



THE FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSN.

FLATCOAT NEWS

March 2018



The Editor's Creed:

Mistakes are made deliberately. Some people are always looking for errors..... and the Editor aims to please everyone.

Inside this
Issue

**President's
Report**

**Editor's
Report**

**News from
NSW**

**Annual
Awards**

**Titles Gained
2017**

**The History
of Retrievers**



**Simone Wilkie's
Grand Champion Kellick All I Ever Need is You**

INPORTANT NOTICE

The Editor of the Flatcoated Retriever Assn of Victoria Inc. welcomes freelance contribution to the newsletter. Submissions should be typed or neatly written. The authors name should appear on each page. Whilst the editor exercises every care, no responsibility is accepted for errors or omissions that arise during the publishing process, The Association accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of statements nor necessarily agrees with the opinions or statements expressed by freelance contributors



President's Report

Peter Eley OAM



I have much pleasure in presenting the 2017 Annual Report which reflects the strong position of the Association. The Flat Coated retriever continues its climb in popularity and success around the country; now holding its own in most fields of canine competition.

The Treasurers report will show the Association to be in a sound financial position.

Membership at the end of 2017 showed a dramatic drop but we did expect to see this, a new club formed for the breed in New South Wales will obviously serve the needs of many people north of the border. 45 (73) members distributed across the country. The distribution of membership is: 1 in the ACT; 12 in NSW; 1 in the NT and 1 in Queensland. We have 4 in South Australia, 1 in Tasmania, 4 in WA and 21 (33) in Victoria.

The Association has had a quite active year when one considers that we have a quite small committee. The year commenced with the holding of our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 16th March 2017 where the Office Bearers and Committee were elected, reports were received and awards presented.

Throughout the year we successfully conducted 6 events.

On the 2nd of April 2017 we held our first event for the year, a retrieving trial run in partnership with Central Highlands retrieving Club.

On the 4th of June 2017 we conducted a RATG competition and also ran a Beginners Test. Both events were well supported by the Gundog community.

On the 14th of October 2017 we successfully conducted another retrieving trial in partnership with Central Highlands retrieving Club. Both trials were run with good fields and were well attended

On 1st Sunday the 5th of October 2017 the Association conducted an Open Show and a Championship show. The Open Show attracted 17 entries and was judged by Ms Vivienne McLaughlan (Vic). The Championship Show judged by Mr. Peter Berchtold (Austria) drew 18 entries. These entries came from the A.C.T., N.S.W, Western Australia; South Australia and of course, Victoria. Club finances were again aided by a well-supported raffle run by Gwen Methven. The raffle was drawn at the conclusion of the Championship Show.

The Association also conducted a raffle that was supported Australia wide. Thanks to the wonderful donation of framed embroidery of a Flat Coat head with pheasant made and donated by Marilyn Dawson and a framed 6 postcard wall hanging of Flat-coats donated by Jean Bryant.

These shows and trials were well supported by members of the Committee and our financial gains were greatly boosted by the sterling efforts of our Secretary and cater Leanne Tormey.

A summary of the annual awards will be presented to this meeting and will be published in this newsletter. Congratulations to all those who won awards and many thanks to all the exhibitors and trial participants who took the time and interest to submit scores and results.

In conclusion I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their dedication and support during the year 2017; without these people there would be no club. To the office bearers Helen Eley, Leanne Tormey and Scott Farquhar and the Committee Kate Eltringham, Sue Farquhar, Noel Eltringham and Simone Wilkie I thank you all personally and on behalf of the membership for your efforts throughout the year.

Peter Eley O.A.M.

President

YOUR COMMITTEE

Office Bearers

President	Peter Eley OAM
Vice President	
Secretary	Leanne Tormey
Ass Secretary	Helen Eley
Treasurer	Scott Farquhar
Newsletter Editor	Helen Eley

Committee

Kate Eltringham (Retrieving Trials)
Noel Eltringham (Retrieving Trials)
Sue Farquhar
Simone Wilkie

Webmaster: Deon Barylak.



My Life is perfect....as long as I'm in it.

Here we are with another brand new year, I hope it is wonderfully Happy and Healthy one for you.

Over the Christmas break the club had a re-homing of a 18 month old de-sexed boy. Sadly his owners were moving to Mudgee and could not find accommodation that would allow dogs, I guess not a big town and therefore less opportunities. Breeders be assured; if a dog is rescued or re-homed you will be given the opportunity to assist, of which has always been the case in this recent case the breeder had been notified by the owner of the dog and was told to contact the club, however there is a partnership involving two kennels in this case and I did not think to contact the other party because the owner was referred to the club by the other party.

When a dog is interstate it is hard to assess it and so I employed the services of Meaghan O'Shannassy (ACT) who jumped strait in and assisted, you have to know the dog is suitable for re-homing. Meaghan also contacted the other party of the partnership for me of which I felt a tinge of embarrassment for not doing so, however all is forgiven.

It is important to contact the breeder when the circumstances of the dog has changed in fact it is their unwritten right to know where their dogs are and this should be the thought of most reasonable thinking people.

As a representative of the club I try to act primarily in the best interest of the dog and all who are involved.



Above one of these dogs is him, I think he's fitting in and well accepted.

The end of the story is; he's gone to a home as a companion for Flat Coat Bitch, a family who loves him, an added bonus is the Pacific ocean is 5 house down the street from where they live.

A big thank you to Meaghan O'Shannassy for her help in making sure this boy was okay to go to his new home.

As an adjunct to this story the club has a Rescue Fund for dogs who are in need, ie **initial** vet bills, boarding fees, food and or transport. This system has worked for 40 years to date.

Sydney Royal Easer Show has been run and won Congratulations to Angela Dean and Ch Sherepoint Peppermint Berri RN being awarded Best of Breed and Joy Gregg's girl BlackRegal Keeper of the Flame being awarded Runner up Best of Breed. It was sad to hear the dog challenge was withheld. It is disappointing when any challenges are withheld particularly at a high profile show like the Sydney Royal Easter Show, but it is only one poor result and should be just put behind us.

As I have said on Facebook; I remember back in Adelaide 1980s we got refused the dog challenge, we came back to Melbourne Royal with same two boys 9 months old, one got Best of Breed & Best Puppy in Group and run off for best puppy in show. The Royal Easter Show is just another show just like Adelaide.

NOTE: The Annual Award for Track & Search Dog of the year was a dead heat between Rhonda Williams two dogs so two awards were given.

Further into this newsletter there is an article called the **History of Retrievers** which was written probably 100 years ago, we have 3 antique books on Retrievers & or Training Gundogs. I have scanned & copied the section about the Flat Coated Retriever in this issue.

It is quite lengthy and a bit dry as I haven't broken it up with photos because the content is more important.

I thought would give the membership the opportunity to look through this window back to an earlier century, I am hoping this will be of interest to you if it is, send me an email. I intend to serialise it as there is more to be learnt about the breeds history, which was not without controversy even back then but if it is not of interest then this is where it ends.



SHOW DOG OF THE YEAR 2017

Simone Wilkie's
Grand Champion Kellick All I Ever
Need is You.



INTERSTATE SHOW DOG OF THE YEAR 2017

Christine Murray's
Grand Champion Kellick Song
Sung Blue



PUPPY OF THE YEAR 2017

Christine Murray's
Aust Champion Sherepoint
Green Ivy



TRACK AND SEARCH DOG OF THE YEAR 2017

Rhonda William's
TSDX, Dual CH (T)/GR CH Injitali Intriguing
Secret



TRACK AND SEARCH DOG OF THE YEAR 2017

Rhonda William's
Grand Dual Champion (T) TS Ch
Injitali Intriguing Tale



Kirsty Blair's
Aust Champion One Shining True Hero (Imp
Swd) NRD, ORA, RN

NOVICE RETRIEVING DOG OF THE YEAR 2017

DUAL PURPOSE DOG OF THE YEAR 2017

RALLY DOG OF THE YEAR 2017



TRACKING DOG OF THE YEAR 2017

Helen Frew's
Tracking Champion
Kellick You Light Up My Life RN, QND, ORA



A Poem from an Untrained Puppy

My family brought me home
with them.
Snugly cradled in their arms.
They cuddled me and smiled at
me.
And said I was full of charm.

We would laugh and Play all
day,
They showered me with toys,
I soon learned to love my family,
Especially the girls and boys.

The children loved to feed me,
They'd give me special treats.
They even let me sleep with
them,
Snuggled between the sheets.

They used to laugh and praise
me,
When I played with my old shoe,
But I was never taught the differ-
ence
Between the old ones and the
new!

The kids and I would grab a rag
And for hours we would tug,
So I thought I did the right thing
When I chewed the bathroom
rug!



They said I was out of control
And would have to live out-
side,
This I did not understand,
Although I tried and tried.

The walks stopped one by
one
They said they didn't have
time
I wish I could have changed
things,
I wished I knew my crime.

My life became so lonely
In the back yard on a chain
I barked and barked all day
long,
To keep from going insane.

So they brought me to a
shelter,
But were embarrassed to say
why
They said I caused an al-
lergy,
And then kissed me good-
bye.
If I'd only had some train-
ing,
When I was just a pup,
I wouldn't have been so con-
fused
When I was all grown up.

Train your New Pet from the very beginning & you'll both happier

**CH. KELLICK BANELL
C.D.
MEMORIAL
AWARD**

The attached award is actually an Encouragement Award, Helen & Bill Frew need no encouragement for their tireless work they put into the NSW Flat Coated Retriever Club and associated activities. It is more an acknowledgment of their tireless work in supporting the breed and the new NSW Flatcoat Club.

Following is the submission letter attached to the application for the award by Kirsty Blair.

Bill and Helen Frew have been involved with purebred dogs for many years but only joined our Flat Coated Retriever community within the last 10 years. Between them they actively participate in a range of dog sports including tracking, rally-o, obedience, and retrieving. Helen did manage to force herself into the show ring with a Flatcoat once but I'm not sure we will get her back there

As dog handlers, Bill and Helen strike the perfect balance between outstanding sportsmanship and competitiveness; striving always to achieve perfection with their own dogs whilst offering genuine support and congratulations to others. Irrespective of their competition wins and titles, (of which between them there have been plenty) the Frews are a welcome arrival at any event. They are friendly, open, and authentic; sharing these traits with the breed we love so much

Bill and Helen are foundation executive committee members of the Flat Coated Retriever Club of NSW, with Bill elected by members to President and Helen as Vice President. The NSW breed club was formed in order to promote the breed within NSW and to augment the outstanding contribution already made for many years by the Flat Coated Retriever Association of Victoria. The Frew's quiet, focussed leadership and unwavering commitment to the club and our breed community has been pivotal to the club's early success. Bill and Helen also made a significant financial contribution to the club by sponsoring the 2017 double RATG trial in its entirety, thus allowing the club to make a profit on this event.



Helen has attended, helped with, supported and/or coordinated every event the club has held, including running the club's double RATG trial which attracted one of the highest ever entries for the sport. .

Bill has been likewise committed, working tirelessly over the course of the year to deliver, amongst other things, our RATG trial and RATG training day and mock trial as well providing frank and fearless leadership to our committee

There are many people in life who are great at self-promotion. We are very aware of their success, and these successes are often shared widely and publicly. There are others, like Bill and Helen, who are the quiet achievers. They go about their business with kindness and integrity, representing our breed always in the most positive and productive way. I would like to take this opportunity to recognise their contribution to the breed and to both clubs. In this, I would like to nominate Bill and Helen Frew as worthy recipients of the "CH Kellick Banell CD" Encouragement Award



TITLE GAINED IN 2017

HELEN ELEY

DOG OWNER	DOGS NAME	TITLE GAINED
Rhonda Williams	Dual Champion(T) Grand Champion Injitali Intriguing Secret	TSD TSDX
Meaghan O'Shannassy,	Grand Champion Skyehaven All Guns Blazing	Grand Champion
Rhonda Williams,	TS/ Champion Dual Ch (T) TS Champion Injitali Intriguing Tale	Grand Champion & TSDX, TS Champion
Christine Murray,	Grand Champion Kellick Song Sung Blue	Grand Champion
Kirstin Gurner,	Grand Champion Poweron Tails of Wonder	Grand Champion
Helen Frew,	Tracking Champion Kellick You Light Up My Life RN, QND, ORA	TDX, TS Champion
Christine Murray,	Aust Champion Sherepoint Green Ivy	Aust Champion
Julee Hosking,	Aust Champion Injitali Intriguing Puzzle R.A.	RALLY DOG
Mavis Meadowcroft,	Aust Champion Sherepoint Princes Phoebe	Aust Champion
Meaghan O'Shannassy,	Aust Champion Skyehaven Ticket To Ride	Aust Champion
Kirsty Blair,	Aust Champion One Shining True Hero (Imp Swe) NRD, ORA, RN	Aust Champion, NRD, ORA, NRA, RN
Ross and Jean Bryant,	Aust Champion Sherepoint Cracked Pepper	Aust Champion
Kathy Cocks,	Aust Champion Sherepoint Kentucky Moonshine RN ET	RN, ET

Mock Retrieving Trial and Training Weekend



A retrieving training day and mock trial organised by the Flat Coated Retriever Club of NSW on March 17 and 18 attracted huge interest from gundog owners, including many who had never attended a retrieving trial.

The introduction to Retrieving, Mock Trials and Training Event follows on from the Club's very successful RATG mock trial and training day in 2017. It was held at "Arthursleigh", a beautiful property on the Wollindilly River about two hours south of Sydney.

"Arthursleigh" is working sheep station owned and operated by the University of Sydney. It is the venue for two trials organised by the NSW Gundog Society each year and offers a very wide variety of challenging terrain and great opportunities for water work.

Key objectives of the event was to give beginner handlers & their dogs an opportunity to experience retrieving trial conditions, game & shot and, for those who had previously competed at novice level, the chance to have a crack at restricted runs.

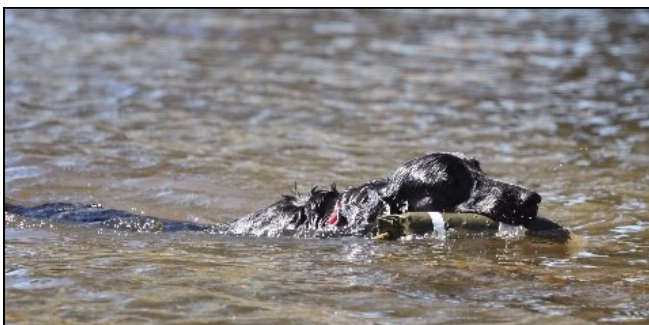
Of the 28 handlers and 32 dogs taking part around half had not previously competed in a trial. Three Flatcoats were on hand.

Experienced All Age judge, Joe Barber set and judged the runs for both novice and restricted mock stakes and highly experienced triallers Jack Lynch, Dave Mills and Kirsty Blair ran training sessions tailored to the needs of the participants, ranging from beginner dogs that never retrieved a bird or heard a gun through to those already running in Restricted.

Feedback from those taking part was extremely positive despite some very trying weather conditions including temperatures well into the 30's and strong westerly winds culminating in a dust storm on Sunday afternoon. Due to the unseasonably warm conditions all the dogs had lots opportunity to work in the water.

The FCR Club of NSW greatly appreciates the very generous contributions of Joe, Jack and Dave as well as Kirsty Blair who put an enormous amount of effort and time into organising the event.

Thanks also to the Gundog Society for securing access to the property, the NSW Labrador Retriever Club for the guns and Outback Sporting Supplies for providing prizes.



Left:- FCR member Peter King's dog Lido showing how to retrieve a dummy out of the water.





The Flat Coated Retriever Club of NSW held its first Flatcoat Fun Day following the club's first Annual General Meeting at Glebe Park on Sydney Harbour in November.

The venue was popular with inner city members but also attracted some from outer Sydney and regional NSW. In all eight Flatcoats turned up to enjoy a beautiful afternoon in a surprisingly quiet and very dog friendly harbour side park, along with a couple of ring in Goldens & Vizsla



Organised events included a ball and spoon race, the dog owner has to run to the finish with a tennis ball in a spoon and not drop it, note; the dogs never take their eyes off the tennis ball.



And then there's the biscuit bobbing; the dog has to retrieve the biscuit from the bottom of the bucket filled with water.

The final event for the day;

A retrieving relay race followed by a swim in Black Wattle Bay.

The following article was written by Charles Eley early last century, we are no way suggesting the same person is our relative but merely has the same name as us. However I find his writing on the breed interesting & I intend to print portions of it in the Newsletter in serial form as I have noted on Facebook some people are interested in the history of the breed generally. This will give a bit of insight of the breed back then.

THE FLAT-COATED RETRIEVER.

I HOPE I may be forgiven for expressing the opinion that the Flat-Coated Retriever is the most generally attractive of all the sporting breeds, and this attractiveness, the result of a charming temperament, secures great popularity for this breed and the admiration of man, woman, and child, whether interested in his capability as a sportsman or not. The opinion of feather-bed admirers as to his appearance and general character may therefore be accepted as unbiased, even if we have to admit that the verdict is so frequently favorable.

It is therefore not surprising that, with a form and character at once so appealing, the Flat-Coated Retriever has always received the attention of those breeders of sporting dogs whose chief interest in a gundog is its capacity for good work in the field, and to whom the final "proof of the pudding" will always be in the "eating."

It is a very pleasing fact that "the flat-coat," with his charm, with his ideal qualities as a companion and as an ornament, has, through all his vicissitudes, which will be shown to have been many, continued to keep his position in the ranks of British Gundogs; and the present moment finds the Flat-Coated Retriever as firmly entrenched as ever in the minds as well as in the hearts of sportsmen.

The history of the breed, in common with the history of all breeds, is not very easy to trace with certainty at the outset, for, although the main outlines may be clear enough, an examination of the types evolved suggests possibilities of outcrosses which, unsupported by any records handed down to us by the early breeders, must for ever remain subjects of conjecture, and, as such, the cause of controversy.

The breeders of pure strains are well known to be very sensitive upon the subject of the origin of their favourites, and the Canine College of Heraldry—the Kennel Club—founded in 1873, does not carry its records far enough back to put these matters beyond reasonable doubt. It is therefore only right to state at once that the following brief account of the origin of the Flat-Coated Retriever can only be based upon imperfect information helped by observation of the types evolved. The deductions have been made in all sincerity by the writer, who yields to no one in affection for a breed which has interested him from boyhood.

The setter and the pointer being not uncommonly used for retrieving in Scotland in the 'sixties and 'seventies of the last century, every-thing points to the retrieving setter as being the forerunner of the Flat-Coated Retriever, and, in order to improve his powers as a water dog, thus bringing him to a reasonable equality with his then great rival the Curly-Coated Retriever, there is little doubt that sportsmen crossed their retrieving setters with the small (or St. John's) Newfoundland dog, which species* curiously enough in view of modern developments, is called the Labrador by several of the early writers.

The result was to produce a heavy wavy-coated dog—the name flat-coated "was not used until much later—with a broad, shortish skull, very heavily topped: an animal big in bone, and frequently showing weak 'quarters and a rolling gait.

There is now no means of knowing how these early dogs compared with their curly-coated rivals for work, but it is probable that they adequately met the requirements of many shooters whose particular countries they could negotiate, and to whom the somewhat untamable character of the old curly-coated dog was very distasteful. But the subject of this article was not long allowed to remain in this stage of development, and a new type of gundog, that unquestionably filled a vacant space among the requirements of shooters, soon found many supporters and enthusiastic breeders.

The early specimens had frequently shown tan and brindle; this glaring evidence of their forefathers was at once made a point of attack, and pure black was ordained as practically a sine qua non for any self-respecting dog who was destined to take a place amongst the leaders of his society. Dr. Bond Moore, of Wolverhampton, had much to do with fixing the type which held sway in the early 'seventies, and it appears that it was from him and from Mr. George Brewis that Mr. S. E. Shirley, of Ettington, acquired the animals which laid the foundation of his famous kennel, although previous to these acquisitions Mr. Shirley had purchased from J. D. Hull, gamekeeper to Mr. J. II. Whitehouse, of Redditch, some of the progeny of Old Bounce and her son Young Bounce, who are rightly regarded as the original strain from which all Flat-Coated Retrievers are descended.

No more remarkable man than Mr. Shirley has appeared in connection with retrievers, or indeed with dogs in general. He was inspired by great love for the new breed, whose improvement he sought regardless of time or expense. He was anxious to maintain and improve its capacity in the field as well as to fix a type which would satisfy his ideals of canine beauty. Above all, he was gifted with imagination to foresee an immense future for the breeding and exhibition of dogs in this country, and possessed the energy and determination necessary to undertake and nurse to success the specialization of dogs in England.

With these ideals in view, Mr. Shirley founded in 1873 the Kennel Club, over which he pre-sided until his death in the early years of this century. (1900)

It is difficult at this distance of time for people who have grown up to find the Kennel Club and its Stud Book the established factor in all matters of control, to realise the greatness of the task which had been accomplished by Mr. Shirley and his supporters, and the far-reaching effects that this movement has had upon retrievers and, indeed, upon all gun-dogs. So dominant was Mr. Shirley's Kennel that, in the 'eighties of the last century, it was quite usual to hear a Wavy-Coated Retriever spoken of as a "Shirley Retriever." But this was not allowed to continue, because the popularity of the breed increased by leaps and bounds, and soon there were several kennels which were serious rivals to that at Ettington.

Continued.....

THE HISTORY OF RETRIEVERS

Charles C. Eley

Mr. Shirley commenced to breed out the faults which were primarily due to the Newfoundland cross, and, in the process, he was probably the first to introduce the collie cross, which was undoubtedly resorted to also by later breeders, in order to eliminate the wavy coat and feather of the setter in favour of the straight or flat coat as it now exists. The more famous of Mr. Shirley's early dogs were Paris, Zelstone (a purchase from Mr. Farquharson of Blandford, that sired Moonstone and many winners), Trace and Dusk. The two latter were true to a type of heavy coat, free from wave, short of leg, and probably of only moderate pace, as pace goes nowadays. In looks they were a great advance on what had gone before, and bore but few marks of their origin.

An important event at this period was the purchase by Mr. Shirley of a dog as an outcross that he renamed Rightaway, which was much used at stud; but the strain came to be disliked by many as time went on: indeed, Mr. Shirley himself discovered, when the mischief had been done that Rightaway was not really an outcross at all. The first field-trial of any note for retrievers was held in the autumn of 1870 on Mr. Assheton Smith's shooting at Vaynol. Tradition says that the entry was very small, only about three or four dogs, and that the winner was not beautiful; but tradition does not say whether the winner made up for lack of beauty by the quality of his work in the field. At any rate, the experiment did not catch on; indeed, it was so little noticed that few of the now numerous supporters of field-trials for retrievers would ever have heard of the meeting but that the pen of the veteran critic of Gundogs, the late Mr. G. T. Teasdale Buckell, has so often called attention to this early step in the right direction.

A second attempt was made about 1873-75 in August on Mr. Lloyd Price's moors at Rhiwlas, near Bala, in conjunction with the pointer and setter trials, but the meeting, so far as retrievers went, was not a success, as might well have been anticipated; and, in consequence, it attracted but little attention. By this time a number of breeders and exhibitors had established a name for themselves and their kennels, and in this and the succeeding period the successes of Colonel C. J. Cotes, Rev. W. Sergeantson, Colonel Henry Cornwall Legh of High Legh, Mr. Harding, Cox, Mr. L. Allen Shuter, and Mr. A. B. Freeman Mitford (later Lord Redesdale) were perhaps the most noticeable. These owners between them pretty well swept the board as far as prizes at the shows were concerned, and it is a great misfortune, both for them and for those who come after them, that there were then no organized field-trials to assist in that selection for breeding that would have made their efforts so much more interesting and exercised a more wholesome influence upon the type and future of the breed. It is all the more unfortunate because this period was necessarily the most critical in the history of the Flat-Coated Retriever, being the time during which the type was in course of that consolidation and completion so vital to the future of a comparatively new breed.

Among the most famous dogs which passed through the above kennels, and figure in, the pedigrees associated with them, there arise the names of Zelstone, Wisdom, Taut, Think, Har-vester, Moonstone, Hopeful, Dusk, and Buoyant; and among the succeeding generations few observant critics of Flat-Coated Retrievers will doubt the value to the breed of Lord Redesdale's Blizzard and Mr. L. Allen Shuter's Darenth, both for work and show.

Mr. Harding Cox's great successes on the show-bench came towards the close of this period, and, of the many dogs owned by him, the names of Black Drake, Black Queen, and Black Charm come most readily to mind. There now appears in the history of the breed the figure of Mr. H. Reginald Cooke, who still holds sway to-day, and through whose kennel doors most of the latter-day champions have walked. Mr. Cooke has given time and devotion to the breed of which he is to-day the leading support; and during the past, in his endeavour to avoid in-breeding to excess, he has added to his kennel such dogs as High Legh Blarney, Minuet, Wimpole Peter, Worsley Bess, Rocket and Sandy of Riverside. Mr. Ernest Turner is another consistent supporter of the breed, one who, like Mr. Cooke, attempts the hard task of winning prizes on the show-bench with dogs which are also in the front rank at field-trials, and the gratitude of breeders is due to both for their loyalty to purity of blood and their efforts to surmount the difficulties created by the errors of their forerunners.

Naturally the rapid rise in popularity of the Flat-Coated Retriever, and the consequent increase in numbers, was not without serious effects upon the position of all retrieving breeds. The Curly-Coated Retriever had replaced the old English Water-Spaniel, from which he was descended, and now the Flat-Coated Retriever commenced to push his predecessor into the background with a vigour and persistency that to some onlookers seemed surprising, but which, in reality, was capable of quite simple explanation.

The writer has already mentioned the wide-spread admiration excited by the beauty and charm of the Flat-Coated variety, and this, coupled with a natural docility and reciprocal for man, made of his breaking a comparatively easy and pleasing task, especially in contrast to the somewhat sour and intractable character of the Curlie. Moreover, these merits of new breed greatly increased the number of those who worked retrievers and the Flat-Coat often praised as being "a gentleman's dog," became the constant companion and friend of many shooters who had hitherto left all such matters to their game. Again, naturally enough, the gamekeeper found it profitable to keep by him, ready for disposal, one or more of the fashionable breed to meet the increasing demand from sportsmen.

Continued.....

In addition, the flat-coats, as a race, were almost uniformly soft in the mouth, and, rightly or wrongly, the Curlies were earning an unenviable reputation in this respect, due, it was popularly supposed, to their having been crossed with the poodle. And yet, while still the star of the flat-coats appeared to be, indeed was, in the ascendant, there appeared upon the sky above the doggy world a little cloud nobigger than a man's hand." Some time about 1890 there arose a controversy about the suit-ability of the type of field-spaniels, then taking the honours on the show-bench, to undertake that work in the field for which Nature or man presumably intended them. The merits of the acute controversy then aroused are not within the scope of this chapter, but the amusement caused to many who were entirely outside the dispute by the letters which came from the sharply-pointed pen of Mr. William Arkwright may be recalled here for the sake of the excitement which they created at the time. The spaniel controversy undoubtedly—with or without justice—provoked inquiry also into the work of the Flat-Coated Retrievers.

The attacks on the retrievers, as is usual, commenced in the smoking-room, and for a long while remained there. They lacked force, either because they were unjust or because comparison of work was more difficult than criticism of appearance, that was the main target for abuse in the case of the spaniels. The Flat-Coated Retrievers, needless to say, were not without their champions, and for a long while the matter rested where it began, though in reality the campaign was scarcely less active, because it was for the most part conducted privately, and not through the columns of the press.

The existing Flat-Coated Retriever — the darling of fashion was roundly accused of most of the canine failings, & among them, it was said that he was so inbred that he had no courage to face brambles, no stamina to keep him going, & no keenness. Some people abused his setter blood, which was contended prevented him from hunting a line properly. Others, again said the breed had been ruined by crossing with the show bench Collie in pursuit of a coat free of waves. This Collie cross was said to have ruined their mouths and their brains. The usual vain cries for the old types of retrievers were raised with the usual result. The doubts, once started could not remain stationery, until 1899 they attracted the active attention of sportsmen who previously reorganized field trials for Pointer & Setters had lately instituted similar trials for Working Spaniels. This group a few years before had, under the leadership of Mr. Arkwright, started the International Gundog League, further to popularize field trials for pointers and setter in conjunction with Continental enthusiasts. To the Pointers and Setters they had added a branch called the Sporting Spaniel Society, and they now proposed to start a similar society for holding trials for Retrievers.

The International Gundog League was founded in 1895 when the "Pointer Club" was disestablished. At the outset it was called the International Shooting Dog Club, but shortly afterwards changed its name to International Pointer and Setter Society, it's activities at first were confined to autumn trials for Pointers and Setters on Grouse. About 1899 it amalgamated with the Sporting Spaniel club, founded the Retriever Society early in 1900 and at that same time associated the three Societies under the name of International Gundog League It is a most curious fact that many of these old supporters of trials actually doubted the possibility of holding

Field trials for Retrievers that would be of any practical benefit or afford any test of the merits of the dogs.

It was due to the persistency of Mr. S. Smale, who stoutly supported the idea, that in the winter of 1899 it was decided to hold a small meeting near Havant, on grounds provided by Mr. B. J. Warwick. The meeting, which was really a private one confined to friends, resulted in a victory for Painter, a wavy coated dog belonging to Mr. Warwick. Even if Painter's victory did not mean very much to himself, it meant a very great deal to the breed to which he belonged, for the meeting was an undoubted success, and put beyond all doubt the possibility of successfully holding field trials for Retrievers.

The following Spring (1900) saw the foundation of the Retriever Society, the third and last branch of the International Gundog League, and Mr. B. J. Warwick was the first president.

The first official trials of the new Society were held on October 12th and 13th on Mr. Warwick's shooting near Havant. The entries were ten in number, and two long days were devoted by judges, Messrs. Arkwright and Warwick, to testing the dogs. The winner was a brown wavy coated bitch named Rust, belonging to J. H. Abbott, the Gamekeeper of Mr. A. T. Williams.

Rust was not beautiful but her pedigree showed pure Flat Coat blood; her work was sound without being brilliant, and style of it was marred by a very slow return. The outstanding feature of her success was the capacity to get runners at a meeting where the of the competitors show very little ability to do so, and were indeed a very moderate lot. It is however, difficult to maintain that Rust deserved the unqualified praise with which her victory was acclaimed in the Press, both at the time and for long afterwards; her subsequent work at trials is some confirmation of this opinion.

The second prize & nearly all the special prizes went to the writer's Bergholt Dale, by Dare out of Sweet Memory, bred by Mr. S. E. Shirley. The third prize went to Mr. F. M. Remnant's Wenhaston Roy, also a well bred Flat Coat dog.

The event had the appearance of a triumph for the Flat Coated variety; but, curiously enough, it apparently ws not so regarded by those who were the best known supporters of the breed, and the "Doggy" Press was full of letters of criticism both of the trials and Flat Coated Retrievers generally.

No one seemed to realize that a great step forward had been taken in the history of the breed, that the "little cloud" was assuming the proportions of a storm.

The following season saw the trials held at Brandon, in Norfolk, there being eleven entries. The first prize went to Bergholt Jill (by Darenth out of Maria) the second prize went to Major Eley's Bergholt Dart (by Bergholt Dale out of Lady Venus) . Mr. F. M. Remnant's Wenhaston Rajah was third.

All these were Flat Coated dog, the first two quite capable of holding their own for looks, & of course "show-bred"

The meeting of 1902, held at East Bergholt, was won by Captain Harry Eley's Sandiway Major (son of Wimpole Peter, bred by Mr. G. Davies) Bergholt James & Satanella being second and third respectively.

To be continued

FLATCOATED RETRIEVER CLUB OF VICTORIA INC

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2018

The membership year is 1 January – 31 December of the year that you join. Memberships received from 1 October will be valid until 31 December of the following year.

If paying by Direct Debit use Member name & Post Code as reference.

This form is not required if paying via Direct Debit unless particulars change.

NEW MEMBER-SHIP			
NAME			
RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS			
SUBURB		POSTCODE	
POSTAL ADDRESS			
SUBURB		POSTCODE	
TELEPHONE		MOBILE	
EMAIL			
WEBSITE			
DOGS VICTORIA MEMBER (V.C.A.)	Y/N	MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	BREEDER PREFIX (IF APPLICABLE)
OTHER CLUB MEMBERSHIPS?			
NEWSLETTER OPTION	I would like to receive the newsletter via POST / EMAIL. (please indicate)		

SUBSCRIPTION FEES

DUAL MEMBERSHIP	\$25.00	\$
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP	\$20.00	\$
JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP	\$15.00	\$
PUPPY BUYER MEMBERSHIP Only applicable to breeders who are applying for membership on behalf of those who have purchased one of their puppies and is only valid for the first year of their membership.	\$10.00	\$
	TOTAL	

Signed _____ Dated ____/____/____

Payment can be made through Direct Debit, Cheque or Money Order:

Account Name: Flat Coated Retriever Association of Victoria

BSB Number: 033-689 Account Number: 37-0802

Please include your name & post code when depositing through Direct Debit. Cheques and Money orders payable to:

“FLATCOATED RETRIEVER ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA”

Any Changes of particulars must be forwarded to:

The Treasurer, 5 Pigeon Bank Road, Warrandyte, Vic, 3113 ph 9844 4617