

Nose to the Ground

TrackWest Newsletter – November 2011

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President's Report



Hi Everyone,

It's certainly been a busy year! Challenges galore! Thank you to all those people who approached any problem or query directly with the Club. This approach shows you have a genuine desire to be part of resolving any issues. Thank you and I hope others will follow your example.

We had a fantastic wind-up at our Presentation Dinner, thank you to everyone for coming along and helping to make it such a successful night. A special thank you to Lynne for putting together a fantastic TrackWest slideshow and providing the audio/visual equipment on the night. Congratulations to those who got to take home a title sash, it's a great reminder of all that you and your dog have achieved throughout the season. Makes all those early mornings worth it!

Thank you to everyone for participating in the raffles on the night, and also for all your donations. It wouldn't happen without you. A special thanks to Lauren's mum Fay who donated our Major Prize.

I'd like to thank all the Judges, Committee members, Café Gnangara & assistants for all your hard work throughout the year. A special thank you to Fay for providing all our Judges with hot drinks and snacks to keep them going and also for being our First Aid Officer.

We have lost two committee members, Antonia, our Treasurer who is moving interstate and Nyree our Track & Search Trial Secretary. Thank you to you both and good luck in your future endeavors.

Carol was the deserving winner of the Tutu Memorial this year, she was the woman with many hats!!

Congratulations also to our Club Champion, Jacquie Humphrey with Patch! Just goes to show short legs are an asset!! (Or so I keep trying to convince myself!)

Thank you to all our members for putting up your hand to help, and for your good humor and sportsmanship throughout the season.

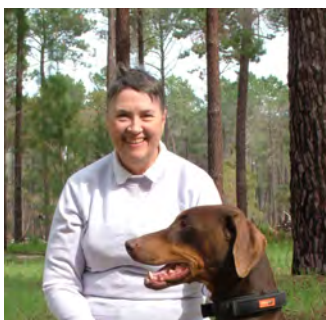
Congratulations to our trainee judges who have all passed their entrance exam. I hope that you will all give them lots of support throughout the 2012 season. Our Judges do so much work, and put their heart and soul into our sport. They don't deserve to have their professionalism brought into question. Remember our new Judges will observe how our current Judges are treated, so please think about how your actions and words affect others, before you act! Let's all focus on enjoying the magic of working with our dogs in this wonderful sport.

I hope you all have a fantastic Silly Season, relax and enjoy, and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Regards

Louise Crawford
President 2011

Secretary's Report



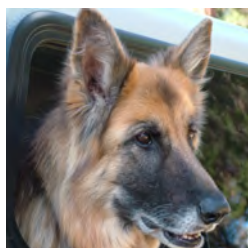
Hi all

Another tracking season over and I am missing it already. This is one sport my dogs just love to do. Their enthusiasm is catching and delightful to watch. I want to thank members for their sportsmanship and goodwill. Do not worry about the break – your dogs will remember what to do next April.

I would like to thank our judges who volunteer long hours to ensure we can enjoy and continue this sport and they should be commended. Every judge takes the welfare of competitors, dogs and this sport very seriously.

We wish you well and look forward to seeing you next year.

From the Editor's Desk



With the latest headlines of “News of the World phone hacking saga” fresh in my mind – I gladly accepted to be editor when Louise phoned me.....

So be aware I'll go to any lengths for a great story. I'll hunt you down and take a snap of you, I'll hack your emails and deviously tap your phone.....

In this the last edition for 2011, Glenys Nottle has an article on her own tracking experiences. A great read. There is a membership renewal form and the details for the Open Day which is being held in March.

Included are some of the Presentation Dinner photographs. If you would like a photograph that was taken through the season please contact me. And remember to send me any article, letter or interesting gossip. May you all have a peaceful Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Lynne Jooste

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DISCLAIMER

The information in this publication is of a general nature. The articles contained herein are not intended to provide a complete discussion on each subject and or issues canvassed. TrackWest Magazine does not accept any liability for any statements or any opinion,

TUTU Memorial 2011

Carol Freele

Presented by Sue Fletcher



TrackWest Club Champion 2011

Patch & Jacquie Humphrey



**Please note the front gate will be dummy
locked at 8.30 am on training days
Please leave the gate closed with the padlock
in position but not “clicked” to lock**

Training Co-Ordinators Report



I hope everyone is enjoying the break. For the people who have been competing in the Track and Search Trials and had reached the level of Urban Tracks the season has only just finished with our last trial on the 12th November. It was a good trial with 3 new Track and Search Dog Excellent titles being earned.

The tracks were 800 meters long through the streets, through busy car parks often with the added distraction of the delightful smells of the fast food restaurants. They had a delay of 3 to 4 hours and if that wasn't enough they were held at night. It shows what marvelous creatures our dogs are and we don't give them enough credit for what they are capable of doing.

Your dogs will not forget what they have learnt previously while they are on a break but if you want to do a few exercises to keep their “nose” in the following might be of interest:

- While out on your walk drop a few articles on the way out, then on your return ask your dog to “find” (sometimes a note attached to socks etc. saying THIS IS A TRACKING DOG ARTICLE, PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE is necessary)
- If you take your dog to the park, leave him in the car while you do a short track - go out from the car in one direction go around in a circle perhaps around a grove of trees or toilet block and then back to the car from another direction. You can leave articles on the track if you wish but always have a jackpot ready with your finish article.
- If you walk with a friend, get them to set off a few minutes earlier and hide behind a tree (don't forget to scent the dog with your friends article so the dog knows who he is finding) It's a good idea to know exactly where your friend walks so you can keep the dog on track.
- A game for the garden - collect ice cream cartons or use buckets if you have them 4 or 5 is ideal, hide your article under one of the upturned containers and then send your dog out to find, don't worry if your dog does not go directly to the correct one, he may be following your scent as you placed the containers, its great watching them work it out for themselves, remember to praise and jackpot as soon as they find the article.

We will be holding an Open Day in March, the full details are later on in this newsletter and all members are welcome to come along and help promote our great sport to prospective new members. Have a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year and I hope to see you back at training in 2012.

Sue Fletcher
Training Co-ordinator

Glenys' Tracking Experiences



Firstly I would like to thank TrackWest for inviting me to write an article about my tracking experiences. All through my life there have been many people who have contributed to the way it has unfolded and possibly the 3 who come to mind are my Grandfather, Father and my husband. All 3 have always told me that there is no word in the dictionary as CAN'T. Each one of them has encouraged me to think outside of the boundary and give it my best shot to achieve the best results.

It was with this backing and encouragement from Kingsley I set out on a Dog Tracking Sport career to see what would be achieved by teaching Corgi's how to track, what happens from there will be an indication as to the way our lives would unfold. Mia and Lara, were my Corgi's at the time, Lara seemed to love to work and look for that packet of Cat Food at the end of a track the art now was for me to recognise the indications she was giving me, try as I may it was so, so hard. Why did everyone else see what I couldn't see, what was I missing all of the time? All I had to work with was a stump of a tail, not the normal one like most dogs. I was told to watch the head, any body movement that was different from day to day normal movements but I still kept on missing things. We finally achieved our aim and the Tracking Champion Certificate would adorn my wall in 3 years, one title every year. What was I going to do next, Mia would work occasionally but she never had the drive that Lara had, I had no tail to work with this time and the task was even harder, we tried and pushed for this girl to work and finally got her Tracking Dog Title but as for the other 2 titles, no way it was like extracting teeth, hard work.

Lara had been showing signs of arthritis in her legs which I had long suspected as she never did the normal Corgi things when resting, like laying on her back with her legs in the air or frogging: i.e. back legs out behind her. These were indications that she would have to ease up on all of her favorite past times. I still had the urge to encourage another dog to Track and for me to learn how to read the indications it would give me. Could I convince Kingsley into allowing me to buy another Corgi? I asked and asked and finally he relented, Manhon came to live with us in July, 2007. Was I in for the shock of my life? Here was one little dog who would change all of my thinking and my life in general. Armed with the encouragement of Judy Tsakalos, Valeta Pethrick, Leone Holdsworth, Jim Spence I was encouraged to start Manhon's training earlier than the 18 months of age I had started Lara off at. New ideas and new reasons all made sense to me after all having had children I knew that the first 5 years were the most informative and that puppies learnt the most in their first 26 weeks of life.

After attending a workshop I came home and thought about how I would put all of this into practice, who could I ask to help me? Who was the person I could trust the most to listen to me? The one person who came to mind was a gentleman called Paul Deegan, a dear friend and one who always looked outside the boundaries and was prepared to look at what could be done and how it could be done, he had spent his younger life on a farm and relied on his dogs to a lot of foot work for him. We used to talk dog stories as I had also grown up on a farm and loved to watch the dogs bring sheep in to line and work them. Out to the Riverview Golf Club we would go every Thursday morning, day out in the sun a nice cuppa and no-one to annoy us, what else could we ask for? Manhon took to this new game as though she had been doing it all of her short life, no food at the end to start with just Paul and a squeaky ball, did she love this game, you bet. We would set 3 mini tracks for her and her progress from the move was at a far greater rate than I could have imagined, she loved it, I was on a high every time we worked.

I couldn't wait for the 2008 Tracking Season to begin, this little girl was going to enjoy competing as much as I was, little did I know I hadn't grown up with her, her ability to track and mine to read were not on the same level and was I getting frustrated with myself. Leone Holdsworth took me aside and talked to me, encouraged me to slow down and let Manhon tell me where to go. Valeta, Lynne and several

others would all repeat the same word's, we finally got our first pass in thanks to those words of advice from everyone. We were off for the experience of our lives in the tracking world, Manhon passed more trials than she missed from there on. We were having the time of our lives and enjoying every challenge that the judges asked of us. The one trial that sits for most in my mind was the EXCELLENT FAIL which Neil had assessed us on, I asked Manhon to go look for the track and she found it after a little reminder that we were here to work not check out the rest of the smells, she found each of her turns and was working the way I have become used to and as we progressed further through the track my biggest fear was starting to loom up, WHERE WERE THE ARTICLES? I couldn't see any so that I could lean back on the lead and question her, WHAT EARTH HAD HAPPENED TO THEM? We finished our track found the tracklayer and Valeta who was walking on the track as well, was in deep discussion with Neil, my heart went out to both of them, they had witnessed her complete the track and find the tracklayer but had failed on the other rule that was required, she hadn't indicated any of the articles. I had already conceded the fail on the last turn what else could I do, she didn't indicate them and I didn't see them, I was to interested in watching her working and making sure that I hadn't missed anything. When Neil had the pain staking job of telling me that I had failed my heart went out to him, it must have been every judges worst task. When it came to presentations of our certificates the critic from Neil said it all but when he presented the certificate to me with a grading of an EXCELLENT FAIL it made my day. After that weekend it seemed that Neil would look for some little way of having a joke with me and this was what I had come to expect from many of the club members, they were all like an extended family to me who would be teasing me. Manhon from there went on and gained her TRACKING CHAMPION TITLE and CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS for 2009 which was the biggest surprise of them all. She had achieved in 18 months what took Lara 3 years to do.

As I was already training Manhon with the Albany S.E.S. and most of her training had been done on their lines I started to question whether or not to stay with the S.E.S. as we hadn't had any callouts while I was training Lara and certainly there weren't any with Manhon. There were moves within the organisation to have all of the Dogs assessed by a recognised organisation and to have a standard which they were to reach before they were to become operational. I had asked questions about the standards but never took it any further than asking questions however sitting and discussing it with Kingsley and allot of urging from several friends, Paul Deegan was one of them I contacted the K9 section in F.E.S.A. and asked to be looked at and if we didn't make the grade then I would accept what had happened and then go away and assess what was going to happen from there on in. We were more than capable of becoming a member of the section and to the surprise of the Co-ordinator, a Corgi could track.

The hardest part started from there on in began, many nights of tears and frustration, more red tape that was to be cut through, many, many arguments about what she could do and achieve, so many narrow minded attitudes towards what should and shouldn't be seen out in the world looking for lost people. Yes, I knew that she wouldn't pass what was required of the Police Dogs when they are being trained but was I asking to join the Police Force, no way, one I was too old and two I wasn't interested in chasing criminals, someone else could do that all I wanted was to look for person who had become lost and to make life for families easier if this should happen. This was a service to the community I personally felt was required and I was prepared to spend the time and effort to offer this service to the community if I was allowed to. Having got over the hurdles and had someone who was behind the scene pushing for me I started my monthly trips to Perth and back, did I miss TrackWest, you bet. This was a whole new world out there and our learning was to be taken up another gear.

There were times when I was ready to throw it all in and there were many afternoons when I would go back to Rick and Leone's place and feel totally frustrated. Leone herself wasn't well and I felt like my problems were silly whenever I talked to her but we would sit and talk, laugh and have a few little quite tears and she would push me out of the door with the final words 'Let Manhon's nose do the work'. So off I'd go and we would progress further down the track and pass what was required of us to be operational. In 2010 there were 3 events which changed my attitude towards life. Leone lost her battle with Cancer and to this day I feel indebted to her for allowing me to share those days with her, I won't say to much more as I will have myself in tears writing the rest of this article. I sat and watched my

brother fight for his life with several bouts with his pancreas which he finally won, about the hardest of it all was possibly having my step-grandson commit suicide at the age of 17. Two people had lost their lives and I was worried about becoming operational with my dog, what did I really want from this world was a question I was asking myself over and over again.

When the New Year started I made it my resolution to put my head down and backside up, yes there again were times when I felt totally and utterly frustrated and ready to call it quits but my K9 Co-ordinator was quietly chipping away with my training. He knew of the problems he sat and talked to me and allowed me to off load the problems and when he decided that it was time for Manhon and I to be assessed he dropped the bombshell. Well was I in a flap- that was not the whole story, all of the doubts that we all heap on ourselves came thundering out. What if I failed? All that effort gone to waste, I was becoming my own worst enemy.

When the date was finally set for the 11th August 2011, I finally had convinced myself that I was going to fail. I had asked for a practice track the day before so off we went did our little practice track, was given my pep talk and told to go home and have a good night's sleep. Off I went with that in mind and next morning Manhon and I arrived a little early to our destination, she needed her game of ball and I needed to get rid of some of my nerves. We were all introduced to each other and then advised where to go to start my 1st track. Missed that one, I failed because I wasn't concentrating and in too big a hurry to finish the track, back to our cars, had a rest, time to talk and reflect, Kirsteen Blake was my tracklayer and the few quite words from her settled me down. I was cross with myself for being so silly. Off we went to do our 2nd track don't ask me anything about it other than there was a dog coming at me constantly at the fence on one corner and how I wished it would get lost, Manhon ignored it and we finished that assessment with a pass and congratulations from the two assessors. We were given another break and time to gather my thoughts, I had one pass now all I had to do was get another and we would be accredited. The 3rd track was one that will be constantly in my mind for ever and a day, it had cats, hens and I don't know if anyone has had a rubbish truck stalking you but we did? Every street I was working Manhon it was there, on every corner I was working Manhon on it turned and it seemed to take great delight in dropping bins behinds us as many times as it could possibly do. If I could have performed an operation on that driver that day and got away with it then I would have done. We got around our last corner and Manhon decided to check someone's back yard out, there was an elderly gentleman attending his veggie patch, she went to check him out and then went on to find her last body. I have cried in my life but try laughing and crying at the same time it is very, very hard. Kirsteen Blake had walked the two tracks I had passed and we were both over the moon, a Corgi had achieved what many had thought was impossible, not only had she witnessed it but was part of the day's events. I went home with the knowledge that not only had I gained what I had aimed for but I had helped to bring recognition to a breed which wasn't known to do this type of work but I had also created a little bit of history in achieving what I had aimed for.

My wish was to share this amongst friends but there was one member of the F.E.S.A. K9 section who wasn't going to let this rest. Leone Briggs who had also become an Area Search Dog Handler earlier on in the year decided to take matter into her own hands, with the permission of our Co-ordinator she contacted the West Australian News Paper and wrote a letter to the Queen, everything just unfolded from there, we had news paper interviews, T.V. Interviews, Today Tonight aired an interview on the Friday of C.H.O.G.M. and that weekend I did another interview with Women's Day about amazing dog stories. There are two items which I will treasure forever and a day and that is the Letter from the Queens Lady in Waiting congratulating us on our achievement and a cartoon which was published in the local paper here in Albany, it said it all. The Corgi's have been linked with the Queen and like all owners we are subjected to all the jokes in the world about our dogs, this one has been the best that I have ever had about my Corgi's.

Manhon and I can no longer claim virgin status as Jim Spence calls it we have had one callout and put on standby all in one week. What is ahead of us I don't know but this little dog has made me ever so proud to be her owner and her best friend. She has had two litters of puppies in her short life and achieved what she has been worth all the tears and the hard work to get there.

To the judges at TrackWest I would like to say thank you and wish you all the best for the rest of your judging life. There are many memories which I will be able to reflect on for the rest of my life, Rick Richardson's when he first judged and saw Lara track, a short legged Shepherd was his comment, Valeta's look of shock when she saw Manhon first work and I failed it, Neil and his comments about cleaning up after my dog with Mia, I did read my rule book Neil. The Excellent Fail from Neil and last but not least the stilts which were presented to me by Neil for Manhon so that the rest of the dogs in TrackWest could stand a better chance. Lynne, Judy, Honey, Sue, Lesley and Garner I would also like to say thank you for your words of encouragement whenever you have judged me. As a final thank you I would like to say a huge thank you to the many people for all their input to Manhon's success, you have all helped to contribute to this event and all can claim recognition but there are two people who I would like to say a huge thank you in TrackWest, Rick Holdsworth and his darling wife Leone. If it wasn't for the support from those two people we wouldn't be where we are today. Throughout the past twelve months I have felt a presence with me and I would like to think that Leoni has been sitting there and watching this all unfold and enjoying every step with me and it is because of this that I'd like to dedicate this article to her, she was the best friend anyone could ask for, her hard work with the club has helped it become what it is today and like anything that Leone ever did she did it 100%, her words of encouragement have helped all along this path and I am sure that we haven't experienced half of what is waiting out there for us.

Glenys Nottle and Cymtaran Manhon



Glenys with Lara
Tracking Champion 2006



Dear Friend, Leone



Glenys with Manhon
Tracking Champion 2008



Jim & Rick

TRACKWEST DOG CLUB (INC)

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM - 2012

Please send to:

The Secretary
Carol Freele
27 Aerolite Way
Beldon WA 6027



DATE OF JOINING :...../...../..... (AS RECEIPTED BY THE TREASURER)

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: (Please circle)

NEW (N) –

RENEWAL (R)

(Full year : 1 st Sept – 31 st Aug) (Part year: 1 st July – 31 st Aug)	<i>Nomination Fee \$10</i> <i>Payable by new members on joining, or for</i> <i>members rejoining after a lapse in membership .</i> <i>PLEASE TICK</i>		Renewal
Single \$35 (full year) Single \$20 (part year)	Full Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Part Year <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family \$50 (full year) Family \$ 30 (part year)	Full Year <input type="checkbox"/>	Part Year <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Membership No: _____

Paid by Cheque/Cash Received by _____
TrackWest Representative

(please print neatly)

NAME _____ Ph: _____ (H)

Mobile: _____ Ph: _____ (W)

CAWA No: (if applicable) _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ P/C _____

E-mail Address _____

I/We hereby apply for membership and agree to be bound by TrackWest Dog Club (Inc) Rules and Regulations.

PTO for adding your Dog/s information and signature.

1.
DOG'S PEDIGREE NAME _____
PET NAME _____
DOG'S REG No _____ BREED _____
DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____ SEX _____
CAWA NUMBER _____ Sterilized? YES NO (circle)

2.
DOG'S PEDIGREE NAME _____
PET NAME _____
DOG'S REG No _____ BREED _____
DATE OF BIRTH ____/____/____ SEX _____
CAWA NUMBER _____ Sterilized? YES NO (circle)

DO YOU HOLD A CURRENT FIRST AID CERTIFICATE? YES NO

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS:

Name:

Relationship:

Phone: Mobile:

In case of Emergency do you have any relevant medical issues/allergies? (optional)

I/We hereby apply for membership and agree to be bound by TrackWest Dog Club (Inc) Rules and Regulations.

Applicant's Signature(s).

Date

IMPORTANT

**YOU AND YOUR DOG MUST BE A FINANCIAL MEMBER OF CAWA,
BEFORE YOU ARE PERMITTED, TO ENTER A TRIAL.**



Invites You To an

OPEN DAY

This is an opportunity for you and your dog to try out the exciting and challenging sport of Tracking.

Meet our Trainers and other members of TrackWest, and get your first tracking lesson.



Venue: WHITEMAN PARK
(Mussel pool area)

www.trackwest.com.au

Date: Saturday 31 March 2012

info@trackwest.com.au

Time: 8am – 11am

RSVP:

Sue Fletcher (Training Co-ordinator)

nesue@bigpond.com

9306 4772

Carol Freele (Secretary)

cfreele@westnet.com.au

9402 1807



Learn how well your dog's nose works.

Yes they can do more than sniff out what's in the fridge, or nasty smelly things in the park.

Even "Mahnnon" had to start somewhere.

All breeds are welcome.