

# ***Year of Induction***

**2019**

## ***Category – Prominent Persons***



***Russell Thomas (Victoria)***

### **Club Activities**

Russell has been on the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Victoria committee member since 1980 and Vice President of the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Victoria since 2009. He is currently on the Victorian Raft Committee having been elected for his second four year term in 2017.

Russell has been a committee member of the Gippsland Retrieving Club since its inception in 2015.

He is also a committee member of the Central Highlands Working Gundog Trial Club.

### **Trial- Judging/Stewarding/Managing**

Russell has co-managed the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Victoria two day retrieving trial held in January each year since 1996, he has been the co-manager of numerous state field trials, and co-manager of three national utility field trials held in Victoria.

He has managed the German Shorthaired Pointer open/all age utility field trials since 2004, and has generously given his trial sites to other clubs so that they can hold trials.

He assisted John Holloway in managing the 1995 National Retrieving Trials held at Shepperton in Victoria and assisted John again in managing the 1997 State Retrieving Trial held at Dairy Creek/Trawool.

He is an open utility field trial judge and has recently applied to be assessed to championship level. He has organised and run numerous training days for both field and retrieving trailers to encourage the training and promotion of gundogs in general.

## **TRIAL ENHANCEMENT PARTICIPATION**

Russell has been at the forefront of Utility Gundog Field Trial rule changes bringing them up to date to reflect the changing environment and expectations of gundog owner's and Australian gundog triallers.

## **OWNING/BREEDING**

Russell's contribution to the developed of the German Shorthaired Pointer in Victoria under his Kennel Name Inkaline.

### **Handling/Trial History**

Russell has trialed five dogs to their field trial titles

FT Ch Inkaline Dakkota NRD

FT Ch & RT Ch Inkaline Nevada

Ntl FT Ch Inkaline Krakka Jack RRD

He also trialed Ft Ch Topnotch Hijinx NRD and Ft Ch Topnotch Quetie RRD to their titles in the field and at retrieving trials.

### **He also breed the following**

Ntl Ft Ch Inkaline Frigga NRD, winner of two Utility Field Trial Nationals, owned and handled by Ken Selwyn

FT Ch Inkaline Highlander Owned and Handled by Rodney Loft

FT Ch Inkaline Georgia NRD, Owned and Handled by Terry Loft

Rt Ch Inkaline Phoebe Owned and Handled by Rick Johnson

## **TRIAL PARTICIPATION/HISTORY**

Russell has competed in Utility Field trials since 1982 and has competed in Retrieving Trials since 1977.

## **OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS THAT HAVE ENHANCED GUNDOG SPORTS**

Russell played a large part in training Gary Ponzio Hungarian Vizlas Ntl Ft Ch. & Ch. Hubertus Pannonial Ekes (IID) and also Mark Heuhn Dual Ch (F) Hubertus Easy Rider.

Russell's passion for his sport sees him travelling the length and breadth of Victoria trying to secure trial sites to run field and retrieving trials for the clubs he is associated with. No easy task with the recent drought conditions in Victoria.

He also travels extensively throughout Australia competing in retrieving trials (job permitting) but what makes Russell stand out from the crowd is his willingness to help at trials whether it be on the thrower or putting a blind out or gun stewarding, he's not the one looking back to see who else can do it.