

# Scent Sports Association of New Zealand (SSANZ)

## Newsletter

July 2023



Winter has arrived....

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### Website

<https://scentssports.org.nz>

### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2225612590850524>

My sincere apologies go to Sue Williams whose Noseworx Trial report was missed out in the last newsletter.

All supplied content contains opinions and information from the author and is their responsibility. The editor endeavours to ensure that obvious errors or offensive material are corrected before publication. Any remaining issues should be raised with the author.



Jenn and Cooper  
at the North Taranaki Scent Work Trial

### Keep reading for articles about the :

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- The Judges Development Weekend by Gaye Stammers
- A report from Janine Gregory on the Judges Development Organisation weekend.
- Noseworx Trial by Sue Williams
- North Taranaki Dog Training Club trial by Jan Anderson
- A fascinating read from Clare Groom on: "What Is Residual Odour? And Why Should You Care?"
- A.C.E. Scentwork Trial from Jan Voss
- K9 Kitea Scent trials by Gaye Stammers

## Selwyn Dog Training Club Trial - report by Rachael Hunt

Selwyn dog training club had an amazing 2 days trialling on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> May with the wonderful judge Nick Rongokea. We can all agree we learnt a lot from Nick over the weekend and he was a kind and patient judge for those competing with sensitive dogs.



Corrections officer  
escorts offender  
from the scene.

Our helpers needed to remove poultry from the searches, as they were extremely interested in the days' events.

On Saturday we trialled at Leeston A and P grounds, with all the awesome sheds and grounds to work through. Intermediate dogs had tractors for the vehicle search whilst novice dogs searched a ute. The containers for both novice and intermediate were done indoors which allowed good flow between the searches. The exterior was a fun area behind the sheds with some farm equipment in it. The judge allowed off leash searches which meant for some awesome work by dogs especially in very cluttered interior environments. The judge commented that some of the more sensitive dogs would benefit from off leash work to give them confidence going into narrow spaces.

“Dobby only wanted  
to find the scent for  
Harry Potter and  
bring it to him”



Much more to read about this trial. [Click here.](#)

## **Judges and Organisations Development Weekend (JODW) – organisers**

### **report by Gaye Stammers**

After how well the JODW in Hamilton was received in 2022 and the positive feedback from it, the SSANZ committee decided it was worth the effort and time to run another one; this time in the lower half of the North Island.

Rob secured the Shannon School as the venue and the dates were set for April.

It was an ideal venue with the use of the hall where we could cover the theory and also use it for a search area and a lunch area. It was also reasonably easy to find affordable accommodation without having to travel too far from it.

The aim for the weekend was twofold. Firstly, to cover what we, as a committee, offer as support to the organisations running trials. Secondly, to go through with those that were interested in judging, some information and learning about what was expected as a judge.

Topics we covered over the weekend included the SSANZ regulations, SSANZ resources, how to record trial results, judging sheets, scent theory and hide placement (that topic needs so much more than just a few hours!!), how to set up search areas, how to look at a venue and see if it will work for a trial and the flow throughout a trial.

Saturday was mostly theory with teams breaking off into smaller groups to discuss how they could run a trial at a venue. Each team was given a scenario and some questions they had to find solutions for, then they came back to the group to present their plan. Sunday was the practical day with teams doing a “round robin” setting up different searches, discussing what they had learnt the previous day about scent theory and then watching a few dogs do the actual search.

You could hear the buzz at morning tea and lunch breaks with handlers catching up with each other and discussing what they were learning.

We had handlers/Judges/Organisational members from all over the North Island attend, with a few that attended last year coming again.

The weekend is a huge undertaking for the committee but the feedback from it shows that it is a worthwhile investment into the sport, and we will be looking at running another one in 2024.

## **SSANZ JODW 22/23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2023 - Shannon School in the Horowhenua –**

### **participants report by Janine Gregory**

On Sunday, we were put into 4 groups, and over the day we had to set up hides for all 4 elements. So, it started, Group 1 led by Nick went off to set up a Vehicle Search. Group 2 led by Sam set up Exterior. Group 3 led by Maree set up Interior and Group 4 led by Sue got Containers.

It was amazing what we discussed when the topic was, “what to look for when setting up hides”. There was so much involved! Lucky for us, we had an expert to put us on the right track. Our group chose to use the front part off a classroom, with a veranda. We stepped it out, put our rocks as cones in the out of bounds area ....

As we were setting it up as a Novice Trial, we had to think about what could be hazardous to either the dog or the handler. We also needed to decide on where the best place was to place our hide with several spots coming to mind. We had to consider the wind, temperature, porous surfaces, what sort of hide we were going to use and so much more.

So, the spot was sorted. It was placed on a metal frame for holding up the seat. We needed to see if what we discussed about where the dog was going to pick odour up from, what was an acceptable zone, how close was the dog going to be etc, would be okay.

We got the chance for our dogs to show us where it was and learn from their behaviour, particularly how they picked up the scent, how they tracked and how their behaviour showed us as handlers, we could say those magic words "Alert!" After the group's discussion on Saturday re: the change in dog behaviour, I got to see it first hand with my dog, which was AMAZING. I think we all took something away from this great experience off setting up hides.



Saturday was classroom based, with a lot of really useful activities.

### **Noseworx Trial- Rerewhakaaitu Feb 2023 – report by Sue Williams**

A combined trial between the Noseworx team at Rotorua, and our friends at K9 Scent Seekers in Tokoroa, was held last February at Lake Rerewhakaaitu Domain, just out of Rotorua township. This is a tranquil spot right next to Lake Rerewhakaaitu with a good dog space to swim and run. Running a combined event gave the competitors a good range of events to enter with Noseworx running Novice and Intermediate both days and K9 Scent Seekers running a Buried Hide sand and water both days.

The challenge of running the trial was to work the search areas in the buildings and areas that were there, while ensuring no-one could view the searches while they were in progress, this took several planning meetings on site prior to the event being run as we have never run anything there before. Camping was provided on the Domain for everyone at a minimum cost and on the Saturday night a complimentary BBQ, and an interesting talk by Pete Crocker on scent work in detection dogs, was enjoyed by all.

The trial was very well supported, especially by local entries from new people who had trained locally and were beginning their trial career with SSANZ. The novice class attracted 33 entries both days, with Intermediate having 18 dogs entered both days. As well as the usual "Best Search" awards, there was a special award for the "Best Novice Qualifier Local

Entry” which was won by Dawn Williams and Peppa on Saturday, and Jamie Savage and Max on Sunday.

Prize giving was a combined event on Saturday at the end of all the searches and on Sunday, was held after each event, giving the Novice people and judges an early finish to pack up and travel home while the Intermediate searches were being held.

Our combined trial was fun to hold and successfully ran, due to great forward planning and communication by both parties, help from people over the weekend and our great admin teams that meant that prizegiving was held promptly after the searches had finished. The fine weekend was a big plus after all the bad weather leading up to the event.

A big Thank You to all that contributed to our weekend, especially our sponsors who generously provided their products for our prizes, we couldn't have done it without you....

The Noseworx Team. (Pictures were in the April newsletter)

## **What Is Residual Odour? And Why Should You Care? – by Clare Groom**

Residual odour is a term that's talked about quite a lot and can oftentimes be quite confusing. Let's take a look at what “residual odour” is - and what it isn't.

Strictly speaking, residual odour refers to the transfer of odour particles (in our case, essential oil particles) to the surface on which the hide was placed.

There are a variety of ways that this can happen, from not wearing gloves when placing the odour-infused QTips into the hide and transferring oil to the outside of the hide to reusing putty or bluetack that has become contaminated.

It's important to note the difference between actual residual odour and “wafting,” “lingering,” and/or “pooling” odour.

Odour that lingers in the air around the location of a hide, after a hide is removed is not residual odour. Odour pooling on another surface is not residual odour, and nor is odour collecting in a different part of the search area.

So why does any of this matter? Because look at it this way: If odour particles are transferred to a surface, that surface becomes “hot” - in other words it becomes a kind of “source.” Remember how we don't ever use containers that have had odour in them as “cold” containers? (Well, I certainly hope you don't!) This is because once they are hot, they are always hot. Especially if you place your hides on plastic surfaces, fabrics, and other materials that can “absorb” odour, you run the risk of residual odour remaining. The transferred odour particles will emit a “scent cone” just like any other hide.

So how does the dog know the difference? Are you simply training your dog that only a certain concentration of odour is what he's supposed to work?



If your dog indicates on residual odour, what do you do? Do you expect him to “work through it?” And if so, consider this for a moment: what are you expecting him to work through? To locate the hide you knowingly placed there and ignore a “hide” that you unknowingly placed?

I’m aware that some folks suggest that you don’t want the dog to be so sensitive to odour, that they indicate on residual, and dogs often won’t, as we generally train them with a much stronger concentration.

But surely you want your dog to be as sensitive as possible to odour? I sure do!

Some hides, in the way they behave, can be almost unavailable to the dog and for those hides, we need a dog that is very sensitive even to small concentrations of odour.

And ultimately, if your dog encounters a residual odour “hide” you can be absolutely sure that the dog registers it. They have just been taught that they need to look for something with a higher concentration of odour than what the residual is putting out.

So, what’s the takeaway? Be mindful of residual odour! How can we do this?

Click [here](#) to read the rest of the article.

## **Big Weekend for A.C.E. Dog Training at July Trials – report by Jan Voss**

The A.C.E. Dog Training Nosework Trials got underway on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July, with the Advanced Interior searches held at St Aidan’s Church-On-The-Hill in Normandale. Interiors proved a real confidence boost for the nine dog and handler teams entered, as it was the one element that everyone achieved full points on. Following Interiors, the Advanced teams made a location change to nearby Normandale School to attempt the Vehicle, Exterior and Container in rapid succession – but without the same level of success. Sadly, at the end of the morning’s work, there were no qualifiers to award, but nevertheless some good work. Very close to success were Kim Paice and Bolt who narrowly missed a Q, when they ran out of time searching for the second odour in Containers.



Trial manager Jan Voss with judges Rob Perterson and Richard Magson give their congratulations to the participants.

Meanwhile back at St Aidan’s Katrina Roebuck and her team of helpers got underway running the Buried Hides, firstly a Water search outdoors and then a Sand one inside the

main hall. Results were mixed with only 4 teams making correct finds on both searches. Best search in Water went to Jan and Halley with a time of 11.18 seconds and Best Search in Sand awarded to Elizaveta and Vega with a time of 16.04 seconds. The Buried Hide and Advanced Trials were generously sponsored by Raw Essentials in Kaiwharawhara.

For lots more pictures, and information click [here](#).

### **K9 Kitea Scent, June 2023 Nosework Trials.**

I was fortunate enough to be able to run my June Nosework trials at Strata Precision Plastics in an industrial area of Te Rapa. Thanks to Christine Martin who had recently started working here and paved the way, so the owners were more than happy to allow a commercial building to be used for a nosework trial.

Initially the thoughts were to just run 2 levels but when I went and checked the venue out, I decided that there was enough scope to run all three levels. I kept my fingers crossed that we would get kind weather, as there would be nowhere except for their vehicles for teams to get out of the weather.

For once I limited numbers in each level for a number of reasons and given that it was winter, I really didn't want a late finish. All those that were billeted out all had titles in the level they had entered, so I didn't feel quite so sad about having to advise handlers that they were now on the waiting list.

The day started early with Advance with Peter Crocker and me judging the Advance. Then onto Novice with Sam Murdie, Maree Boreham, Sue Williams, and Pete judging. For Sam and Maree, it was their first time judging at a SSANZ trial. Intermediate ran last with me and Pete judging this.

For all the levels, we ran the searches consecutively and as there was minimal distance between each search, there was not a lot of "wasted time".

It seems that there is always a curve ball on the day and this one was, that we had a business opened on Saturday in the area we were using for the exterior searches. Because of this Advance and Intermediate had the same "area in play". As the judge was the same for both levels, appropriate hide placement and the judge advising the teams to "move on" if a dog lingered too long where the hide had been previously, it wasn't an issue.

To read more and see some videos of the search area, click [here](#).

## **And there are a few trials coming up!**

- 30<sup>th</sup> Sept and 1<sup>st</sup> Oct      Horowhenua Dog Training Club      Levin  
Novice and Intermediate
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> November.      K9 Scent Seekers      Tokoroa  
Buried Hides and Advanced
- 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Nov.      K9 Kitea Scent      Waikato  
Novice, Intermediate, Advanced
- 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Nov.      Selwyn Scentwork      Canterbury  
Novice, Intermediate

**Til the next newsletter – Happy Sniffing!**