

ANKC

Year of Induction – 2000

CATEGORY: Prominent Person



Mrs Marie Ewen (WA)

Marie Ewen was one of the inaugural inductees into the Hall of Fame in the year 2000 in recognition of her extensive contribution to the sport of Gundog Retrieving.

As a Club Official

Marie's service to the Canine Association of Western Australia (Inc), now known as DogsWest, spans more than 35 years. Marie was the Association's President for 10 years (1977 to 1987) and succeeded in fostering more retrieving interest among Governing Council members and staff. Life membership was conferred on Marie in 1982.

Marie qualified as a retrieving trial judge in 1965 and became a member of the Advisory Panel, which was the forerunner of the Association's Retrieving Committee, which was established in 1974 with Marie as Chairman. She remained in that position until 1998 (with a one year leave of absence in 1975). In 1999, Marie became a committee member until she retired at the end of that year. During those years, She also served on the committee for Training and Examination of Judges (RT) and was Chairman of the Board of Examiners from 1973 to 1998. Marie prepared all examination papers during that period and she played a large part in drawing up regulations for the training of retrieving trial judges, many of which are still in place today. Marie also initiated the inclusion of reports of trials and articles relevant to outstanding retrieving handlers and dogs in the Canine News. She was a respected delegate at ANKC Rules Reviews from the 1970's until 1998. She also served on the State Championship Trial Committee in a variety of capacities including Deputy Chairman for many years.

Marie's Club involvement with the Labrador Retriever Club of WA (Inc) started in 1959 as a foundation member. Marie went on to serve as President, Vice President, Committee member and Chairman of the Field Subcommittee. Life membership was conferred on Marie in the early 1970's. In 1974, Marie became patron of the Club, remaining in that capacity for 20 years. She was truly a working patron, spending many hours in the 70's and 80's looking for sites for retrieving trials. She attended all trials until around 2003 and if not judging or competing was happy to work as trial manager, chief steward, field or gun steward. Marie was also very generous to the Club, giving donations and trophies.

Marie was also a foundation member of the Australian National Retrieving Trial Committee in Western Australia, formed in 1970, and remained an active member until 1994. She was Deputy Chair of this committee for many of those years and she continually strove for improvement in the organisation and management of trials in Western Australia.

As Judge

Marie began judging in 1965, achieving championship status in 1969. She judged in all major retrieving stakes and was proud to have been invited to judge in five other states for their State Championships – Victoria in 1980, South Australia in 1983, ACT in 1984 and New South Wales in 1987. Marie has also judged All Age and Restricted stakes in Queensland in 1972, 1975 and in New South Wales (Cooma) in 1984. She also judged prodigiously in Western Australia including the National Retrieving Championships in 1975 and 1977, the State Championship in 1968, 1979, 1982, 1987, 1991 and 1994. In all, during her judging career Marie judged over 200 stakes and never refused an appointment in order to run her own dogs.

As Owner/Handler/Breeder

As an owner/handler of Labrador Retrievers, Marie successfully trained 10 Labrador Retrievers from 1963 through to the early 2000's including Open and All Age winners. She struggled through injury and adversity to continue trialling into her 80's; her determination to continue was legendary and an inspiration to many.

Although having only bred two litters, 1961 and 1982, one dog from the 1982 litter became a Retrieving Trial Champion in early 1984. His name was R T Ch Terranaut Royal Cub, owned and handled by Joe Vella, and he went on to win nine State Championship Trials in NSW (2), Vic (2), Qld (2), SA and ACT.

Marie Ewen encouraged gundog owners to participate in retrieving by personal approach, arranging demonstrations and when opportunities arose, in interviews or written articles. Marie was a giver to the sport of retrieving and embodied everything that retrieving trial judges, exhibitors and stewards strive for.