

NZDJA

Around the Regions

There are five NZDJA regions and each region has two or more branches. The following is a summary from two of these branches reporting the activities they have been doing for their members. Thanks to Shannon Aldous from Waikato Branch and Karen McIntyre from North Canterbury Branch for the reports.

Waikato Branch

In the past few months the Waikato branch has had a productive time with our structured active learning.

In May Jill Brooker conducted a breed lecture on the Basset Fauve de Bretagne. This included an opportunity for hands on learning with a young dog and bitch.

Our August and September sessions have focussed on verbal and written critiquing. By using a statue, no breed standard, we were encouraged to critique the dog we saw in front of us, starting from tip of the nose all the way to the tip of the tail. At the end of our statue critique evening our Judge, Ray Greer, awarded the "Best In Show" rosette to the



Weimaraner statue, a bit of fun at the end of the evening. The next session was on critiquing from pictures. This included an Indian Breed that we had not seen before and this helped us to learn to critique the breed using the correct terminology, again rather than referring to the standard. A very informative and worthwhile session. The best critique of the evening went to Mary Pearce.

In October Hazel Wilcock led a breed lecture on the Bulldog, which included details on the history of the breed. Two dogs were available for us to get hands on learning, especially regarding the finer points of the head and body structure.

The topics being covered at our November learning session will include gaiting and mouthing of Toy Breeds plus ring craft.

Our meetings/learning sessions are held the second Tuesday of every month (except December/January). Usually these are held at the clubrooms at The Point, Ngaruawahia. We welcome anyone who is interested in becoming a judge to come and join us. Our calendar for 2018 is being finalised and we hope to have another active training year for all judges at all levels.

North Canterbury

2018 has been a productive year for the Branch. In April we attempted to "Master the Mastiffs" and we are thankful to the wonderful people who supported the day. Mastiff, Bullmastiff, Neopolitan Mastiff, Tibetan Mastiff and Dogue de Bordeaux....it was a great day!

On a very wet and cold Queens Birthday weekend we "Tested our German Skills" and invaded the Southland German Shepherd Dog Championship Show. It was a wonderful experience and



we thank Graeme and Jan Saltiel for taking the time to talk to our group and provide some good insight into judging this breed. We were also fortunate to have Michael Bradley SV contribute to the discussion. It was a shame the weather was so appalling however we did get to watch some of the judging and listen to some of the critiquing whilst our bodies were wrapped in as many layers of thermal clothing we could find!!

The Mid Winter Seminar was held in August and we brought back the Blind Judging session (judges are blindfolded and have to go over a dog and determine what breed they are). This is a great method of teaching your hands to do the examination and is very challenging. We followed this with an excellent presentation on the Pekingese, discussed health and welfare issues and spent some time on critiquing skills.

2018 kicks off with our traditional Summer Seminar on Sunday 7th January 2018...book the date now and come and join us.

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