

NZDJA

Judging Moments (Part Two)

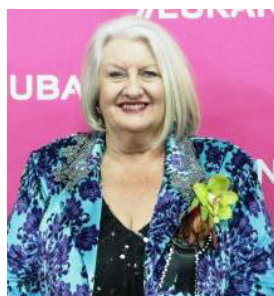
by Kaye Finlayson

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

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

My proud to be representing New Zealand moment

I have always been a very proud New Zealander. I stand with hand on heart and sing along at the Rugby matches with all the others. Nothing, however, prepared me for an occasion when judging overseas and as the only New Zealander on the panel I was handed a very large bunch of flowers and stood in front of a very large crowd as our New Zealand National Anthem played.



Yes, there were a few small tears that rolled down my face and no, I didn't sing, I just mouthed the words.

My very recent funny moment

I was judging with a wonderful pair of Ozzies in North Queensland. We met at their hotel to go to the grounds. One said "oh yeah we're going to the snake pit" which had me on high alert. "There really aren't any snakes are there? You're having me on?" "No," he replies "there are snakes about". From then I was on red alert, thinking how was I going to judge dogs where there could be snakes, which I am terrified of. My stomach was doing summersaults. We arrived at the club grounds, which is adjoined a camping ground. The grounds looked lovely and very spacious. I was on the alert though and thought I'd go to the bathroom before judging. I asked one of the ladies where to go. "Over there," she said and then added, "mind the frogs." Frogs? "Where are the frogs?" "In the toilets," she said, "I haven't had time to remove them yet." Well I'd keep a look out I told myself, thinking I hope they are not those big cane toads or anything. I very carefully walked into the toilet and looked around – whew, no frogs. So as Mother always said "one mustn't sit on the seat of a strange toilet". Obeying, I went to the toilet and turned around to flush and down came the frogs, scrambling for their lives to hold on so as not to be flushed away. I was so taken back I was speechless and didn't know what to do except jump back and hope. They all knew what had happened, laughing as I returned. Poor frogs, they get in under the rim of the toilet to get water as the area is very dry. Texting my family during the lunch break about my experience they wanted photos as proof. "You are kidding us?" Nope – and I went back later in the day with the camera. I couldn't

do it – flush the chain – so just took the photo and decided I could wait until I got back to the motel.

On another occasion I have had to leave a hotel, as did many other guests, due to an infestation of bed bugs! I was left sitting on my suitcase in the foyer while I waited to be picked up and taken to another hotel and I have been in awe of the finest accommodation we were put up in and treated like the royal family by many clubs, but I find there is no place like home after some of these wonderful overseas trips.

The short and tall of judging dogs is it is an honour to be invited by clubs and have the pleasure of judging the exhibitors' dogs. Remember judge with honesty and integrity – do the very best you can, we never stop learning. As you progress through the system and get to enjoy overseas trips and 'wonders of the world' you are so grateful for our hobby, the lifelong friends and acquaintances you make, and the memories to tuck away in a safe place to remember and have a chuckle over.



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Important Dates

- 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