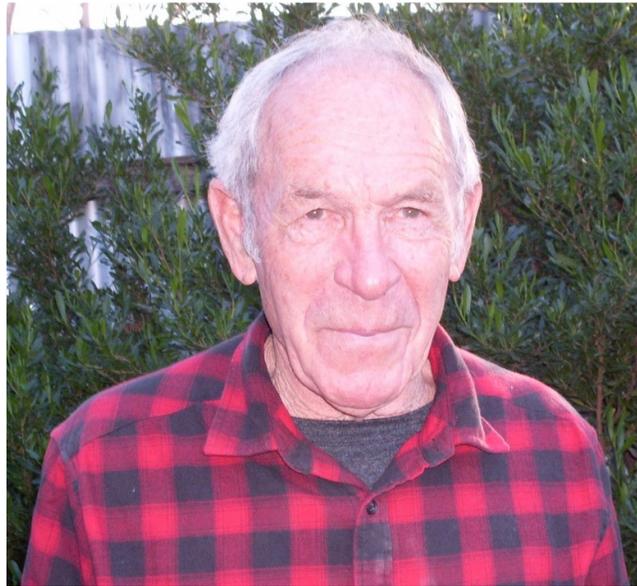


## ***Year of Induction 2020***

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

#### ***Ray Ashenden SA***



#### **Club Activities**

Ray, together with others, started RAFTCOSA in the late seventies, and he initiated the Meningie Cup, having found the property where the trial is still held to this day. Always the worker he organized marquees etc (and of course the liquid refreshments) for the trials there, and for the Nationals that were run at Meningie in 1983 and 1986.

Ray has always been a force behind Nationals held in SA, often working in the kitchen where his native dishes are legendary. Although living a long way from metropolitan Adelaide he chaired the National Committee for the 2008 National and is again the Chairperson and main driving force preparing for this year's National.

As Ray has lived well away from Adelaide, he has not tied himself to any particular Club's committee, but instead has worked for all. He has continued to find properties and the Labrador Club is thankful for him discovering the property at Morgan. He is also responsible for securing us the property for the 2008 National and a number of other properties for field trials when they were held in SA in a bygone era.

Ray has always been supportive of beginners. In the recent past he has travelled many kilometres to help out at training days.

Ray has been famous in SA and throughout Australia for many years, trialling in both Retrieving and Field. Many stories have been told about him, and these are the stuff of myths and legends. Unfortunately, it has been incredibly hard to sort the fact from the fiction, especially as Ray himself has large gaps in his memory after suffering memory loss through a serious fall. He is also reluctant to talk about past deeds. Nevertheless, we have pieced together enough of his history to warrant his nomination for the Hall of Fame. We realise what we have here is only part of the story, and we are relying on triallers all around Australia to fill in the gaps.

### **Trial – Judging/Stewarding/Managing**

Ray is always the first to offer help at a trial. He has helped in many thankless tasks like digging toilet holes for all clubs. It can sometimes be embarrassingly difficult to stop him from going on the thrower once too often and insist another take his place. Even interstate he is often the first to volunteer.

He has been a judge for Field Trials.

He has trial managed many trials over the years, both in Field and Retrieving.

### **Owner/Breeding**

Ray was a breeder for many years with the prefix *Horrissapit*, mainly breeding for his own purposes and for his friends in the early days. Nevertheless, because of his successes his line of dogs were keenly sought after interstate as well. A number of his dogs have been trialled, the most notable being RT CH Horrissapit Delta and Mark Sargison's RT Ch Horrissapit Sargeant Bob, which won the NSW Championship in 2013.

### **Handling/Trial History**

Ray's trialling career spans 6 decades from the seventies to the twenties, and he has titled 6 Labrador dogs and bitches in Retrieving and Field.

Ray began his trialling career in 1977 with "Pandell" with immediate success. He came second in the 1978 Retrieving National Championship with RT C FT CH Warrakimbo Pandell and with her he came second in the 1979 SA State Championship and then did one better by winning the Championship in 1981. She also did particularly well in Field Trials winning the SA State Field Championship in 1981.

He won the SA State Retrieving Championship for a second time in 1984, but this time with "Wags" who went on to become RT CH FT CH Kelrise Cindy. With her, Ray achieved CMs both in Field and Retrieving, but as so often happened in those days these were not put on her pedigree.

Some of Ray's other notable dogs that he has trialled are RT CH FT CH Horrissapit Lyra, RT CH Horrissapit Kymberley (together with Geoff Oakes) and RT CH Horrissapit Surprize. With "Prize" Ray came 4<sup>th</sup> in both the 2004 and 2006 SA State Retrieving Championships and came 8<sup>th</sup> in the 2006 National Retrieving Championship.

His present dog is RT CH Nativerun Angus. "Gus" has just turned three, but has already won ten All Age stakes in several states.

Owing to work commitments there are periods where Ray disappeared from the SA trialling scene. One of his dogs was "Dasha" who had a much-travelled life, but owing to Ray spending long periods on the Nullabor, Brisbane and then in Darwin and Tasmania, there is no record of the dog titling, although he did trial occasionally with it in various states around Australia.

Author: Jessie Hughes