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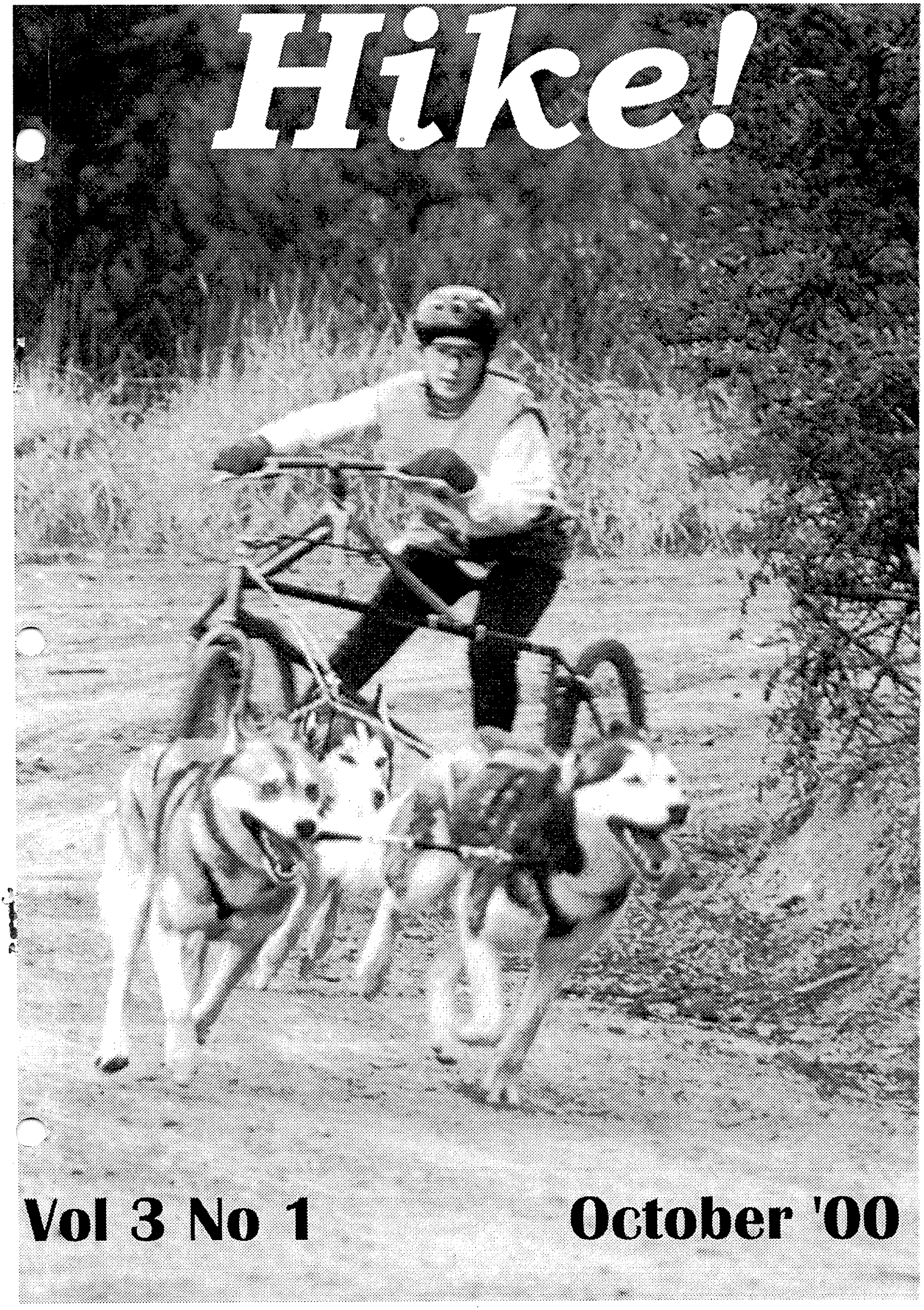

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Hike!

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AFSS Update

Since last month the Australian Federation of Sleddog Sports has been beavering away at a whole host of activities to progress the sport of sled dog racing in Australia. Here are some of the major outputs this month.

Information Packs Sent Out and Memberships Coming In

The AFSS was inundated with dozens of requests for the AFSS information pack following the article in last month's Hike – and they are still coming in! (If you want to know what you get in an AFSS info pack, check out last month's article). And gratifyingly a host of membership applications are also beginning to arrive. This is a very encouraging result as it means that individual mushers are concerned about the future of this sport and want to help it evolve and not stagnate.

Announcing the AFSS Register of Race Equipment

The AFSS is in the process of assembling a register of sled dog race equipment.

The idea is that in order to save race organising bodies from having to each buy expensive equipment that they use only once a year - the AFSS would start up a central national register of race equipment.

So if a club has bunting, or timing equipment, turn markers etc that they are willing to loan to other race organising bodies (eg for the cost of postage) the AFSS will keep a register of the items they are willing to lend and a contact email/phone number.

This will be especially important for people considering staging new races but find the set-up costs involved to daunting to go ahead with it.

The AFSS will run the register - and keep it updated. You can think of the register as a sort of yellow pages. We'll put the person enquiring about some equipment in touch with those who are willing to lend it. But we won't be sticking our noses in any decisions on who gets what or how much - that's a decision between the prospective lender and lendee - we'll just put one party in touch with another.

In the longer term - when we have a bit more cash in the kitty - we will be buying equipment not listed on the register and lending it out as well. But that's in the future at the moment.

I would never join a club that would have me as a member!

Groucho Marx

Announcing the AFSS/NZFSS TransTasman Point Score!

A draft point score system for an AFSS/NZFSS TransTasman Point Score involving the top 10 mushers in each class has been given provisional approval by the Rae Bank - President of the NZFSS and IFSS ContinentalDirector for Asia and Oceania. Year 2000 results are now being compiled and results of the point score will bepublished in *Hike!* and elsewhere in the coming months– once formal approval has been gained.

But for those of you who dislike change, don't panic! The Hike!/AFSS point score system will remain unchanged for Australia. The new TransTasman Point Score will be an additional scheme which applies to the top 10 mushers in each class.

The Hike! point score proved to be a useful mechanism for mushers to support their sponsorship proposals. Accreditation of that system by the AFSS as the national sporting body will have further enhanced those prospects. But now the development of a TransTasman Point Score endorsed by both national bodies and by the IFSS Continental Director will even further assist mushers in securing sponsorship! And it will enable those mushers in the top 10 in each class to check their results against competitors in New Zealand.

It is also hoped that the existence of a TransTasman Point Score will further assist both national bodies in establishing the next phase of our grand plan – securing sponsorship for a TransTasman Cup Race involving the best mushers from both countries. But more on that in future AFSS updates!

Meanwhile Preparations are Underway for AFSS Accredited Mushers to Compete in the United States

Meanwhile Steve Carrick and Cliff French are preparing to go to the US (at their own expense) to participate in world class sled dog events with the aim of meeting one of ASC requirements to qualify for Federal funding. Steve will again be running the Iditarod and the required preliminaries while Cliff will seek to race in the World Championships in Alaska as well as a number of mid-distance races.

If either one can appear in the top half of the field as AFSS mushers, then a major hurdle will be out of the way for AFSS federal accreditation. (More info on Federal funding requirements is available in the AFSS Info Pack). Lets wish them well. *Hike!* will keep you updated on their activities overseas.

The 2000 State of the Sport Report

Sharon & Peter Komidar

Introduction

There's something about sport and statistics that keeps us intrigued. This article dissects this year's race entry figures and answers questions such as:

- is the sport growing?
- in which states are numbers growing and in which are they shrinking?

And we've even tried to draw some conclusions on what may be causing these changes.

Entries and Participants

In the tables you'll find a column for entries and a column for participants. Calculating race entries was simply a matter of counting the number of mushers who completed a race. These statistics were taken from the *Hike!* race results. To determine participants, we had to make sure that for each person who raced in more than one class per race and more than one race was only counted once. While simple to do – it was a very laborious process of checking and double checking.

In compiling these statistics we only counted mushers who completed races on the national circuit and we did not include mushers participating in novice or junior races.

It is a commonly held view that entries this year dropped, and our calculations prove this to be the case. Entries dropped from 454 in 1999 to 417 in 2000. However, the surprising result was that while total entries dropped, the number of mushers actually rose from 278 in 1999 (263 sprint + 15 marathon-only) to 292 (277 sprint + 15 marathon only) in 2000!

What this shows is that the sport is still growing by a rate of 5% a year. It is likely that the reduction in entries can be attributed to the fact that more and more mushers are specialising in one class – rather than spreading out their energies over a number of classes. This, we think, could be a sign of the maturing of the sport – as mushers take a more professional approach to winning races.

However, while the overall results clearly show that the sport is still growing, the state by state breakdown indicates that for some states there is less room for complacency. In 1999 the state with the most mushers was Victoria with 95 closely followed by NSW with 93. By 2000 this had changed with NSW in the lead with 121 (and increase of 28 or 27.4%) while Victoria fell back to 85 (a drop of 10 or 8.6%).

Meanwhile the ACT fell from 33 to 29. South Australia rose from 21 to 29 and Qld dropped from 19 to 13. (These figures apply solely to sprint races – the 15 people who competed solely in marathon races have not been factored into the results – however, the vast majority of these are from NSW – so if anything only further heighten the NSW results).

Obviously the big winner is NSW and the greatest loser is Victoria. While one would have to be brave to determine causes from the material presented, we have a feeling that a key factor in the discrepancy between NSW and Victoria could lie in the different incentives for new beginners in the two states. In NSW, 3 of the 4 national circuit races are run by breed clubs – moreover, the Sammie club – while it does not hold any races has similarly been increasing its presence at national circuit races. These clubs have a steady influx of new mushers attracted first to the breed club and then by that club to sled dog racing. However, in Victoria breed clubs do not hold any races on the national circuit and meanwhile the race organising bodies do not have a wide membership base and only rarely are structured introduction days are held for new beginners. Of course, it's premature to base predictions on a single year's results – so lets wait until next year to see if this trend continues.

Another statistic of note relates specifically to the marathon races. The year 2000 saw an overall decline of 25 mushers from 98 in 1999 to 73 in 2000 (25%). This can largely be attributed to the demise of the Sugarloaf Mountain Marathon and the Ridge Runners Race. While these two races were replaced with two new races in 2000 (the K50 and the Canberra Marathon) there was an important difference. Both of the former 1999 races had 1 and 2 dog classes and therefore attracted far greater numbers than the two new 2000 races which were restricted to the open class.

Conclusion

So what do I conclude from these statistics? I think the figures point to some mixed messages. The sport is not in as bad a shape as many people thought. It is still growing. However, the growth is not even. Some states are vibrant while others are shrinking. Some of this can be attributed to a maturing of the sport as people move up to bigger classes and the nature of marathon races change to accommodate this.

However, there is also some cause for concern. In some states, particularly Victoria and Queensland, it would appear that new beginners are not being recruited to replace those that leave the sport through natural attrition. While its far too early too panic, its not too early to put in place some mechanisms to encourage new starters into the sport. Maybe state bodies and race organising bodies could consider giving greater emphasis to formal introduction days. Alternatively, or as well, maybe better links could be forged with breed clubs – to take advantage of their unique abilities to get new people into the sport.

After all how many of you were introduced to the sport via the local breed club?

SOS 2000 Report – the Charts

2000 Sprint Entries

State	Entries 1 Dog	Entries 2 Dog	Entries 3 Dog	Entries 4 Dog	Entries 6 Dog	Total Entries Per State	Number of Participants
Vic	37	39	12	19	7	114	85
ACT	22	16	6	2	0	46	29
NSW	41	53	15	19	2	130	121
SA	14	15	2	6	0	37	29
Qld	4	10	0	1	2	17	13
Total Entries Per Class	118	133	35	47	11	344	277

1999 Sprint Entries

State	Entries 1 Dog	Entries 2 Dog	Entries 3 Dog	Entries 4 Dog	Entries 6 Dog	Total Entries Per State	Number of Participants
Vic	55	49	9	18	7	138	97
ACT	21	21	4	3	0	49	33
NSW	57	43	10	9	1	120	93
SA	13	10	1	1	0	25	21
Qld	10	8	3	2	1	24	19
Total Entries Per Class	156	131	27	33	9	356	263

2000 Marathon Results

State	Entries 1 Dog	Entries 2 Dog	Entries 4 Dog	Entries 6 Dog	Entries Open	Total Entries Per State
Vic	2	0	1	5	10	18
ACT	4	1	0	0	0	5
NSW	21	16	4	0	6	47
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qld	0	1	0	1	1	3
Total Entries Per Class	27	18	5	6	17	73*

* Note: There were 73 Entries but only 15 of these hadn't raced in a sprint race.

1999 Marathon Results

State	Entries 1 Dog	Entries 2 Dog	Entries 3 Dog	Entries 4 Dog	Entries 5 Dog	Entries 6 Dog	Entries Open	Total Entries Per State
Vic	0	2	0	0	2	4	7	15
ACT	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	13
NSW	33	17	3	2	0	0	3	58
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Qld	9	0	0	1	0		2	12
Total Entries Per Class	53	21	3	3	2	4	12	98*

* Note: There were 98 entries but only 15 of these hadn't raced in a sprint race.

race with. Craig and Finn had the only race rigs of the time, so, using a UK design, a gig building day was held at Vic Dillons. A dozen or so people, two welders, pipe benders, copious steel, beer and lots of hard work saw about 8 gigs roll away at the end of the day – an effort likely to remain unmatched in gig building.

A five race series was conducted as follows:

Race 1 – Powelltown 9-10 Jun 90

1 dog – 2 heats (Sat + Sun) of 2k

Jeff Meggs	12:45	19.28kph	SH
Yvonne Peheim	15:52	15.46kph	SH

3 dog – 2 heats (Sat + Sun) of 2.5k

Terry Mace	14:08	21.23kph	SH + Weimaraner
Paul Smith	16:48	17.86kph	SH

6 dog – 2 heats (Sat + Sun) of 2.5k

Fin Jensen	15:20	19.57kph	SH
Craig Wood	15:44	19.07kph	SH

Race 2 – Bendigo 8-9 Jul90

1 dog – 2 heats (Sat + Sun) of 2k

Jeff Meggs	11:46	20.94kph	SH
Nola Randell	15:26	15.73kph	SH
Sandy Lowie	17:49	13.72kph	SH
Dawn Wood	24:38	9.84kph SH	

3 dog – 2 heats (Sat + Sun) of 3k

Sandy Lowie	16:33	21.75kph	SH
Finn Jensen	16:51	21.36kph	SH
Terry Mace	17:30	20.57kph	SH+Wei
Craig Wood	17:31	20.55kph	SH
Paul Smith	18:00	20.00kph	SH

Race 3 – Gormondale 22 Jul 90

1 dog – 1 heat of 1.8k

Jo Downey	7:55	13.64kph	SH
Sandy Lowie	8:55	12.11kph	SH
Yvonne Peheim	9:08	11.82kph	SH

3 dog – 1 heat of 3.3k

Paul Smith	10:52	18.22kph	SH
Sandy Lowie	11:19	17.50kph	SH
Nola Randell	16:31	11.91kph	SH

6 dog – 1 heat of 5.8k

Craig Wood	15:14	22.84kph	SH
Greg Jarvis	18:09	19.17kph	SH

Race 4 – Narbethong 18-19 Aug 90

1 dog – 2 heats (Sat + Sun) of 2.2k

Sandy Lowie	14:11	18.61kph	SH
Nola Randell	16:06	16.40kph	SH
Yvonne Peheim	16:11	16.31kph	SH

3 dog – 2 heats (Sat + Sun) of 3k

Craig Wood	16:32	21.77kph	SH
Terry Mace	16:37	21.66kph	SH+Wei
Paul Smith	21:32	16.72kph	SH
Finn Jensen	21:49	16.50kph	SH

Race 5 – Gormondale 1 Sep 90

1 dog – 1 heat of 3k

No details available

3 dog – 1 heat of 6k

Terry Mace	12:05	29.79kph	SH+Wei
Nola Randell	18:54	19.05kph	SH

6 dog – 1 heat of 9k

Craig Wood	22:52	23.62kph	SH
Vic Dillon	33:42	16.02kph	SH

1991

The second season saw the SHCV organising a 4 race calendar, this year with the introduction, via ADDA, of a 2 dog class to cater for council dog limits and the disappearance of the mixed teams as they could not compete for the SHCV point score. The Undera site (near the town) was first used this year.

This year also saw Craig Wood perfect his gig design, which became the basis for the Cardaprin Karts gigs, which are by far the most popular today, a big improvement over the UK design.

This year also saw South Australia, through SHAMCSA (Siberian Husky and Alaskan Malemute Club of SA), organising training and races with the main instigator being Joszef Toth who was recently arrived in Aust. When they came to Vic they were quite successful in the races.

The number of different drivers in each class were: 1 dog – 7, 2 dog – 9, 4 dog – 2.

Abbreviated details follow (drivers in finish order):

Race 1 – Undera 16 Jun 91

1 dog – 1 heat of 2.3k: Rob Dalavia (14.63kph), Rick Chimenton, Karen McCarthy

2 dog – 1 heat of 4k: Terry Mace (19.73kph), David Pettifer

4 dog – 1 heat of 8k: Terry Mace (17.79kph) – this was the 2 dog team + the Weimaraner (Flash)

Race 2 – Holey Plains (Gormondale) 21 Jul 91

1 dog – 1 heat (no dist): Rob Dalavia, Karen McCarthy, Rick Chimenton

2 dog – 1 heat of 4.5k: Terry Mace (20.85kph), Jo Downey, David Pettifer, Dawn Wood

Race 3 – Holey Plains (Gormondale) 18 Aug 91

1 dog – 1 heat (no dist): Rob Dalavia, Rick Chimenton, Karen McCarthy, Jo Downey

2 dog – 1 heat of 4.5k: Terry Mace (22.75kph), Jeff Meggs, Paul Smith, Craig Wood

Race 4 – Bendigo 7-8 Sep 91

1 dog – 2 heats of 3.8k: Joszef Toth (20.21kph), Rob Dalavia, Rick Chimenton, Jo Downey, (DNFs – Karen McCarthy, Andrew Moriarty

2 dog – 2 heats of 8k: Graeme Cook (17.85kph), Jeff Meggs, David Pettifer (DNF – Karen Smith)

1992

This year was very similar to 1990, but with the addition of more mushers. This race season also sees the first Alaskan Malumute teams competing at the hands of Bill Thorne. The sport also continues to grow in SA and they continue to win races when they compete in Vic. All the Vic races are organised by the SHCV.

The number of different drivers in each class were: 1 dog – 14, 2 dog – 12, 4 dog – 3.

Race 1 – Gormondale 21 May 1992

1 dog - 1 heat of 2.5k: Greg Davis (19.52kph), Shannon Jackson, Sonia Hall, Nola Randell, Rick Chimenton, Yvonne Peheim

2 dog – 1 heat of 3.8k: Terry Mace (23.3kph), Dawn Wood, Craig Wood, Karen McCarthy, Nola Randell, Bill Thorn (AM)

Race 2 – Undera 7-8 Jun 1992

1 dog – 2 heats of 2k: Sonia Hall (21.62kph), Rob Dalavia, Nola Randell, Greg Davis

2 dog – 2 heats of 4k: Terry Mace (24.72kph), Nola Randell, Karen McCarthy, David Pettifer

4 dog – 2 heats of 8k: Bill Thorn (10.61kph)(AM), (DNF – Yvonne Peheim)

Race 3 – Gormondale 28 Jun 1992

1 dog – 1 heat of 3.8k: Rick Chimenton (16.06kph), Greg Davis, Nola Randell, Sonia Hall, Rob Dalavia, Shannon Jackson

2 dog – 1 heat of 5.8k: Terry Mace (22.48kph), John Hynd (AM), Nola Randell, Karen McCarthy, Yvonne Peheim

4 dog – 1 heat of 8k: Craig Wood (15.11kph), Bill Thorn

Race 4 – Bendigo 18-19 Jul 1992

1 dog – 2 heats of 3.5k: Andrew Moriarty (20.81kph), Nick Badrice, Greg Davis, Shannon Jackson, Rob Dalavia, Raelene Kwong, Sonia Hall, Rick Chimenton, Bill Thorn, Michael Herbst

2 dog – 2 heats of 7.5k: Joszef Toth (21.84kph), Graeme Cook, Terry Mace, Nola Randell, Karen McCarthy, David Pettifer, Bill Thorn, Yvonne Peheim

Race 5 – Bendigo 9 Aug 1992

1 dog – 1 heat of 3.5k: Greg Davis (20.29kph), Rob Dalavia, Raelene Kwong, Shannon Jackson, Sonia Hall, Rick Chimenton

2 dog – 1 heat of 7.4k: Terry Mace (20.68kph), Nola Randell, Karen McCarthy, David Pettifer, John Hynd

Race 6 – Gormondale 23 Aug 1992

1 dog – 1 heat of 4k: Glen Fitzpatrick (17.49kph), Rob Dalavia, Shannon Jackson, Rick Chimenton, Greg Davis, Bill Thorn, Sonia Hall

2 dog – 1 heat of 9.5k: Terry Mace (14.8kph), John Hynd, Karen McCarthy, Dave Pettifer, Nola Randell, Greg Burdett (AM)

1993

This year sees the formation of the Undera Sled Dog Club and the handover of that race by the SHCV, bought about by the SHCV promoting a joint race with South Aust near Mt Gambier, and many members wanting to race at Undera (closer, great tracks, and riverside camping).

Also staging races this year is the Alaskan Malemute Club of Vic (AMCV), the club had previously held weight pulls and some members had attended SHCV races.

This was a year of explosive growth in the sport.

To be continued – hopefully!!

Sources: Pawprints, Calling Trail, and personal records..

©Aug 2000

Dog Humour - Dog Tricks

Scott Parker

Three mushers were sitting on the front verandah of an old abandoned pub in a very small country town in southern New South Wales. They were going back home after attending a sled dog race in the Southern Highlands and were having a break in the long drive and having just dropped the dogs.

And naturally enough they got around to talking about their dogs. Each of the mushers reckoned that his dog was the smartest and the argument became quite heated until someone nearby suggested they show each other how smart their dogs are.

The first musher said to his dog: "Bluey, go and get Dave and bring him back here!" The dog shot off up the road, hung a left down a side street, and after a short delay during which was heard much barking and shouting , a tall, gangly young fellow appeared out of the side street, turned and ran as fast as he could towards the pub, with Blue nipping at his ankles. It had all taken about a minute.

The onlookers were impressed, but not the second musher. He leaned over to his dog and said "Repco, remember when we drove into town, we passed a chook shed on the left? Well I want you to go to that chook shed, unlock it, bring the chooks here, get them to run around the vehicles and then take them back again and lock them in the shed again." The dog looked a bit bemused for a second or two then took off up the road, crossed to the other side squeezed through a hole in a fence. The followed much clucking and squawking as the dog unlocked the chook shed, ran inside and then proceeded to herd the chooks down the street to the vehicles outside the pub, did a couple of laps around the vehicles then herded them back from where they had come.

The onlookers were very impressed and burst into applause at this show of intelligence. The third musher scowled and said to his dog: "Moses, I'm hungry". The dog looked at him for a while, then tore off up to the chook shed, caused another ruckus among the chooks, ran back to the pub with an egg in his mouth, dropped it in the boiling billy, ran back to his owner's vehicle, jumped in the back, opened the tucker box, grabbed a spoon and brought it back to his owner. He then went back to the billy and sat next to it looking at the egg bobbing around inside. After a couple of minutes, he lifted the billy off the fire, poured out the water, and brought the billy with the egg inside, over to the musher. The dog then stood on his head, with his back legs and tail in the air, right in front of the musher.

The onlookers were astonished at the capabilities of the dog and burst into thunderous applause. Even the other mushers looked impressed, so much that one of them leaned over to the owner of the dog and said. "That was pretty flash, but tell me, why is your dog standing on his head"

The owner replied "Cos he knows I don't have an egg cup."

First Aid for Dogs

Vomiting and/or diarrhoea

Dr Sandra Hassett

Many gastrointestinal disturbances in dogs and cats are minor upsets which will settle within 2 days. Although there may be vomiting and/or diarrhoea the animals are still bright and fairly active. Basic treatment in these otherwise healthy animals is to withhold food (but not water) for 24 hours.

Withholding food serves 3 purposes. Firstly it allows the lining of the intestine time to heal without having to simultaneously work to digest food. Secondly it reduces the amount of food available for any bacteria present in the gut to feed on and multiply, thus helping to reduce their numbers. Finally it reduces the stimulus to the gut to contract, which it normally does whenever food enters the gastrointestinal system, and thus there is less cramping and pain.

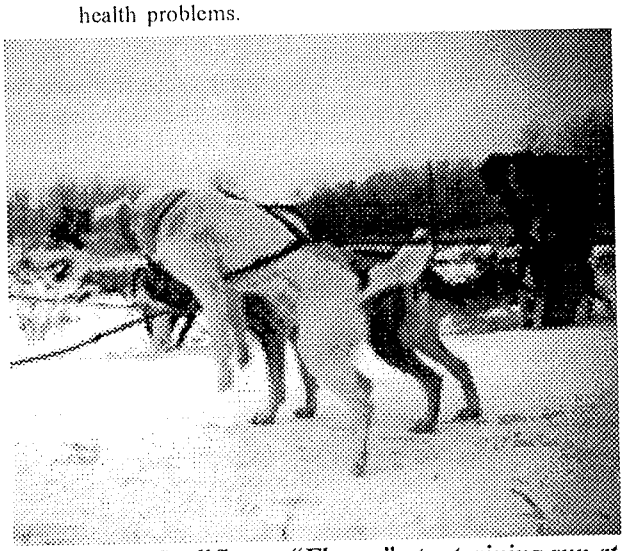
When recommencing food offer small amounts of easily digested food such as 50:50 chicken. Provide 4 - 6 small meals on the first day then gradually increase the size of each meal whilst reducing the frequency of feeding. Only recommence normal food when there is no vomiting and normal stool is being passed.

Do feed some active culture yoghurt in the days following a gastrointestinal upset as this helps to reestablish normal gut bacteria.

Don't allow unlimited access to water. This is because large amounts of water ingested into an already upset stomach are likely to trigger further vomiting. Offer no more than 1 cup (or 1/2 cup in small dogs) of water at a time and wait at least 30 minutes before offering more. Continue to do this until they no longer drink all the water offered. This may take several hours but then you can leave it available for them. You can add a small amount of glucose or honey to the water but not more than 1 teaspoon per cup of water.

Contact your vet:

- if vomiting and/or diarrhoea persist even when no food is being fed;
- if the volume of vomitus or diarrhoea is very large or if it contains blood;
- if the dog or cat is depressed and lethargic;
- if the animal is a puppy or kitten or if it has other health problems.



Lokibodens Cauliflower "Flower" at a training run at Copeland Forest. Flower is sister to Mark's bitch Lokibodens Parsnip "Snip". Photo Mark George.

Hike! 2000 – the Video

This 3 hour extravaganza covers almost every race on the calendar and features mushers from across the spectrum from AFSS National Champions to red lantern winners. There is even a special 'Crash and Burn' section featuring each and every spectacular stack in succession.

Races featured include:

- Southern Cross Pro Am
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- Canberra Sled Dog Classic
- Canberra Sled Dog Marathon

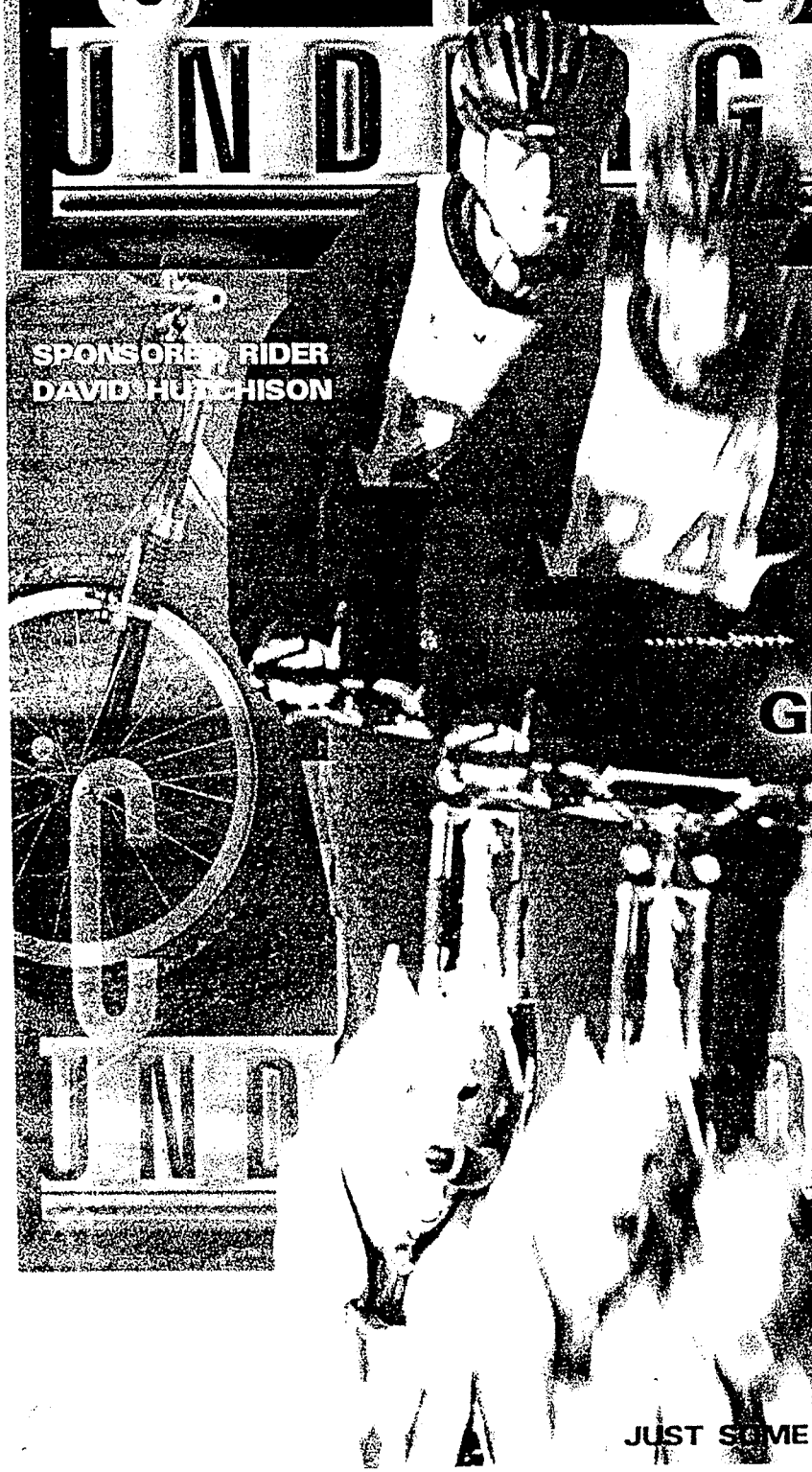
All this for only $20 including postage!

To Order: phone, fax, email, write to ***Hike!*** - contact details in inside front cover of this magazine.

But be quick! Orders will be taken until 31 October – then copies will be made and sent out. Due to the costs involved in getting tapes reproduced we have to go with one bulk order –-if you miss the 31 October deadline you miss out – so don't delay.

How good is it? Don't ask me, I think its great – but I'm biassed. Why not ask anyone who attended the sneak preview at the NSW Siberian Husky Club Mushdown in late September!

CYCLE UNDERGROUND



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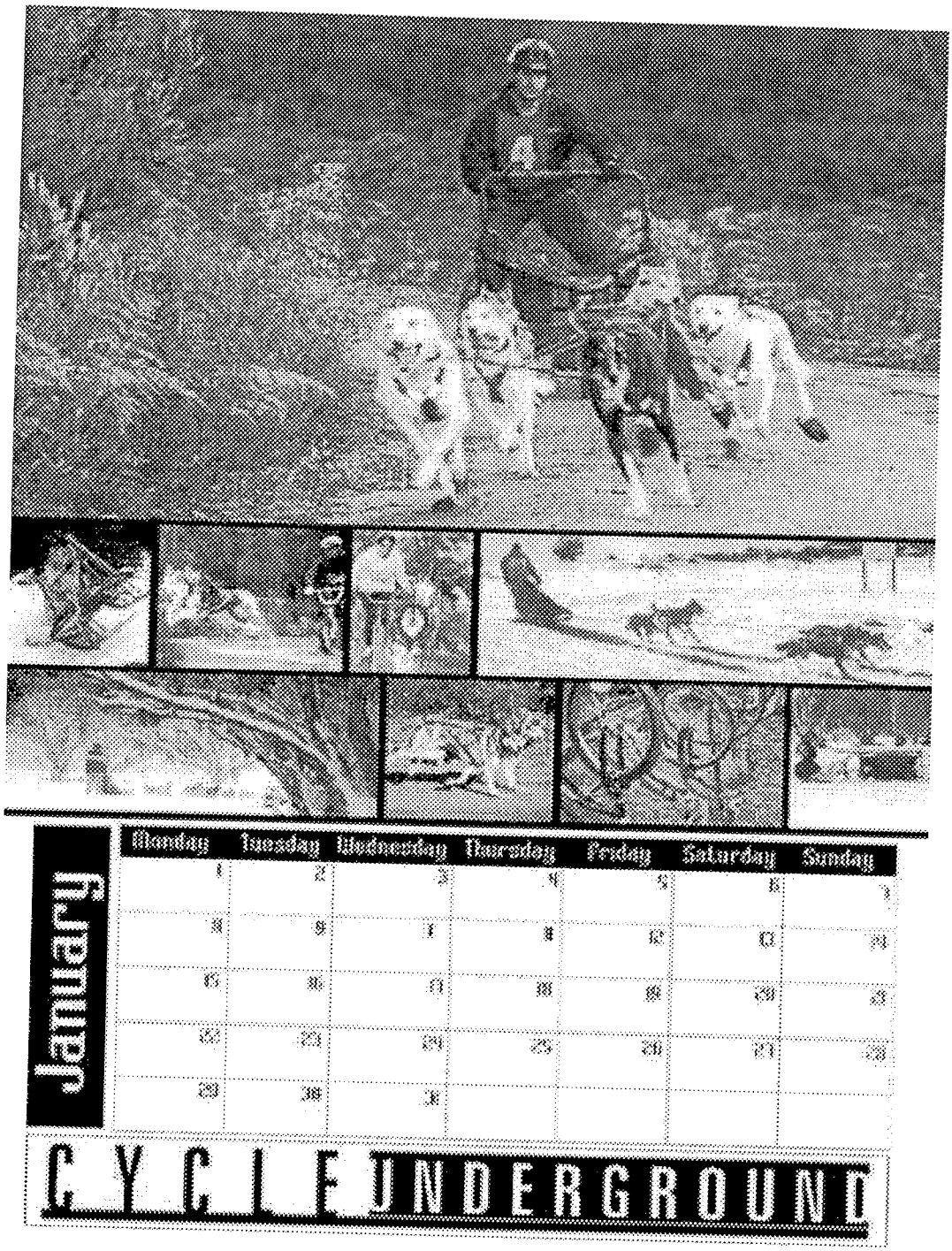

2001 Sled Dog Racing Calendar

This full colour A3 size 12 month calendar captures action shots from all Australian national circuit races. Order your calendar for Aud $20 + postage (available for sale to international as well as Australian readers)

To view the calendar in living colour – check it out at the *Hike!* web site. Follow the links at http://members.dynamite.com.au/komidar/Index.html

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THE OFFICIAL DOG ENTHUSIAST'S DON'T LIST

Unknown

Dear Fellow Dog Enthusiast, does it seem like every time you ask a question or comment about brining up a dog, you get yourself into trouble? If so, then this list is for you. If you religiously follow all of the rules on this Official DON'T list, you'll never get in trouble again. For those who can't memorize the entire list, print the list on 3x5 cards and then have them laminated. Keep the list in your purse or wallet and take them with you to dog races, parties, or where ever you hang out with other dog enthusiasts. The Official Dog Enthusiast's DON'T List:

DON'T let your dog sleep in your bed. It will cause aggression problems down the road . Make your dog sleep in a crate. Crate is just another word for small cage.

DON'T let your dog sleep outside at night. If God had wanted dogs to sleep outside, he would have covered their body with hair to keep them warm.

DON'T let your dog sleep. You should be playing with him all the time.

DON'T keep more than two dogs. Each individual dog requires considerable time and energy, and it is impossible for a responsible dog owner to spend quality time with more than two dogs.

DON'T keep less than five dogs. Dogs are pack animals, and five dogs is the minimum number for proper socialization.

DON'T feed your dog kibble. Kibble is the invention of evil capitalists who want your money, and kibble has no nutritional value whatsoever. You might as well feed your dog sawdust.

DON'T cook your dog's meat or chicken. Cooking destroys all the nutrients.

DON'T feed your dog raw meat or raw chicken. Raw food contains salmonella, e-coli, and other harmful bacteria.

DON'T let your dog drink out of a plastic bowl. It will turn his nose pink.

DON'T poke your eye with a sharp stick. It has nothing to do with dogs, but it's a good rule nonetheless.

DON'T microchip your dog. A nearby mobile phone can cause a microchipped dog to explode, or so says the lady running the tattoo booth.

DON'T tattoo your dog on the ear. A dog thief will cut off the tattooed ear.

DON'T tattoo your dog on the thigh. He'll be a tripod before you can say Ginsu.

DON'T keep a collar on your dog when unattended. He could get caught on something and choke.

DON'T leave your dog unattended without a collar. He could run away without any identification. back.

DON'T transport your dog in a plastic crate. Plastic crates don't allow sufficient air flow.

DON'T transport your dog in a wire crate. In a car accident, a wire crate transforms into a doggie skewer. On days you plan to have a car accident, it is acceptable to use a plastic crate. But, don't use a plastic crate and then come home without any major bodywork needed, or you're in deep doo doo.

DON'T let your dog drive. It's against the law in many states.

DON'T let your dog run around intact. Spay/neuter are the best form of birth control, and they reduce the chances for some types of cancer.

DON'T spay or neuter your dog. How would you like it if someone cut off your family jewels?

DON'T enter your dog in shows. It's b-o-r-i-n-g for the dog.

DON'T enter your dog in obedience. It's B-o-r-i-n-g with a capital 'B'

DON'T enter your dog in agility. The jumps will injure his joints.

DON'T hunt with your dog. Dead birds are yucky.

DON'T send your dog out with a handler. Only a psychopath would send their beloved pet with a complete stranger.

DON'T handle your dog yourself. You've got a great dog, and he deserves a much better handler than you will ever be.

DON'T get a purebred dog. Too much inbreeding has produced dogs with temperament and health problems.

DON'T get a mutt. You DON'T know anything about their pedigree. In fact, if youire thinking about getting a dog, get a cat instead.

DON'T DON'T. That's right, you heard me, just DON'T!

DON'T give your dog a subscription to Hike! He will pretend to read the articles, but will drool on the pictures of nude bitches instead.

DON'T make woopee with your significant other while your dog is in the room. It will mess up his head. It will confuse the dog as well.

DON'T make woopee with your dog. What, you need a reason for this one?

DON'T shave your dog in the summer. The other dogs will laugh and call him names, and he'll never be invited to play any reindeer games.

DON'T leave your dog's dewclaws intact. He will rip one off jumping a log or something, which is quite painful.

DON'T remove your dog's dewclaws. Dewclaws are acupuncture points that are needed for proper functioning of the kidneys.

AND, the #1 DON'T ....

DON'T trim your dog's whiskers. Dogs use their whiskers to determine the size of their head, which is important when they are out shopping for a new hat.

2001 Provisional Calendar

Sprint Races

Race	Distances	Date	Contact
Southern Cross Pro Am (Victoria) TO BE CONFIRMED	1 Dog Class – 2 heats of 3km 2 Dog Class – 2 heats of 4.8km 4 Dog Class – 2 heats of 6.8km	19-20 May	Karen Johnson Kazjohn@netspace.net.au (03) 9853 0193
Undera Sled Dog Dash (Victoria) TO BE CONFIRMED	1 Dog Class 3 heats of 2km 2 Dog Class, 3 heats 4.5km 3&4 Dog Class 2 heats 7km + night heat 4.5km, Novice 2 heats of 2 km -no night heat	9-11 June	Helen & David Pettifer pettifer@bigpond.com
Sydney Sled Dog Sprint (New South Wales) TO BE CONFIRMED	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 4km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 8km 3 Dog Class 2 heats of 12km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 12km 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 15km	23-24 June	Craig Turner ionamal@shoal.net.au (02) 4285 2457
Northern Exposure Classic (Queensland)	1 Dog Class 3 heats of 2.5 km 2 Dog Class 3 heats of 4 km 4 Dog Class 3 heats of 6 km	29/6 - 1/7	Donald Maillet d.maillet@mailbox.uq.edu.au (07) 3822 6427
Great Grey Bound? (Victoria)	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 2.4 km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 6.5 km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 9.0 km 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 12.7 km	7-8 July	Jacqui McNicol mcnicol@ruralnet.net.au
Wild Dog Derby (South Australia)	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 3.6 km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 5.9 km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.6 km	14-15 July	Dave Brown davebrown@ozemail.com.au
Sydney Sled Dog Shield (New South Wales) TO BE CONFIRMED	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 3.6 km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 4.6 km 3 & 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 8.2 km	28-29 July	Ivan Douglas skylaska@zip.com.au (02) 9824 7759
The Burn (Victoria) TO BE CONFIRMED	1&2 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.5km 3, 4 & 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 15km Junior Class 2 heats of 3.8km	4-5 August	Lisa Hodgson lihuk@netspace.net.au (03) 5281 5283
A5000 Sled Dog Derby (Victoria) TO BE CONFIRMED	TBA	11-12 August	Robert Stevens sleddogs@ssc.net.au (03) 5428 3285
Canberra Classic (ACT) TO BE CONFIRMED	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 3.6 km 2 & 3 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.2 km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 9.0 km	18-19 August	Len Tomlinson Kivawolf@bigpond.com (02) 6258 8063

Distance Races

Race	Distance	Date	Contact
Southern Highlands Freight Run (New South Wales)	1 Dog Class 2 heats of 7.8 km 2 Dog Class 2 heats of 14.9 km 4 Dog Class 2 heats of 20.8 km 6 Dog Class 2 heats of 20.8 km	7-8 July	Beckie Walters bknown@ozemail.com.au
B60 (New South Wales)	6 Dog Class 2 stages of 30km (min 4 dogs)	21-22 July	Stephen Carrick crack@ozemail.com.au
Kooyoora Challenge (Victoria) TO BE CONFIRMED	2 heats of 25 km 6, 8, Open class (min 4 dogs)	4-5 August	Jacqui McNicol mcnicol@ruralnet.net.au
CSDC Distance Race (ACT) TO BE CONFIRMED	2 stages of 15.5km (min 4 dogs)	18-19 August	Andrew Gersbach andrew@dataflex.com.au 0414 690 204

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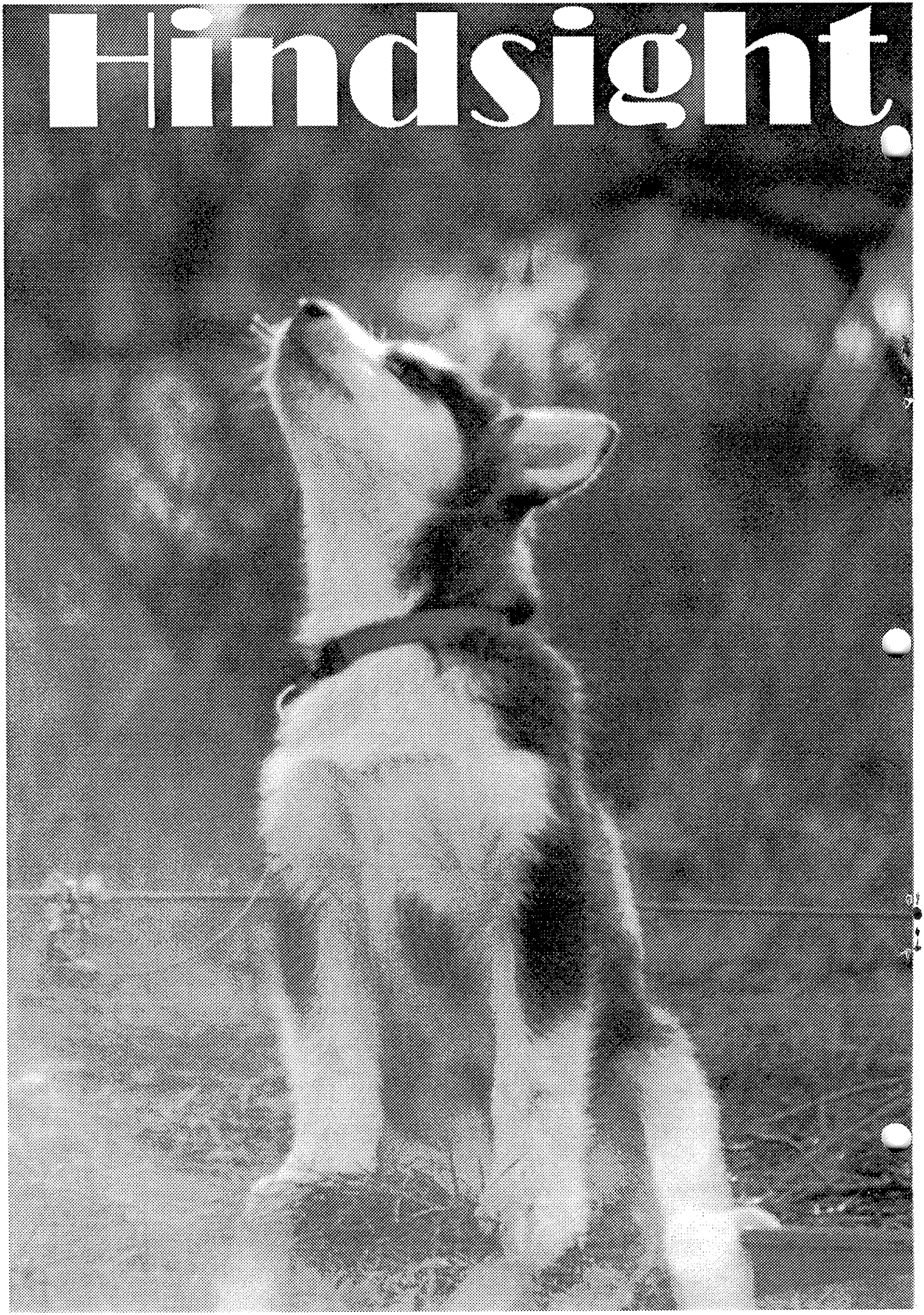
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