

## ***Year of Induction 2015***

### ***Category – Prominent Persons***



### ***Ray Johnson - Western Australia***

#### **Club Activities**

Ray has been a Committee Member of the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of WA as well as fulfilling roles as Vice President and President. In 1997 he was honoured by being made a Life Member.

Ray has also served the Retrieving Club of WA as a Committee Member, Treasurer and has also received Life Membership. He has been a member of several other clubs and been on the ANRTC working party committee. Ray currently is involved with the State working party committee and is the chairman for the Field working party committee.

Ray's passion for keeping the natural ability of working Gundogs alive in WA is such that he decided in 2012 to create the United Field Trial Club of WA and was the President when the Club started. Ray's desire extended not only to Utility Gundog breeds but also to help keep the Pointer & Setter Field Trials going and to start Spaniel & Retrieving Trials in WA.

Ray's continual support to all Gundog breeds such as Pointer & Setters, Spaniel & Retrievers and Utility dogs has him working tirelessly in organising paddocks, fun days (walk in the Park) for the GSP Club of WA and organising and running training days for the Retrieving Club and Field Training days for the UFTC of WA. Ray has also organised interstate Field Judges to visit WA to give lectures and guidance to competitors to Field Trials as well as Judge a trial whilst here.

He has been an integral member of the WA RAFT for over 20 years and has served as Chair of the Field section for more than 15 of them.

Ray initiated their involvement with Field Trials, and was the driving force behind them running Novice, Restricted & All Age retrieving trials. Ray has also been a committee member of both the Retrieving Club of WA, and the Australian National Retrieving Trial Committee of WA.

In 1992 when the ban on quail shooting was formalised in WA Ray took it upon himself initiate negotiations with the various government department bodies which eventuated in WA being able to hold Field Trials as “non shooting” trials where the utility dogs could still exhibit their game finding abilities, without the killing element of the game . Whilst not falling within the official criteria of the ANKC , hence being unsanctioned, these trials kept Field trailers in WA involved in the sport. Over the years other States have lost their quail seasons and six years ago the WA template was used to formulate the official ANKC “Closed Season” trials which we have today.

In recent years Ray has been instrumental in the formulation of a new club in WA. The United Field Trial Club has in its first four years under Rays presidency has been successful in not only holding Field trials, but also, for the first time in many years , Pointer & Setter trials and this year the first ever Spaniel & Retriever trial to be held in WA.

#### **Trial- Judging/Stewarding/Managing/Handling/Trial History.**

Ray purchased his first gundog, a GSP in 1974 but not until 1979 did Ray and wife June purchase a Registered GSP and become a member of the CAWA.

Ray and June started with Dog Shows and Obedience before becoming heavily involved in Field and Retrieving Trials to which Ray has become a Championship Judge in both fields.

He began judging in the mid 80's and is now licensed to officiate at Championship Field Trials as well as Championship Retrieving Trials. Ray has twice (1999 & 2006) judged the National Retrieving trial Championship, as well as officiating at several State Championships and being invited to judge other stakes in Qld, Vic & SA

In 1996, 2003 and 2005 Ray judged and co-judged the Retrieving State Championship Trial's in WA and most currently in 2012 with whom he co-judged with his daughter Eleanor. Each year Ray contributes in many local WA trials in both Field and Retrieving.

Over the last 35 years Ray has been a keen competitor, breeder, judge, mentor, club member and steward for many Retrieving and Field Clubs. Ray has supplied properties to Field & Retrieving trials, organised workers, collected and looked after game for the Labrador Retrieving Club of WA, Gundog Club of WA, Retrieving Club of WA, G.S.P Club of WA, ANRTC, STATE and the Utility Field Trial Club of WA. Ray has ensured over the past years that the trialling equipment was looked after, has towed the Retrieving Club of WA Food Van to sites with June volunteering serving meals to provide competitors with refreshments and fundraising to ensure the longevity of the clubs.

Ray's passion for the sport has drawn him to travel interstate to compete.

He has often travelled to the Eastern States not only to compete in Field and Retrieving but also to judge Retrieving Trials.

#### **Owner/Breeding**

Ray has bred GSP's and Brittany's under the Wauchope prefix -one of the best known GSP working lines in WA. He commits his time to breeding working lines and has produced Show Champions, Field Champions and Retrieving Titles (NRD, RRD & AARD) & Retrieving Champion.

In 1999 from Ray's breeding, he produced the triple champion (Show Champion, Retrieving Champion & Field Champion) Wauchope Farwalked Woman (Fern), who was inducted into **the Hall of Fame in 2010**.

#### **Other**

Ray Johnson has made outstanding contributions to Field or Retrieving particularly in his home state of Western Australia and has been a giver not a taker.