

"The Shepherd News"



ISSUED MONTHLY

EDITED BY S. McCORMACK

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DANGER!!

BEWARE OF THE TOAD FISH

These Fish are Poisonous

As there is nothing more tempting to a dog than a nice smelly dead fish, many dogs have fallen victim to this deadly little fish - and died a horrible death - very, very few have had the luck to survive.

The summer is fast approaching and we will be taking our dogs to the beaches again shortly. While the ocean beaches are comparatively free of the Toad Fish (or 'Toadie' as it is more commonly known) at the bay side beaches near Geelong, in particular the Point Henry Area, the risk is very great indeed.

As the 'Toadie' is a nuisance to the fishermen they are often left lying on piers or thrown from boats and washed ashore - there the danger lies.

For the benefit of our members who come from overseas and have not heard of the Toad Fish -

It is small, approx. 6" - 8" long, dark green spotted on the back, has rather a square head and a peculiar feature is that when taken from the water the fish puffs itself up to a great degree.

The chief characteristic is that the skin gives off a poison which is deadly to both humans and animals.

So potent is this poison that a cat may die, merely from licking the skin.

It is a wise precaution to look the beach over before allowing your dog to run free, it can be seen at a glance if the area is badly infected with these fish.

Better still, it would be a good idea to train your puppy not to pick up anything on the beach - or anywhere else - this safety measure could prevent him from picking up a bait.

This is where we go back to that old proverb :

"Prevention is better than cure".

- o o o -

- SPECIAL DOG FOR THE JOB -

Of the working dogs that have been developed throughout the world, sheep and cattle dogs are the most valuable to Australia.

To say they do a man's days work in hundreds of paddocks every day of the year is not quite accurate, because the work they do no man could carry out.

Watch a Kelpie or Border Collie speed along a flock and head-off straying sheep after scrambling through a fence and perhaps wading a waterhole, and their worth is evident.

To train the average sheep-dog takes from eight to 12 months working with a trained dog. A partly trained dog of 18-months costs as much as £40. At a recent auction of trial dogs at Canberra, top dogs brought £260.

The Kelpie is a typically Australian breed and is listed as such by Kennel Authorities all over the world. He is considered one of the best types for handling sheep.

The Border Collie is more widely used with sheep overseas where, for generations, he has been bred for this purpose. He has also proved his usefulness in handling cattle, horses and even poultry.

Apart from sheep and cattle dogs and a very few dogs used for guard duty, tracking and leading the blind, the other working dogs in Australia are various hounds used for hunting and gun-dogs used for retrieving game.

. . . Extracts from "Know Your Dog".

We hope that one day our dogs will be named among the above for their sheep and cattle work in Australia.

- REPORT ON SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING -

The main topic of discussion at the Special General Meeting held on Oct. 13th, was the commencement of this year's Gala Float.

Plans were put forward and working bees organized for the preparation of of the float.

Also discussed at some length was problems involved in holding Training Sessions at times to suit everyone.

It has now been decided to alter the Training Sessions at the Belmont Ground to afternoons, in the hope that a greater number of Shepherd owners will be able take part in our training program.

Further details are advised in "Training Notes". ***

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- TRAINING NOTES -

Attention Belmont Members !!

Commencing Sunday Nov. 8th, the Training Sessions at the Belmont Training Ground will be conducted in the afternoon between -

2.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m.

This change has been made to enable a greater number of the public to witness our training methods, and for those Shepherd owners who would not otherwise be able to attend morning classes.

Training at the Norlane Ground will continue to be held in the morning and we hope that this arrangement will please everyone.***

SEEN AT TRAINING

At the conclusion of Training at Belmont one fine Sunday recently, a figure was seen running towards the river, hotly pursued by four "Shepherds" - was the man trying to escape their gaping jaws as he plunged into the river -

No - it was Fred Lehrman, and his dog team taking a swim.

It is suspected that in the very near future, Fred may be calling for volunteers for his Ice Bergers Brigade. The only qualifications are:-

A swim suit, one or more dogs, the ability to swim, no feeling, and a certificate to prove your insanity.***

*
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*

- CLUB TRAINING BOOKS -

We have available, booklets on the training of your dog - compiled by Colin Mitchell.

This is a very informative little book, which extends the instruction in training you are given at Sunday Training Sessions.

Priced at 3/- they are very good value.

Books are obtainable from the Training Supervisor at Norlane or Mr. Col Mitchell at Belmont.

Extracts from Training Book:

"A" - "Z" of Training

- 'A' Always be C - C - C ;
Cool.
Calm.
Collected.
- 'B' Strict discipline must be maintained over your dog while training.
- 'C' Your words of command must be given in the same tone of voice and the same number of words used in each exercise.***

*
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*

- NEWS FROM SHOWS - TRIALS - DEMONSTRATIONS -

Geelong Show - Oct. 18th.

Our Club was well represented with approximately 20 entries in the Shepherd section of the Show.

Mrs. B. Reid was successful in the Local Open Bitch taking 1st place with "Armando Bruhnkilde".

Mr. Fred Lehrman was very successful in taking 3 First Places with his bitch "Helgoland Anneliese" in Novice, Junior, and Limit.

Other members gaining places with their dogs were Mr. Granich 3rd in Open dog, Miss McCormack 2nd Novice Bitch, Mr. G. Moss 2nd Junior Bitch & Limit Bitch, Mr. L. Broom 3rd in Limit Bitch.

Bendigo Show - 24th. 24th.

Fred Lehrman travelled to the Bendigo Show and was once again successful, taking a 1st in Novice Bitch, 2nd Puppy Bitch, 3rd Limit Bitch with his "Helgoland Anneliese"; and was also awarded a 2nd with "Sparbur Anka" in Novice Bitch.

Trial - Croydon Oct. 25th.

Norm Forbe's "Rangi" has joined the ranks of "C.D." winners by gaining his third qualification at Croydon with a score of 89 points, being the only Geelong dog to succeed at this trial.

Congratulations Norm - and now on to the C.D.X.!

Shirley & Greg Moss' Sabbie gave a good performance in this their first trial with a score of 81 points, it won't be long before their score card reads 85. ***

Quite a picnic atmosphere prevailed at the Little River Youth Club Fete which was attended by a number of our members to provide an Obedience Demonstration.

Bill Stephens proved his versatility by winning the Sheaf Tossing event, the Bantom Chase and then provided quite a diversion with his unorthodox trammel line expert exhibition. We also found a budding trammel line expert in Bob Serle, much to our surprise and his too.

I might add that the crowd enjoyed the demonstration given by the Club as much as the Club enjoyed being there. A letter of thanks was received from the organizers of the fete and congratulated the Club on its good work.

- o o o -

The Carnival Football Match held at Werribee in aid of Yurella Crippled Children's Appeal was a great success both financially and as an entertaining outing.

Churnside Park is an ideal spot for a barbeque picnic, taken advantage of by many family parties and the aroma of barbequing chops and steaks was very tempting.

The demonstration by the dogs was a great success which the intrusion of some stray dogs could not upset. A great crowd pleaser was the "Double" by Zoe & Bonney working together with Col. Mitchell, and Rickey and Roland's fire hoop jumping display.

The whole demonstration went off very smoothly and was very capably compered by Kevin Krygger.

Some fire fighting equipment might come in handy though, before Jim McCormack steals the show one day, by going up in a puff of smoke while extinguishing the flames.

A letter of appreciation has been received from the Yurella Hospital Committee in recognition of our Club's support. ***

- SOCIAL JOTTINGS -

The Cabaret Dance held at Rippleside by the Sheep & Cattle Dog & All Breeds Obedience Dog Club on Oct. 11th was very much enjoyed by all the members of our Club who attended.

The hope is expressed that there will be many other social functions where both Clubs will be able to entertain each other.***

- CANCELLATION OF GALA FLOAT -

Owing to the lack of support from members in the preparation of the Club Float for this year's Gala Day Procession, it has been decided by the Committee to abandon the project.

While this is most unfortunate from a Club point of view, it is generally felt that too many members are leaving too much work to too few.

It is hoped that for future events ALL the members will rally round and give their full support and enthusiasm - remember, this is YOUR Club - "Please don't let it down!***

- DATES TO NOTE -

- Nov. 8th : Training Norlane 10 - 12 am
- " Belmont 2.30 - 3.30 pm
- Nov. 15th : As above.
- Nov. 22nd : " "
- Nov. 24th : Committee Meeting.
- Nov. 28th : Entries Close for Geelong German Shepherd Club Trial.
- Nov. 29th : Training as above.
Closing date for items in "Shepherd News"***

Members! Please check the date on your Membership Cards - You are not unfinancial are you?

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