



Beardie Business

The Newsletter of the Bearded Collie Club of NSW Inc.
Vol 33 No 1 – Autumn 2011

Master Agility Title & Master Jumping Title



Jupi Griffindore Kilt CD, ADM, JDM, ADO, JDO, GDX, SPD, SD, PT, FDX

**Owned by Jan Taylor
Bred by Julie Wardell**

DIARY OF EVENTS 2011

April 25	Monday	General Specials of Sydney Royal Easter Show
April 26	Tuesday	Breed Stall at Sydney Royal Easter Show
April 26 & 27	Tuesday & Wednesday	Agility – Sydney Royal Easter Dog Show – Judges: Mr K Edwards (NSW) & Dr L Hammer (NSW)
May 29	Sunday	<p>Bearded Collie Club of NSW Open Show at Erskine Park – Judge: Mrs TA Buckley – schedule in this issue of Beardie Business</p> <p>Bearded Collie Club of NSW Obedience Trial – following the Open Show – Judge : Mrs P Hartwell (NSW) – schedule in this issue of Beardie Business</p> <p>June General Meeting at the conclusion of the Open Show & Trial</p>
July 23	Saturday	Interclub Obedience Challenge Match
July 31	Sunday	<p>Bearded Collie Club of NSW Herding Trial at Erskine Park – Judge: Ms T Luttrell (Tas)</p> <p>Annual General Meeting & August General Meeting after Herding Trial</p>

A Note from the Editor

As a first time Editor of Beardie Business, I wanted to say ‘hello’ and to introduce myself to you. My name is Alison Woolcott and my husband and I have two Bearded Collies. My background with Beardies (as well as other dogs in our family!) has been purely as a pet dog owner/trainer since getting my first dog at the age of 13. We got our first Beardie in 1997 and I have been a member of the Bearded Collie Club at various stages since getting Boadie (Stoddard Kirkcaidy). It wasn’t until we got ‘Rafferty’ (Bonibraes Song’n’Dance) and became involved in showing, that I became an active member of the Club. I have since had the pleasure of meeting many fellow Beardie owners and their dogs which I have really enjoyed.

For anyone who may have articles, ideas or information that you would like to contribute to Beardie Business, please let me know. My email contact is aliwoolcott@hotmail.com. My address to send copy to is 29 Tramway Street, West Denistone, 2114 or my contact number is PH: 0418 677 201.

I look forward to meeting and/or chatting to you face to face, by phone or through ‘cyber space’ over the coming months.

Thankyou *Alison*

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE
BEARDED COLLIE CLUB OF NSW INC. HELD
SATURDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2011 AT ERSKINE
PARK.**

Due to a lack of a quorum, the February General Meeting became a Committee Meeting – accepting the correspondence that had arrived and responding where necessary.

CORRESPONDENCE OUTWARDS:

- 1) T Luttrell – contract to judge Herding Trial 31 July 2011
- 2) P Brooks – accepting resignation as Editor with regret and thanks for all the hard work
- 3) RAS of NSW – application to run a Breed Stall on Tues 26 April 2011
- 4) DNSW – Draft schedule for Open Show & Obedience Trial – 29th May 2011

CORRESPONDENCE INWARDS:

- 1) Groomers Paradise – products available for Specialty Show prizes
- 2) T Luttrell – contract for Herding Trial
- 3) WDC News – Nov/Dec 2010 & Jan/Feb 2011
- 4) DNSW – request to assist in manning DNSW Stall at Sydney Royal
- 5) A Grice – comments for Code of Ethics discussion
- 6) DNSW Spring Fair Committee – do we want to run a Specialty in conjunction with them – Thurs 25 Aug 2011
- 7) DNSW – approval for Champ Show 21 April 2011
- 8) Bragabout Sept-Nov 2010 & Dec 2010 – Feb 2011

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Balance brought forward 5/12/10	3421.02
Less payments	966.40
Plus income	1514.70
Balance 31/1/11	3969.32

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:

1) TAG Clothing (6/12/10)	838.20
2) Postage – calendars & BB (18/12/10)	45.70
3) Engraving/postage calendars & clothing (6/12/10)	60.50
4) Dogs NSW – Open Show Draft Schedule (12/12/10)	22.00

NEW MEMBERS:

- 1) Monica Brigden – Cornubia, Qld with Holly & Finn. Moved L Brandt, seconded N Kirkwood
ACCEPTED

SHOW/TRIAL BUSINESS:

- 1) Easter 2010 Champ Show at Sydney Royal – Thurs 21st April – need to let RAS know additional dogs for benching as well as additional people for passes
- 2) May 2011 Open Show & Obedience Trial – Sun 29th May – Draft Schedule submitted
- 3) Herding Trial – Sun 31st July 2011 – Draft Schedule due in: Start time 9am; Entry fees discussed;

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS BUSINESS OF CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) Dogs NSW request for assistance in manning their stall at Sydney Royal – advise them members will bring dogs over if the opportunity arises on our breed day.
- 2) Dogs NSW Spring Fair Committee – advise them we will not be running a Specialty Championship Show in conjunction with the Spring Fair in August 2011

Bearded Collie Club of NSW Inc.

28th OPEN SHOW & 18th OBEDIENCE TRIAL

DATE: Sunday 29th May 2011

VENUE: German Shepherd Oval - Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs
Luddenham Road, Erskine Park

JUDGES: **Mrs TA Buckley (NSW)** Breed & General Specials
Mrs P Hartwell (NSW) Obedience

CLASSES TO BE JUDGED:

BREED CLASSES: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, Veteran & 18

OBEDIENCE CLASSES: UDX, Utility, Open, Novice & CCD

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP: 7 to under 10 years, 10 to under 13 years, 13 to under 18 years
(approved Dogs NSW Judge to be announced on the day)

ORDER OF JUDGING: 9:00am Breed Classes, followed by General Specials
10:15am Vetting
Not before 10:30am Obedience Classes, followed by Junior Showmanship

ENTRY FEES: Members \$7.00 first breed entry inc. Catalogue & levy
\$7.00 subsequent entries
Non-members \$10.00 first breed entry inc. Catalogue & levy
\$10.00 subsequent entries
Obedience \$10.00 inc. Catalogue

Cheques to be may payable to: ***The Bearded Collie Club of NSW Inc.***

TROPHIES & SASHES:

Best in Show & Runner-up in Show Sash
All Classes in Show Sash
Perpetual Trophies as listed in the Catalogue
1st, 2nd & 3rd Qualifier in all rings Club Trophy & Sash
All Qualifiers Sash
Encouragement Perpetual Trophy For best performance by a Bearded Collie

ENTRIES CLOSE: Monday 2nd May, 2011

With the Show Secretary: Mrs C Caird
6 Thompson Place, Baulkham Hills 2153
Phone: 02 9639 5755
ccaird@optusnet.com.au

NOTES:

- * At the conclusion of our Show we are planning to share lunch & have a short General Meeting
- * Any questions ring/email the Club Secretary on 02 9521 2005 or
nswbeardedcc@optusnet.com.au

*This Show is conducted under the Rules & Regulations of Dogs NSW,
a copy of which may be perused at the Secretary's Office.*

The Road to a Master Jumping Title & Master Agility Title

by Jan Taylor



“Wrong! Do it again!”.... “Move... What are you doing?”..... “You’re too late with your instructions”..... “Bum to Bar”.... “No, don’t step back!”..... “Where are you going?”..... “Watch your body positioning”... “That was your fault!”. All words of encouragement from my Instructor, Ronnie Shawyer.

It was a sad moment when, at the start of 2010, I retired my “Velcro boy” Hamish from all competition due to his on-going back problems. So now with just one dog to concentrate on I decided that if we were going to continue with Agility then we needed to get serious.

Gryffin had a lot of potential, but there was no-one at Sutherland Dog Training Club that I could source for help because we were all at the same level of ability. Just at that time a friend told me that Ronnie Shawyer had some vacancies in her Thursday night class at Bargo.

Bargo.... BARGO, I thought....in peak hour traffic... what a nightmare, but it was time to bite the bullet! Ronnie was a hard task master, constantly picking on me to lift my game, however this was something that I needed.....someone to tell me what I was doing wrong.

As the year rolled on we started to gain passes. So much so that I expected Gryffin to qualify at each trial we attended and I was very remiss with him if this did not eventuate! Thankfully this was short lived, as I realised that gaining ‘passes’ was a new era for us, something that we had never experienced before. Once all of the excitement calmed down we really started to work as a team and the exhilaration, passion and more importantly, the fun took over, rather than the need to prove myself to others.



The Seventh Pass that we needed for our Master Agility Title came at my own Club Trial in September. The Judge was Ms Pat Walsh and her course was a real test of control. Gryffin is a stubborn dog and when he decides on an action, it is hard to dislodge. The course direction was to go over a jump to our right, but Gryffin decided the tunnel to our left was a better prospect. Nothing I did would distract Gryff from doing the tunnel. In the end I put him in a drop to gain control. I thought, 'great', we were going clear until his brain snap, and now we will be faulted for refusing to take the obstacle. On finishing the course Pat gave me a clear round! Her reasoning.... we were still 3 metres from the obstacle and therefore the jump was not in play. Woohoo!!....his Title!



Jumping comes easy to Gryffin, so you would assume that gaining his Master Jumping Title would be a snap..... Oh no!... we have issues with who is in charge out on course. So our fighting was causing a lot of disqualifications and/or faults. Gryffin's Master Jumping Title came at the Dogs NSW Agility Committee Trial on 29 January, 2011. His run was as smooth as silk. I was where I needed to be on course and he followed instructions beautifully. The compliments that I received from my peers, was indeed humbling.

I am so proud of my Gryffindore. He tries his heart out and voices his opinion of me when I stuff up. I guess that is why his nick-name at our Club is "Motor Mouth".

Since starting training with Ronnie Shawyer he has gained the following Titles: Master Agility, Open Agility, Master Jumping, Open Jumping, Excellent Gambler and lastly Novice Snooker. The latter was the bane of my existence. I was so embarrassed having a Master dog still fumbling his way around Novice Snooker! However, since gaining these titles we have gone on to secure additional passes in some of these events and are well on our way to level 2 of these Titles.



Congratulations to Jan Taylor on gaining both the Master Jumping and Master Agility Titles with 'Gryffin'.

Bearded Collie – “Temperament”

We would like to thank Dr Lynne Sharpe - Brambledale Bearded Collies - for kindly giving us the permission to reprint her photographs and the following article written by her entitled ‘Temperament’.

Firstly an introduction:-

Biography – Dr Lynne Sharpe

Lynne’s involvement with Bearded Collies began in the 1950s. As an owner/breeder/exhibitor and trainer of the Brambledale Bearded Collies for almost fifty years, Lynne has a true devotion to this wonderful breed.

Lynne won her first ‘Crufts first prize’ with “my first Beardie, in 1963” and then went on to breed many champions at home (Wales) and abroad; including Best of Breed Crufts 1975.

As a KC Judge of the breed since the 1960s and Championship Show judge since the early 1970’s, Lynne has had numerous judging appointments at home (including Crufts 1985) and abroad; including USA, Canada, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and Holland, to name a few.

Lynne’s other credits and achievements include:

- A Doctorate in Philosophy (University of Wales) for work on the Ethical Treatment of Animals.
- Author of ‘Creatures Like Us?’ (about the ethics of human/animal relationships) Published 2005 by Imprint Academic.
- Author of numerous articles on animals, including all aspects of Beardies. Published articles in many journals and magazines around the world over the last forty-five years, which have also been translated into several languages.



Lynne Sharpe in 1964 With 8week-old Mopsa
.....(Brambledale Heathermead Moonlight)



.....and in 2010 with Mopsa’s GGGGGGGG Grandson,
Rab.(Brambledale Brab)

Temperament

Ask any proud Beardie owner about his dog's temperament and he is likely to answer at once, "Oh, he has a wonderful temperament", but his idea of a "wonderful temperament" may not be yours. And since the Beardie's temperament is his most important characteristic, it is worth looking more closely at what it is - or should be.

The Kennel Club Standard describes the Beardie as "alert, lively, self-confident and active" and as a "steady, intelligent working dog, with no signs of nervousness or aggression."



All of these are important in the Beardie, but the description could equally well fit many of the working breeds, from terrier to gundog. It says nothing about the particular qualities that the Beardie needs to do his particular work. Nor does the standard describe the characteristics that make the Beardie different, not only from the terrier and gundog but from the other herding breeds as well. After all, if the Beardie were just a poor relation to the much more numerous Border Collie he would not have survived as he has, as a highly-prized worker on hill farms in England, Scotland and Wales.

My family had a Border Collie when I was a child and as a twelve-year-old I joined the local dog-training club with him. Most of the members were serious competitors in obedience and almost all of the dogs were Border Collies or German Shepherds. With the help of the trainers my Collie and I were soon competing too and winning some novice competitions but I had already fallen in love with Mrs Willison's Bothkennar Beardies, who also trained at the club. And what I loved about the Beardies was their difference. The workaholic, robotic Border Collies, and the serious-minded German Shepherds' who seemed to have no sense of fun, might win competitions but I knew that the laughing, loving Beardie was the breed for me. I especially loved the way that the Beardies watched their owners so intently, eager to pick up any signal as to what was required but were also delighted to talk to their other admirers - including me. I was delighted, too, by the sense of fun with which they worked- as if the whole thing was a bit of a joke - but a joke they were happy to share. I heard the Collie and Shepherd trainers shout commands like drill- sergeants and saw their dogs obey with military precision but I didn't want to shout orders at my dog. I wanted him to be my friend and partner, not my slave.

In 1962 I bought a Beardie puppy of my own and I trained him at the same club. We competed very successfully against the other breeds but what we enjoyed most was thinking up new games and tricks for ourselves. The incident that made me decide to give up obedience competitions is a good illustration of the Beardie character. We were competing in an obedience test on a very hot day in July. In spite of the heat, Brett had worked well and we had only the 'stay' left to do. All the dogs had to be left in a line in the ring, in the full heat of the sun, while the handlers disappeared out of sight. I felt very guilty about asking my dog to lie in the hot sun - winning the competition suddenly seemed a very silly goal When we returned to the ring I was overjoyed to find that Brett had solved the problem for himself. He was still lying in the ring but he had moved a few yards to occupy the only patch of shade - under the judge's table! No marks from the judge but top marks from me for using the Beardie ability to understand what is required and to use his own initiative to do it in the best way as a true partner.

More than forty years later I was reminded of this incident when Elan Jim (a Working Beardie from a farm in mid-Wales) came to stay with us in order to mate my bitch Nan. On Jim's first morning with us I went to attend to my horses, accompanied as always by the Beardies. Since Jim was a newcomer I was anxious not to let him out of my sight, so when I went into the stables I tied him on a rope in the yard. Having finished in the stables, I went to untie Jim, who was still sitting exactly where I had left him - only to find that the rope had been bitten in half. Jim understood that I wanted him to wait in the yard and he was happy to do so - but he didn't see any need for the rope! Of course he had his freedom after that and although he had never been away from his home before he was the perfect guest.

This ability to think and act as a real partner is one of the qualities that I most value in my present family of Beardies - all of them descended from Brett and five of them daughters of Jim as well.



It is this same quality that makes the Beardie so valuable to the hill shepherd whose sheep are scattered over large areas of mountainous land and often hidden among bracken and gorse. What is needed here is not the trials-winning Border Collie whose every move is controlled by a whistle or call but a dog who understands what is needed and can take control of the situation himself, searching out the hidden sheep far beyond the shepherd's sight and coping with any problems as they arise.

Let me now try to analyse the ideal Beardie character. Of course he must have all the traits listed in the K.C. Standard: he must be 'alert, lively, self-confident and active' as well as being a 'steady, intelligent working dog, with no signs of nervousness or aggression.' But in addition to all this, what makes the Beardie character special is a combination of two crucial elements. Firstly he has a great desire to be approved of and accepted as a member of a partnership, family or group and he achieves this by being extremely sensitive to the moods, actions and demands of his people and doing his best to conform. But his ability to be a good companion or working partner goes beyond a mere willingness to conform because the second element of his character is his extraordinary ability to think for himself; to solve problems and to work independently.

It is essential that the Beardie has *both* these characteristics. Sensitivity and a desire for approval without intelligence and self-confidence result in an over-anxious dog, too dependent on his people. On the other hand, intelligence and self-confidence without sensitivity and a desire for approval result in a headstrong dog who is difficult to train or even to control. There are many Beardies who fall into one or other of these categories. Since the ideal Beardie temperament is so complex and depends on the co-existence of so many different traits, its preservation can obviously not be left to chance but must be selectively bred for. For me it is by far the most important consideration in my breeding programme - followed by good health, longevity, sound conformation and correct coat, which will help to ensure that my ideal companion enjoys a long life that is healthy, happy and active.

Some will argue that behaviour is influenced more by training than by genetic inheritance but this has not been my experience. When, some years ago, I started to find undesirable traits, such as nervousness and lack of intelligence, appearing in some of my puppies, I could not blame environmental factors since I was rearing them in just the same way as before. The problem was that the traditional Beardie temperament was becoming rare among KC registered dogs bred mainly for show and I could no longer find stud dogs with the character I wanted. The answer was to turn to the unregistered working Beardies and for my last three generations I have used only stud dogs chosen from these lines. The result is that I have firmly re-established my ideal temperament in my Brambledale line.

The special character that makes the Beardie so valuable to the hill shepherd also makes him ideal as an intelligent, active, devoted companion and family member. But he deserves an intelligent, active, devoted owner who appreciates his special character and will let him express it. Sadly this is not the case with many modern Beardie owners - especially those involved in the show world, whose dogs seem to spend most of their time either on a grooming table or in a cage. These are the people who objected so strongly to my suggestion that the show Beardies could benefit from the introduction of working blood into the KC registered lines. The committee of the Bearded Collie Club even wrote to the KC claiming that "Working Beardies have many undesirable traits including temperaments that do not make them good family pets."

Yet the development of the Beardie as a popular show dog and companion, started by Mrs Willison in the 1940s and '50s, resulted from her enthusiasm for the *character* of the farm-bred dogs that became the nucleus of her breeding programme. She wrote of her first Beardie that "... Jeannie was not only more lovable than any dog I had ever known but she had an uncanny intelligence ... ". When I, as a child, had the privilege of getting to know those first Bothkennars, it was this special character that won my heart too.

So if working-bred Beardies made wonderful family companions fifty years ago, why should they now be regarded as unsuitable for this role? The answer, I think, is quite simple: it is not the character of the Working Beardie that has changed but the character of modern family life. Growing up near Mrs Willison in the 1940's and '50s, my siblings and I were typical of our time. We spent most of our spare time exploring the local woods and fields, building 'camps', climbing trees and fishing in streams - always accompanied by the family dogs, of course. Importantly, our mother was at home all day and happy to have the company of the animals when we were at school. By contrast, most modern families seem to live indoors, occupied with computers or television. With both parents working and children at school the pet dog is left alone all day, often confined to a small house or even a cage. This is not an adequate life for any dog: for an active, intelligent and loving working breed it is serious cruelty. If dogs are to be condemned to live like this, perhaps it is better that they should be selectively bred for dull minds and idle bodies. Their owners might assure us of their "wonderful temperaments" - but let no one pretend that they are anything but a travesty of the real Beardie.

Copyright

Dr Lynne Sharpe

January 2008



For further interesting articles, videos and information written Dr Lynne Sharpe go to:

www.spanglefish.com/brambledalebeardedcollies

Tasmanian Contest of Champions- 2011

by Michele Cooper

The Combined Breeds Dog Club of Tasmania Inc held their annual Tasmanian Contest of Champions on the 5th March, 2011. Ruby (Ch Edinglen Unforgettable) received her second invitation and I entered her thinking it would be a fun night with friends, dinner and dancing!



Judges on the night were announced as: Mr Michael Camac (SA); Mr K McCarthy(VIC); Mrs S Walker (NZ); and Mr A Bradshaw (NZ). There was an entry of 35 dogs and heats of 2 were held, with the winners of each heat going back into the draw. Three judges were present in the ring during each heat and the judges changed on a rotational basis.

First round: We drew the Mini Smooth Dachshund-Ch Nylsharon Xtra Vibrant. Ruby showed really well (translates to 'hardly any bouncing!') and we progressed through to the next round with 2 of the judges voting for us. Second round; we drew the Shih Tzu-Aust Gr Ch Fortunes Chance of a Lifetime (imp Thai), I thought to myself, 'well this was fun and now we can relax'...again Ruby showed superbly and we progressed through to another round with 2 votes! Third round in and I drew the winner from 2010, the lovely Cocker Spaniel – Gr Ch Doulton Matinee Idol...I was ecstatic to win that round; again with 2 votes. I started to actually think we might have a real chance!

Fourth round: We drew the Golden Retriever Ch Kaparla Wicketkeeper, who had so far been awarded unanimously from all three judges at each round. Ruby showed her heart out and we progressed through to the final! Ok, so I was pretty nervous by this stage and then realised the other finalist was the stunning English Springer Spaniel – Swd/Aust Ch High Score River-Runs-Wild (imp Swd). The judges re-examined Ruby and the Springer and then sent us around for one final lap.....all I could think of was getting around the ring with as little bouncing as possible...the crowd was cheering us on, which of course to most beardies is pretty exciting stuff. Ruby managed to contain herself beautifully and we stacked the dogs back up and awaited the judge's final decision...nail biting stuff! After what seemed like an eternity, Ruby was announced the eventual winner!

To say I am proud of my blonde girl is an understatement....wild and wicked can best describe Ruby when she is in the mood, but she showed superbly for me all night and never let me down. We topped off a fabulous night with dinner, dancing and lots of laughs.

Congratulations to Michele Cooper on winning the Tasmanian Contest of Champions Award with 'Ruby'.

Member Profiles

As part of 'getting to know' some of the Bearded Collie Club Members' and to share their experiences about what it's like to live with Bearded Collies; two members were interviewed by Beardie Business in Q & A style.



Name: Wendy Banks

BB: What is your Occupation....

Wendy: Production Assistant - Wedderburn Scales

BB: Where do you live.....and is it city or country..

Wendy: We live in St Andrews in the suburbs, NSW.

BB: How many Beardies do you have...

Wendy: I have the pleasure of owning two bouncing beardies.

"Merlin" - Bonibraes The Sorcerer HT (3.5yrs) and "Meg" - Ch Bonibraes Broadway Rhapsody (2yrs)

BB: When did you get your first Bearded Collie....and what drew you to the breed..

Wendy: I had a part bred bearded collie jump in my car when I was grocery shopping about 15years ago. Scruffy was a big part of our lives until he passed away of old age. I had always wanted a purebred Beardie, so Gary bought me Merlin for my Birthday about a month after I lost Scruffy. We had a Jack Russell, Basil, who missed his mate so much, Merlin had some big shoes to fill!

BB: What activities do you enjoy doing with your Beardie/s..

Wendy: We love taking our Beardies to the river where they swim, run around and enjoy just being dogs. We show Meg and are slowly introducing her to sheep, which she loves. Merlin loves the sheep and we go to obedience to make him use his brain. One day we might get a pass in CCD.

BB: Do you have any other animals....if so.....what types (i.e. species) & breeds..

Wendy: I've always had horses but don't have any at the moment, I really wouldn't have the time to care for them as they should be well looked after.

BB: What are your interests/hobbies outside of your "dog world pursuits" (if you have time!)..

Wendy: Our Beardies are my family and they enjoy doing most things that we do. Whether it be hanging around at home, going to the river or a weekend of showing or whatever doggie activities we have booked. My hobbies outside of our Beardie world are quite limited due to lack of time. If we are not doing doggie things, we go to the river and do boating and skiing things. That is basically our life right now. I've always owned horses in the past and try and ride whenever I get the chance; however that has not happened for a long time now. My Beardies definitely keep me busy!

BB: What is the 'best thing' about owning a Bearded Collie.....& what is the most 'challenging thing'

Wendy: Owning a Beardie is a wonderful experience. They have an absolute joy for life and their big bounces when you arrive home after a busy day (is a joy). Beardies would have to be one of the best breeds of dog that I have ever owned. They have a beautiful nature, sweet cuddles and they always want to be part of whatever we are doing. A Beardie is a dog that will be in my life for as long as I am capable of looking after them.

Wendy: With Merlin the most challenging thing would be his stubborn streak when he really wants to do what *he* wants and not what he is being *told* to do. Merlin is an angel and in comparison to Meg he is no challenge at all. With Meg she has been a challenge from the word go. She is so sweet to live with but can be a little monster in the show ring and she definitely has her moments. One thing with Meg is I wouldn't swap her for the world. She is my constant companion, my shadow and my little friend.

BB: For someone interested in the breed, what advice would you give them..

Wendy: Unless you are prepared to spend a lot of time with your Beardie don't get one. They demand your time and are great dogs if they get it. A Beardie without a committed loving owner would be a pretty unhappy dog as they are a dog that is definitely part of a family.

BB: Finally....what grooming item "would you never leave home without"...

Wendy: I definitely wouldn't live without my La Pooch de matting brush. Its a godsend.



Merlin & Meg

.....



Name: Nat Kirkwood

BB: What is your Occupation....

Nat: Shift worker at a fuel refinery, full time animal husbandry at home, and somewhere in there, wife too – lol ("laughing out loud"!).

BB: Where do you live.....and is it city or country..

Nat: I live in a low density outer suburb, about 20 mins out of the city of Brisbane, on 2 acres.

BB: How many Beardies do you have...

Nat: I have 2 Beardies

Sonic – 7 yo ANKC - Oakcrest Black Diamond ADX ADM ADO JDO SDX GD SPDX
ADAA – Sonic Boom AAC IAD MAAD5 AJD GD2 SD AATD AAGD

Spaghetti – 3 yo ANKC – CH Keiramyst Mi Mackendrick ADX JDX SD SPD
ADAA – Spaghetti BAAD AAD RSAAD AATD

BB: When did you get your first Bearded Collie....and what drew you to the breed..

NAT: Sonic is my first Bearded Collie, I got him from Gillian and Ian in 2003 when he was 8 weeks old. He was one of a litter of 3, I think they thought I was a bit loopy calling him Sonic, but his name suits him and he is a fantastic dog.

I got my Border Collie Nitro in 1995 and when he was about 6 months old I met a Bearded Collie at a dog show and fell in love; I wished I had got a Beardie instead of the Border Collie (no reflection on Nitro, he was delightful). But at that stage we had 3 border collies, 2 of them were under 2 yo, so I had to wait. I joined the Bearded Collie Clubs in both Vic and NSW shortly after to learn more about the breed. In 2002 I started putting my name down with breeders that I was looking for a puppy sometime in the next 12 months. I loved everything about them and couldn't wait to finally have my own. I had met some in different parts of the world, had watched some compete at the 1998 FCI World Agility Championships in Slovenia and I had been reading club newsletters for over 6 years by now, dreaming about the day I would be able to finally have one for myself. I loved their crazy humorous nature and their athletic bouncy bodies.

BB: What activities do you enjoy doing with your Beardie/s..

Nat: I mostly do agility with my guys (I started doing agility over 20 years ago when I was still a kid) and have had success with them both at a State and National level. It has been fun travelling our country and making lots of new friends. I also qualified for the 2010 World Agility Championships with Sonic, which was a fantastic experience (and I got to run a beardie cross in England).

They both have their herding instinct certificate and I have been doing herding training with Spaghetti over the past 9 months and will compete with him this year at some herding competitions. After years of agility, it has been fun doing something a little different and it has improved Spaghetti's self confidence so much. Whilst Sonic enjoys going to herding, I rarely take him and prefer to work with Spaghetti and my younger Tasmanian Smithfield, Sage.

Spaghetti has his Conformation title, but it is not a hobby that I am passionate about, I would much prefer performance events. We are in the process of learning dog scootering too. We have just started and it is my aim to put the boys on snow pulling a sled this coming winter which should be a lot of fun. I just hope they don't wrap me around a tree or something like that! They are still learning to pull into their harnesses.

The boys have so many adventures, we travel to the beach regularly and meet up with lots of our friends for them to run and play, or they like to swim in our pool or dam. They probably clock up more kilometres than a lot of people do – lol.

BB: Do you have any other animals....if so.....what types (i.e. species) & breeds..

Nat: We have a 13 month old Tasmanian Smithfield named Sage; she is a lot of fun and keeps Spaghetti on his toes. We also have a couple of miniature horses who I drive in a horse drawn carriage. This is a lot of fun.

BB: Do your Beardies get on well with the other 'animal' members of the household..

Nat: The beardies are pretty good, but they sometimes get a bit excited and chase the horses, who are sometimes willing participants and other times not!

BB: What are your interests/hobbies outside of your "dog world pursuits" (if you have time!)..

Nat: Apparently it is possible to get 26 hours in a day and do more than all of that! I like playing with my DSLR camera and after 20 years on committees and National Boards, I am finally having a break.

BB: What is the best thing about owning a Bearded Collie..

Nat: You get to spend so much time with a Bearded Collie. They just crack me up, such fun loving personalities.

BB: What is the most "challenging" thing about owning a Bearded Collie..

Nat: They like to be social, so are easily distracted, but they teach you to not take life too seriously.

BB: For someone interested in the breed, what advice would you give them..

Nat: If you can't laugh at yourself, or cope with wet paw marks on your clothes then they are definitely not the breed for you, but I can't imagine my life without them.

BB: Finally....what grooming item "would you never leave home without"...

Nat: Definitely a good metal tooth comb to get right through the coat and for me, who is not in the show ring, a set of clippers to do underneath, behind the ears and around the butt, makes grooming easier and the dogs a little more hygienic with our busy lifestyle and Beardies who do not like to let life pass them by.



Sonic & Spaghetti

NEW GRAND CHAMPION

Congratulations to David Lassam on gaining a Grand Championship Title with 'Kaydee'



**Introducing Grand Champion BeardieRwe Classy Lady (Kaydee)
Owned, bred and handled by David Lassam**

NEW AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONS

**Congratulations to Jess Buckley on gaining Australian Champion Titles'
with 'Dizzee' and 'Jimmy'**



**Introducing Aus Ch Stylwise Dizzee Rascal
(Dizzee)
Owned, bred and handled by Jess Buckley**



**Introducing Aus Ch Stylwise Jimmy Eat World
(Jimmy)
Owned, bred and handled by Jess Buckley**

NEW AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONS



**Congratulations to Jess Buckley and Mario Weiss on
gaining an Australian Championship Title
with 'Simmer'**

Introducing Aust Ch Stylwise Simple Plan – (Simmer)

**Owned and bred by Jess Buckley
Handled by Mario Weiss**



**Congratulations to Wendy Banks on gaining an
Australian Championship Title with 'Meg'**

**Introducing Aust Ch Bonibraes Broadway Rhapsody
(Meg)**

**Owned by Wendy Banks, Tim & Karin Finlayson
Bred by Tim & Karin Finlayson
Handled by Wendy Banks**

Congratulations to Cathryn Evans on gaining an Australian Championship Title with 'Cassie'

Introducing Aust Ch Bonibraes Dancing Lady

Owned by Chris & Cathryn Evans

Bred by Tim & Karin Finlayson

Handled by Cathryn Evans

Congratulations to Alison Smith on gaining an Australian Championship Title with 'Kyah'

Introducing Aust Ch Bonibraes Dance With Me

Owned by Alison Smith, Tim & Karin Finlayson

Bred by Tim & Karin Finlayson

Handled by Alison Smith

NEW JUMPING TITLE



**Congratulations to Nat Kirkwood on gaining a
Jumping Dog Excellent Title
with 'Spaghetti'**

**Introducing
ANKC – Ch Keiramyst Mi Mackendrick ADX JDX SD SPD
ADAA – Spaghetti BAAD AAD RSAAD AATD
(Spaghetti)
Owned and handled by Nat Kirkwood
Bred by Lynda Brandt**

Upcoming Club Events

Our Club Obedience Trial is coming up at the end of May as well as the Obedience Challenge match at the end of July – the Trial Schedule is in this issue of Beardie Business and to volunteer to be part of the team for the Obedience match, contact Sharon Roche.



At the beginning of August our Herding Trial will be conducted at Erskine Park – talk to Karin Finlayson about the opportunities for herding training – another great activity that anyone can enjoy with their beardie.

