



Gundog trials in South-East Queensland - one year on

by Cathie Jackson

It's almost one year since the inaugural meeting of SSAA Branch 73, the United Field and Retrieving Branch (Queensland), and what a year it has been.

Through the support of SSAA and a tireless band of gundog enthusiasts, the United Field and Retrieving Branch is off to a flying start. The group manned a display at the 2008 Spectacular Petacular weekend held at the RNA Showgrounds where they were able to introduce the sport to thousands of animal lovers. They even managed to get Dr Harry to draw and present their raffle prize to branch members Sam and Elaine Haigh.

This event was quickly followed by an orientation and training day for anyone interested in finding out a little more about the joy and benefits of training a working gundog.

As well as looking for new opportunities to present the sport to the public, the branch has already held two very successful competition weekends. Most recently, the Great Northern Trial was held on April 26 and 27 at Jimna near Kilcoy. Competitors were able to camp and enjoy a social evening with a three-course dinner provided by the club. Full results of the competition can be viewed on the branch website at www.unitedfieldandretrieving.org.au

The next retrieving trial was held on Sunday June 1 at Samsonvale and the club's Anniversary Trial Weekend was on June 28 and

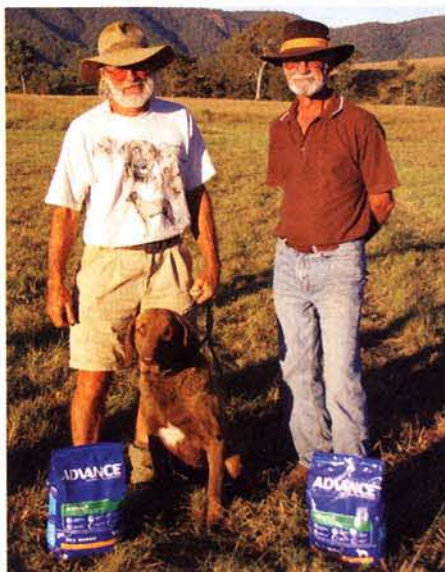


Intermediate winner Kai Jeffrey with Flat Coat retriever 'Hamish'.

29, marking one year since the first official trial was held. Further competitions as well as social events are planned for the remainder of the year.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the benefits of owning a trained gundog and seeing some of the best gundog work in Australia is welcome to attend or contact the branch via email on info@unitedfieldandretrieving.org.au

Advanced winner Trevor Lodder, left, with judge Robert Price.



Open winner Laurel Draper with Victorian judge Byron Kendall.

