to find the turn and just powered down the last leg and his Title. He is now such a confident little worker and the judge was so impressed he graded him Excellent, the highest award. The first two legs of his title were graded Very Good – the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest award (there are 4 grades of proficiency) Tallan has to pass 3 more tracks to attain his TDX title and then one more for his Championship title. The tracks are approximately 1km long & to complete, take a minimum of 1 ½ hrs to a maximum of 3 hours. There are acute turns (no problem for him) and decoy tracks crossing the tracks (could be a problem for an air-scenter) Wouldn't it be something to have a N.Z Sibe-bord tracking champion. It's a big ask of him as the number of trials he can enter (because he is not pure-bred) are restricted and we ballot for most open trials. I have faith that he can do it, if we can only get into the trials.

I would like to quote John Rice who says “to become part of the tracking team, you have to be willing to read and trust your partner who, at the end of that long tracking line, is the only one who can see the ghosts that you’re following. It is a relationship unlike any other shared by handlers and dogs. In learning to follow and trust your partner in pursuit of ghosts, you will find much more than a few articles. You’ll find a whole new relationship with your dog”.

Tracking stands uniquely alone in dog sport as the handler must learn to rely on and trust his dog. Even in herding, where the dog’s greater instinctive skill in understanding and working sheep easily outstrips the handler’s, the herding handler at least has the advantage of being able to *see* the sheep. Imagine trying to work a flock of sheep visible only to the dog! In essence, that is what the tracking handler faces – the “ghosts” of unseen and dimly understood forces shaping the dog’s responses.

Tallan is only 21 months old but he has gained two titles in 2 weeks. I am so proud of him, his obedience training is also coming along very well and more importantly he enjoys working. He is an absolute delight to live with. Sorry everyone for the ramble but Janice made the mistake of inviting me to write a ‘few’ words.

P.S. The pressure for him to attain his Title before August is because all our Tracking grounds will be lost to us after this season and the sport has no-where else to go. The restriction of ground being available to dog sports like tracking is critical. This could be our last year of tracking around the Sydney area.