



Kiwi Dog Agility

The following profiles are of the three members of the New Zealand Team representing Agility in the IFCS World Champs in the UK in May. These handlers will be borrowing dogs in the UK to compete with, the trials were held at the beginning of the year and the candidates had to run borrowed dogs over two different courses and these runs were videoed and these three were selected. For further information on these Champs visit www.wac2010.com



Natasha Coulter

I've been competing in agility for approximately 15 years now. I also spent some years competing in obedience with my sole mate Barney (another ginger)

I started my agility career with a lab x called Dudley, who had been breed to hunt pigs.

Fortunately for Dudley he was a bit soft and got beaten up by a German Shepherd who lived with his first owner. Consequently my partner Geoff took pity on him and invited him to live at our house.

That was the start of my fetish for collecting dogs. To cut a long story short, we now live on a 30 acre farm outside of Timaru. I have 11 dogs and I'm about to bring home number 12, from Sweden (another ginger).

Geoff and I also live with 2 cats (bill and ben) a goat (tussock) four horses and a small stud of of Highland cattle (again ginger!) , I think there is a reoccurring theme here.

I ran a number of different breeds before I started running border collies. This included a bully x, a cattle dog and a bearded X.

Things got abit more serious when we adopted Luke from the pound.

I had seen Luke one night when I went to a job involving a lost juvenile. No one was home and I shone my torch through the window of an old flat in Timaru. Luke's lovely little face appeared at the window. I was instantly smitten!. In a bizarre twist of fate, it turns out that my work partner (another dog lover) found Luke the following evening wandering the streets, about a kilometre from the flat.

It turns out that Lukes young owners had decided to move town and threw him out the gate onto the streets when the left. There loss was our gain. Luke was put in the pound and cost us \$12.50 to adopt.

He is one of the best dogs I have ever owned.

Luke took me on a wonderful journey over the next few years. He was a very consistent dog and became the first male dog in NZ to become a grand champ.

Luke paved the way for a pile of collies, followed by our adorable little house dog Jonty "Ruff tuff powder puff" who was bred by my mother.

I am currently competing a team of five dogs in the South Island. Four collies and Jonty who is a Bichon x.

I decided very early on that if I was going to run a powder puff, he was going to have to be competitive. I remember taking a fair bit of good humoured ribbing about running a mini. People were so used to seeing me run collies, they were struggling with the concept of me running a little fur ball.

Things turned out ok with the little powder puff and he is now a champ. This weekend, he became the first mini dog in NZ to win into jumpers A. He is a bit of a show pony and loves to "work the crowd" at a show.

Jonty and I have enjoyed a tremendous amount of support from fellow agility competitors. He has become a bit of a cute little agility mascot, who loves to prove that there is no such word as "can't" or excuses like "my legs are too short"

Jonty is a good part responsible for my inclusion into the NZ team to compete at the World Agility Champs in the UK in May.

I am running a borrowed mini dog called Lily at this event. She is German Spitz and guess what, she's ginger!

I am thoroughly looking forward to the World Champs. It has always been an ambition of mine to compete at an international event.

I would like to thank the Remons for making this possible. Also Arry and Gem for helping me out at our trials! A big thanks also goes to our sponsors Lyn Sayers (contactacoat) D-fa dog coats (check out the lovely bichon X on their website!) and the Agility committee for their support.

Last but by no means least, I would like to thank Mia Beswick who stepped in at the last minute to be our team manger. Mia is the queen of organising and has done a fantastic job getting us sorted.■





Kevin Burnette

I became involved with agility in 1998 accompanying my wife Bronwen and her Dalmatian “Topaz” to shows.

I took over running Topaz when Bronwen got Hustle, a Border Collie Cross. I could see what attracted Bronwen to the sport, especially the enjoyment of both handler and dog. I was hooked!

In 2003 I acquired my own young dog, “Antz”. This Heading Dog had speed and energy to burn. Maybe too much for someone of my inexperience, but I persisted and over the years have learnt a lot through various instructors and seminars.

I have now adopted the “Derrett System” which works well for me and my dogs, handling of the courses is much clearer having some basic rules to follow and I believe my dogs have a greater understanding of me (and vice versa). I have retrained Antz in this method and although our results may vary - when we win, it is in style! It took seven years but she is now an Agility Champion.

My young dog “Jig” has been taught this method from a pup so I am confident that I am on the right track. I have just got her into the ring, with pleasing results including a win from our first outings.

I am a member of the Feilding Dog Training Club where I have been an Instructor for the last few years.

Highlights of my dog training career include:

- Achieving Agility Champion with Antz in 2009
- 2 Novice classes + Novice Final winners at 2009 NDTA

- Top Agility/Obedience Dog winners at 2009 NDTA
- Obedience Team winners at 2007 and 2009 NDTA
- Individual Obedience Winner at 2007 National Dog Show
- Individual Obedience Winner at 2007 NDTA
- Wonder Dogs TV series with Topaz

And of course NZ Team Member selection for 2010 Agility World Championships in England

Many thanks must go to all of my supporters – too numerous to list – who have been so encouraging in my endeavours. ■



Chelsea Marriner

Hey, I’m sure most of you know me and my 8 working Border collies by now! I am stoked to be part of the team going over to England to represent NZ along with Kevin and Natasha and I hope to do us proud. It will be an experience of a lifetime I am guessing and it will be a big learning curve for me, I have been in a plane in Christchurch and that’s it! A couple of weeks without my dogs and my dirt bikes – oh and mum and dad (haha) - is going to be a bit tough but I’ll cope somehow!

Massive thanks to my fantastic sponsors Eukanuba, K9 Natural and Palamountains Vitapower and to those who have come on board to support the team for the IFCS – D-fa Dogs and Lyn Sayers’ Contactacoat. These guys are awesome and their sponsorship and support is what makes this possible! ■

Paul Whitelock & Julia Primrose

Taupo Canine Obedience Club celebrated 21 years of Agility Championship weekends at their recent February Triple Championship Event.

On looking back, it was noted that the 1990 first Championship Show was well supported with 130 entries on the Saturday and 133 on the Sunday, quite some difference 21 years later with 1359 entries for the weekend. The Show Secretary at the time mentioned there had been no complaints for the \$4.00 entry fee and it was quite acceptable, so it is amazing in those intervening years it is only \$5.00 to day.

Equipment was borrowed from Rotorua and club members didn’t start setting up courses till 9.00am for a start at 10.30. It has certainly changed over those 21 years, with seeing rings and courses set up the

day before and now arriving at the Club at 7am for 8 o'clock start.

We were fortunate to have Paul Whitelock who was at the helm of the first agility weekend in Taupo attend on the Saturday, and to cut the cake with the Clubs youngest agility member Julia Primrose.

There were three agiliters acknowledge on the Saturday for attending the whole 21st Agility Championship Weekends at Taupo, they were Club life member Lyn Peters, Alan McClumpha Hamilton and Marion Pope Tauranga.

All those who attended made the weekend a great success and congratulations to all competitors, and those who received trophies and had placings.

“Paul Whitelock and Juila Primrose cutting the 21st agility weekend cake”