

# NZDJA

## Judging Moments (part one)

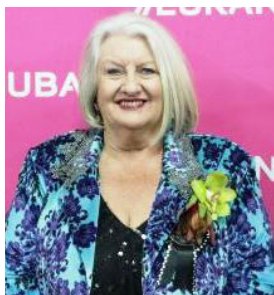
by Kaye Finlayson

### Laughter, Tears, Bed Bugs and the Finer Things in Life

The Good, The Bad and sometimes the Ugly comes to mind

After committing myself to the amazing privilege of judging other folks dogs, I set out to become a Dog Show Judge. Yes, my aspirations were to become All Breeds and as the daughter of a school teacher I was no stranger to studying for anything you want.

Here are but a few of the memories I have never forgotten.



#### My proud to be a woman moment...

I was on a panel with male counterparts judging for a Ladies Show in another country. I was delighted to have this appointment, as at the time, I was President of our Canterbury Ladies Club and felt so privileged to be judging for another Ladies Club. We stopped for a long lunch due to the heat of the day. Lunch was a grand affair, silver service and waiters, which was amazing. Ah! Time for the speeches. One of the gentlemen with me was about to stand up and reply on our behalf when he was advised that only ladies are invited to speak on behalf of judges. Being the only female on the judging panel, that privilege fell to me. I felt so honoured to thank our hosts.

#### My ugly moment...

On a hot day in Christchurch I am judging my very first appointment for my second group. The first breed had only one dog, a puppy, just 2 days over 6 months. He looked very typical of the breed, in fact to me he looked rather good. He was, however, a little skittish going around. With the young handlers assistance I was able to reasonably well assess him on the stack, however it all fell apart on the move where he went down on his belly. I didn't remove him from the ring; I did however politely advise the handler and my steward that I would not award a challenge today. Suddenly all heck broke loose. A man stormed up to the steward, demanding to speak with me, only to be told he could do so at the end of the group judging. And so he did! He waited all morning, lying at the side of the ring, watching me judge every dog. No, that didn't bother me, as I was zoned into my judging. When finished I approached him to talk. I didn't get a chance. I was totally abused with the foulest language and I was completely taken aback, wondering what on

earth I had got myself into if this was dog show judging. He then followed me to the Secretary's area, only to be escorted away by officials, still yelling expletives about me personally and my judging of his puppy. Later in the evening I received a call from an Executive Councillor, who had been at the show, advising they had relayed what had happened to the President of the NZ Kennel Club who subsequently laid a complaint against that person. The short and tall of the story is he was thrown out of the NZ Kennel Club for 10 years which I must admit I thought was very severe at the time. Some 7 or 8 years later the man approached me at a show where I was Show Manager and apologised for his behaviour. He also asked if I had any objections to him applying early to come back in as a member. I accepted his apology replying 'I don't have any objections, you only get 8-10 years for murder in this country'. We laughed and off he went.

Although I did have second thoughts about dog show judging at the time I can tell you how grateful I am to have continued and the joys that have come over the years.

Part two in the next edition of *NZ Dog World*.

## National Board

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## Important Dates

- |                   |                                          |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 31 January 2017   | Applications for promotion close         |
| 21 March 2017     | Theory Examination                       |
| 15 & 16 July 2017 | Auckland Practical Exams                 |
| 22 & 23 July 2017 | Wellington Practical Exams (if required) |
| 29 & 30 July 2017 | Christchurch Practical Exams             |