



**PREPARED:** Evan Mangin with Spike, his German short-haired pointer, at the United Field and Retrieving Club Gundogs Trials. *Photos: MAX FLEET gnd1907z*

**COMPETITION**

# Dogs return to thrill of the hunt

IF you heard the ringing sound of a gun shot, or the howl of dog in Bundaberg this weekend, fear not — it was all in the name of good fun.

The sound was just the United Field and Retrieving Club holding their gundog trials, where labradors, setters and spaniels are trained to seek out a fallen rubber duck in a hunting simulation.

Club vice-president Kerri Underwood said Bundaberg had a small but strong club, and she hoped to see more members in the sport.

"There are so many labradors that just sit around in backyards and people don't realise that they can do this," she said.



**IN ACTION:** John Palu's labrador Rani retrieves a rubber duck at the trials. *gnd1907c*

"This is a way to use the rubber ducks, to get those dogs out of the yard, exercise, keep them healthy and get the owners out as well."

She said training a gundog led

to a deep bond with the animal.

Over the course of the two days, about seven Bundaberg gun dog owners competed against a field from as far as Brisbane.

Bundaberg's Leanne Dick took out the intermediate stake with her dog Yuroka Seabreeze, while Bundaberg man Malcolm Tyrie won the advanced stake with Feldhund Perazzi.

Laurelle Draper took out the open stake with her dog Lydstep Tanner, and Bryan Pritchard won the test stake with Copperbirch Capella.

For more information on gundogs, visit [www.unitedfieldand-retrieving.org.au](http://www.unitedfieldand-retrieving.org.au).