

If undelivered return to:
Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc. Vic.
60 Tamarind Crescent Werribee 3030

PP 33768210005

SURFACE
MAIL

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA



The opinions expressed within contributors' articles are not necessarily those of Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc' Vic', or of the committee. Whilst every effort is made to ensure copy is reproduced correctly, the club accepts no responsibility for errors.

Newsletter

September – October 2008

CLUB EMAIL ADDRESS: breton@clubbreton.com.au
CLUB WEB SITE: www.clubbreton.com.au

Upcoming Club L'Epagneul Breton Events for 2008

- **October 15th - Annual General Meeting**
- **November 1st – Open & Championship shows**
- **November 9th – CEB Retrieving Trial & Christmas breakup.**

Your
Club L'Epagneul Breton
Contacts.

President/Newsletter Editor - Bill Allen
60 Tamarind Crescent
Werribee 3030
Phone/Fax 9741 9534
Email - ozbritt3@bigpond.com.au

Vice President/Puppy Officer
Ray Waldron (03) 5874 3810

Treasurer Peter Price
57 Eucalypt Ave Lwr Templestowe
(03) 9848 6507
Email - pandv@bigpond.com.net

Committee members
Michael Calleja Frank Tate
Marilyn DiNatale Fiona Brown-Elkner
Kevin Phelps Alex Jevric

Club L'Epagneul Breton now have a web site.

www.clubbreton.com.au

For information about what's happening within our breed world wide and at a club level check out this marvellous new initiative of your Club L'Epagneul Breton. If you have anything you would like to paste or advertise on the web site place forward it to the club Treasurer, Peter Price, for committee approval at our new club email address;

breton@clubbreton.com.au

From the Top.

Our Future - Important. All Club L'Epagneul Breton members please read this. It effects *you*.

Hi again fellow Bretoners. Welcome to 2008. I must offer my sincerest apologies for the lateness of our newsletter. Unfortunately I have just been run off my feet with club business &, with trying to work 2 jobs as well as training/running my own dogs, I have really struggled personally to hold it all together. I have to admit this year so far has just been too much for me to cope with & more than once I have thought of chucking it all in, but then I look out the window at my own Bretons & remember that this club represents a very real responsibility to our breed. As a club we are rapidly approaching crunch time. Things are not looking good for our club at the moment despite having a good solid membership base & sound fiscal position. At Present our committee has shrunk to critical size with just enough people to barely keep things going. At present I am trying my best to carry out the duties of President, Secretary, Field Trial Manager, & Newsletter Editor. It has been a huge challenge for me & one that I must admit has got the better of me on several occasions. Over the past few years there have been suggestions that Club L'Epagneul Breton should consider folding up due to non involvement of members. People no longer wish to get involved in the club or it's committee duties & those that are left end up worked off their feet. Our last AGM was attended by very few people. The smallest number I have ever seen at a Club L'Epagneul Breton AGM. We had no-one willing to take on the job of Secretary or Newsletter Editor, & no-one has volunteered to manage our field trial this year. Surely people think enough of their dogs & our club to help out just a little? People are very quick to criticize but trying to get help at the moment is like squeezing blood out of a stone. How sad for such a once proud club representing the greatest of all utility Gundogs. We simply can't go on this way. I am committed to keeping our club up & running but things must change one way or the other. I often wonder where we are going as a collective. It appears that people love owning a Breton but aren't really interested enough to get involved in club events. If people are only joining the club to read the newsletter then I think that's sad. I can't even get anyone to contribute to the newsletter. What is to become of our breed in the future? I can't really say, but without an active breed club I do know that it's not looking good for these great little dogs.

2008 events.

Field Trials. The CEB field trials were run over the week end of May 24th/25th. After spending many costly week ends unsuccessfully searching for paddocks to run the trials in, the great blokes & gals from the GSP club came to our rescue once again by offering up one of their own venues. Vicki Thomas kindly took our entries & organised the catalogue & schedule & to her must go a huge 'thank you'. I honestly could not have organised the field trials without her. Sat 24th saw the running of the Novice event with 12 entries altogether, including 3 Bretons. This event was Judged by Steve Burke whom kindly agreed to help us out following Brian Paice's unfortunate car accident that saw him have to withdraw from judging the Novice stake at the last moment. I had the pleasure of stewarding for Steve & I believe I got just as much, if not more, out of Steve's tuition than the handlers did. Having the opportunity to work with someone the caliber of Steve Burke is always a pleasurable learning experience & I must admit to coming away far more educated than when I arrived. There is certainly no doubting Steve's expertise with the little birds & how to hunt them with Gundogs. My very sincerest thanks must go to Steve for allowing me to assist him. Two CEB members new to field trials, Kevin Phelps with 'Bear' & Alex Jevric with 'Ali' were eliminated after the 1st round, but not before showing much promise of good things to come. I have absolutely no doubt that both of these dogs can do very well in future field trials, they just need a few more birds, more experience, & a little more time. Michael Calleja did very well to get through to the water retrieve but unfortunately didn't finish in the placings. Still an excellent effort by Michael & his girl in the end. The placings were; 1st Russell Thomas & his GSP, 2nd-Dave Blacker & his GSP, 3rd—Dave Blacker with a GSP owned by Prue Winkfield. Sunday saw the Open field trail judged by David Blacker. Unfortunately the standard of dog work was not good enough to allow a finish & in the end the event was declared a non-result. These things sometimes happen with field trials & given the limited opportunity many people have had to get their dogs onto the small birds it's not entirely unexpected.

Clay Target Shoot. Ray Waldron will hopefully be organizing a week end of fun & merriment to be held in the Nagambie & Kilmore area. The date is yet to be decided upon so stay tuned for more on this event.

Saturday will possibly see some retrieving training opportunities organized at the clubs Nagambie site for those that are interested, with camping available Saturday night, whilst Sunday we will be hosting a 'simulated field' clay target shoot at the Greenvale (Kilmore) F&G ground. This will be a great opportunity to come along & meet other club members in a social environment & also talk to your club committee about what it is you want from your club. Many thanks must go to our hard working Vice Prez & Puppy Officer Ray Waldron for organizing all this. Without Ray's help I don't know how we would fare. He has long been one of the hardest workers in the club & his commitment should be appreciated by all.

The next event following is a way off - that of our **Open & Championship Shows**. It looks like this event will once again be staged at the Lancefield locale which has proven so popular that past couple of years. If you've ever wondered what happens at these shows then by all means come along & have a look. We are hoping for in excess of 35-40 dogs entering in the various categories, so why not come along & view some of the many great Bretons, from all around Australia, that will be on show. The club's show crowd are a very social lot & this year the club will be running a BBQ & raffle. Last year we had a very well respected Judge from Greece adjudicating our shows & with his obvious ties to the European Breton fraternity it soon became obvious that he was disappointed not to see more Euro type Bretons entered in the shows. This year our Judge is another European (Italy) so once again he will be familiar with the Euro type Bretons. So come along & be prepared to give it a try. You just might do better than you think. I am hopeful of the club running a small coaching clinic for club members interested in learning the 'ins & outs' of showing their Bretons, so please drop me a line if your interested. I think Rusty might just have to have a hair cut & his nails polished for this one.

Lastly will be our **Retrieving Trials**. These are ear marked for 9th & 10th November this year. Once again it is envisaged that our club & the GSP club will run back to back with the GSP people running a beginners, novice & restricted on Saturday followed by our club running a novice, restricted & Field & Game event on Sunday. This year should see up to 6 or 8 Bretons entering the beginners/novice events over the two days/. Hopefully there will be more. Last years retrieving trial week end was a magnificent week end & I just cannot understand why more club members don't get involved. These are really great fun events that will no doubt help improve your dog's performance in the hunting field or on the duck swamp. So in anticipation of our next up-coming duck season why not get your dog into em. If you require any help it's only a matter of getting in touch with myself or one of the other committee members to organise some training. I am currently running a privately organised training day on the 1st Sunday each month, specifically aimed at Bretons. Of course any club member is more than welcome to come along as I would be only too happy to help out anyone wishing to give it a go. All you need do is give me a call & I'll gladly fill you in.

Good luck to all & good hunting in 2008.

Bill Allen—CEB President.



Gathering of Club L'Epagneuls Breton members and their dogs at 2007 Non-Slip Retrieving Trial (Nagambie Victoria)

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF CLUB L'EPAGNEUL BRETON INC' VIC.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED CLUB WILL BE HELD ON **15th OCTOBER 2008** IN THE *CHAPEL OF BREIZOZ FRENCH RESTAURANT, 139 THE STRAND, WILLIAMSTOWN VICTORIA*, AT 8PM. Pls note. Meals will be available in the restaurant prior to the meeting.

Special Announcement.

A number of 'door prizes' will be drawn on the night with the main prize being a dinner for two to the value of \$100 from 'Breizoz French Creperie' - Original Bretagne Cuisine. To be eligible you need only be a current financial member of CEB attending the AGM.

AGENDA

- Opening/Apologies
- Minutes of AGM 2007
- Committee reports (President, Treasurer)
- Election of 2009 Office Bearers & Committee.
- Agendered Business
- Guest Speaker (Brent Waldron-NSW Game Council)
- Presentation of Annual Awards.
- Close

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW CALLED FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS.

Note

- Both Nominee & Nominator must be financial members of the Victorian Canine association and Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc' Vic'.
- Nominations must be received not later than 10th October 2008.

VACANCIES

President x 1	Vice Presidents x 3	Honorary Secretary x 1
Assistant Secretary x 1	Treasurer x 1	Ordinary Committee Members x 8

Only items agendered for the meeting will be aired so Notice of Special Business must be presented, in writing, no later than Friday 10th October.

Address all correspondence to;

Club L'Epagneul Breton President
 Bill Allen
 60 Tamarind Crescent
 Werribee Vic' 3030

I,.....(please print) would like to nominate.....

For the position of.....(please print).

Signed.....Date.../.../..... V.C.A membership number.....

I, being the nominee for the above position, accept the responsibilities & duties of the above position on behalf of Club L'Epagneul Breton and it's members for the term of 2009.

Signed.....Date.../.../..... V.C.A membership number.....

CLUB L'EPAGNEUL BRETON INC
4TH CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW

To be held at

Lancefield Park Reserve, Chauncey Street, Lancefield

Saturday 1ST November 2008

Schedule of Classes 1,2,3,4,5,10 & 11 (dogs & bitches)

Entries accompanied by fees to;

Mrs F Brown-Elkner.

RMB 2570 Bacchus Marsh Road

Balliang 3340 Vic.

(03) 53694207

(No Calls After 9pm Please)

Cheques/money orders made payable to Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc.

JUDGE: Mr. Gianni Guffanti (Italy)
(Gundog Specialist)

Catalogue \$1.00 each. Please Order and pay with Entries.

Entry Fees \$20.00 each.

Entries close 1st October 2008

Entries will not be accepted without fees.

**Judging Times: 2:00 PM OR at the COMPLETION of the English
springer spaniel Club Championship Show. Which ever the earliest.
Club L'Epagneul Breton Show will run alongside The Victorian Gun-
dog Club Championship Show.**

Catering: Available

Special Prizes: Trophy and Sash for All in Show Awards.

Full listing in Catalogue.

VCA REP Mrs.J.Hoare

CLUB L'EPAGNEUL BRETON INC.VIC.

(Sponsoring the Brittany Breed)

NON-SLIP RETRIEVING TRIAL

9th NOVEMBER 2008

To be held und the Rules and Regulations of the Victorian Canine Association.
A copy may be inspected at the office of the Secretary of the fixture on the day of the trial.

Location - Nagambie Area..Contact the manager Wednesday preceding the trial

Trial Manager

Mr Michael Calleja Ph (03) 9363 3602

Trial Secretary

Bill Allen

60 Tamarind Crescent

Werribee 3030

(03) 9741 9534

Location : Phone the Trial Manager during the week prior to the Trial for directions

Judges & Stakes:

Novice Sunday 9th – Mr Barry Kavanagh.

Restricted Sunday 9th – Mr Garith Tawton

Field & Game Stake – T.B.A.

Entry Fees :

Novice Members - \$12.00 Non-Members - \$14.00

Restricted Members - \$14.00 Non-Members - \$16.00

Entry includes all VCA levies.

Entries : Accompanied by Entry Fees to be sent to the Trial Secretary.

ENTRIES CLOSE 25th October

ABSOLUTELY- NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Draw to be conducted at the home of the Trial Secretary on 1st November at 8.00pm.

Vetting from 7.30am

Start 8.30am Sharp.

Trophy and Sash for 1st and 2nd, Sash for 3rd Place in all Stakes

VCA Rep:

TBA

A FIELD & GAME STAKE IS TO BE CONDUCTED ON SUNDAY

FROM 10.00AM – ENTRY FEE \$10 – TO BE PAID ON THE DAY

Catering - Lunch & Breakfast available both days.

Shooters Licence – A competitor must produce their current shooters licence at vetting or they will not be permitted to compete at the trial.

**Victorian
Draft Field Trial Program
2009**

Date	Club/Trial Type
15 March 2009	RAFT All Disciplines Training Day
25 April 2009	GSP UG Non Qualifying
26 April 2009	GSP UG Novice
2 May 2009	GSC Novice P&S
2 May 2009	VGC Novice Utility Gundog
3 May 2009	GSC Open P&S
3 May 2009	VGC Open Utility Gundog
9 May 2009	CHWGC Novice Utility Gundog
16 May 2009	VGC Novice Pointer & Setter
17 May 2009	VGC Open Pointer & Setter
23 May 2009	L'Epagneul Novice Utility Gundog
24 May 2009	L'Epagneul Open Utility Gundog
30 May 2009	GSP Open Utility Gundog
31 May 2009	GSP Open Utility Gundog
6 June 2009	ISC Novice Pointer & Setter
8 June 2009	ISC Open Pointer & Setter
13 June 2009	DV Utility Gundog FT Championship
14 June 2009	DV Utility Gundog FT Championship
20 June 2009	DV Pointer & Setter Championship
21 June 2009	VGC Open Pointer & Setter
18 July 2009	GSP Open Utility Gundog (Exotic Game)
19 July 2009	GSP Open Utility Gundog (Exotic Game)
16 August 2009	GSP Novice Natural Ability Test
22 August 2009	VGC Spaniel & Retriever
23 August 2009	VGC Spaniel & Retriever

Legend
 GSP – German Shorthaired Pointer Club
 CHWGC – Central Highlands Working Gundog Club
 VGC – Victorian Gundog Club
 GSC – Gordon Setter Club
 ISC – Irish Setter Club

Rick Smith Seminar

Friday 24th October to Sunday 26th October.

“Well just who the hell is Rick Smith?”, I hear you ask.

Rick Smith is the son of the famous Delmar Smith. The Smith family are professional gundog trainers from America, whom run one of the largest and most successful kennels in the United States. Delmar and Rick are both ‘American Field Trial Hall of Famers’ and are known for the quality of the Brittanys and English Setters they produce. Rick and Delmar have both won National Pointing Dog Field Trials with their Britts, so they most certainly do know their dogs and how to train and handle them.

With the retirement of Delmar, Rick and his brother Ronnie have taken on the mantle of running training seminars in all locations across the United States, and now the Working Gundog Association of Australia (WGAA) have been successful in enticing Rick into running a seminar here in Australia.

Consisting of 4 sub-disciplines (Retrieving, Pointers & Setters, Utility, and Spaniels) WGAA are the gundog representative body of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) and are a very successful National gundog body running events in just about all states of Australia. They even run their own pedigree system recognising the trialing success of all registered dogs.

Rick will be heading our way in October and will commence his seminar with an introductory ‘meet and greet’ on Friday evening 24th October. Then commencing Saturday morning (25th) Rick will explain his methods for training and handling pointing dogs with the emphasis being ‘hands on’ practical teaching. This means participants will be encouraged to bring their dogs along and get actively involved in working with Rick.

Sunday will see the ‘hands on’ work continue with a focus on advanced work.

The seminar will be conducted outdoors in the Balliang area of Victoria (just south of Bacchus Marsh) and promises to be the highlight of this years gundog calendar. All up cost of the seminar is \$410 and bookings are essential with a \$200. non refundable deposit required. Before you start thinking that this cost is a might high rest assured you will be experiencing the very best America has to offer in professional gundog trainers. This may very well be a ‘once in a lifetime’ opportunity. With 20 of the 30 seats already filled you will need to move quick to secure your attendance. For more information contact;

WGAA National Discipline Chairman
Barry Oliver (03) 9598 3035

PS. You bet your sweet A-s I'm going. Have already secured my seat & wouldn't miss this for quids. Will be taking all 4 of my fellas along with me.

Bill

French Club Epagneul Breton Membership.

For anyone wishing to join the French CEB (including their wonderful magazine-now with English articles) there are now two easy ways to do so. From Pierre Willems in France (French CEB Treasurer) comes this advice.

We offer a new facility to pay your subscription (= 40 euros).

1. You can proceed by a bank transfer, IN EUROPEAN CURRENCY (i.e. EUROS) to the account of which the IBAN code is as follows;

IBAN: FR64.3000.2079.4000.0003.9365.M67

SWIFT Address: CRLYFRPP

2. If you have internet access go to www.paypal.com & open a paypal account using your credit card. Transfer 40 Euros to willems.pierre@libertysurf.fr and your magazines will be posted.

DO NOT FORGET TO MENTION YOUR FULL ADRESS AT WHICH YOU WANT THE MAGAZINES TO BE MAILED.

Internet Links de L'Epagneuls Bretons.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/french_brittany/

This is a Yahoo hosted mailing list for owners, breeders, trainers, handlers, of Epegneuls Bretons. There are now members posting on this list from over 30 different countries. Many of the members are from the home of our wonderful little dogs, France, including Mssrs Pierre Willems, Pierre Terran, Christian Gunther (current President of the French Club Epagneul Breton), and many others. Owned & moderated jointly by Bruce Daniel (USA) & myself, this is one of the very best internet resources available for those supporting the Epagneul Breton.

Bill Allen

Training Tips

Have a 'Plan'.

In the time that I have been working as a training instructor with the Working Gundog Association of Australia (WGAA) one thing has become clearly evident: more work is required to teach gundog owners than to teach their dogs. Why so? Well for starters most people don't have a clear plan of how to go about training their dogs .

From the beginning

First of all you need to have a good idea in mind of just what it is you want from your dog. Assuming you obtained your Breton for his intended working purpose - that of utility gundog, then there are two main areas of interest: 'Field Hunting' & 'Retrieving'. My own general approach with my dogs is to initially work on building a strong bond with my puppy whilst giving him the chance to introduce himself to all the sights & sounds in the field that he will be likely to encounter during his hunting career. Remember that what you do with your pup during the period of eight weeks to six months will imprint in his little brain the things that will forever shape the rest of his life. During this time I like my pups to experience all the sights & sounds of the hunting field with very little to worry about except coming back when called. I don't impose on him any of the stresses of training during this time. It's their time to explore life's mysteries & have fun being a puppies.

Starting formal training

At roughly 6 months I start formal training, usually with obedience lessons. Remember that the training for each & every dog will vary according to his individual personality. They are all different & need to be trained & handled differently. At the same time I start working on getting him ready for retrieving training. Why retrieving first? Well retrieving is where our dogs are usually considered to be weak in comparison to hunting. This doesn't mean they can't retrieve. Not at all. There are some excellent retrieving Bretons out there, but hunting is their real strength. They hunt better than any other breed of gundog in my opinion. So I like to get the retrieving sorted out first. Once our dog is retrieving reasonably well, & is eventually returned to the hunting field, it certainly doesn't take him long to get reacquainted with all those sights & smells he encountered as a puppy. He'll be hunting in under 5 minutes.

Retrieving

So how do we teach our dog to retrieve. Well first of all, just how many types of retrieves do you think we need to teach our dog? Most people will think of dozens of scenarios here. Really there are only two - 'sighted' retrieves & 'blinds'. Every retrieve you ever ask your dog to make will be either one or the other, or a combination of the two. Let's forget 'blinds' just for now & start with 'sighteds'. Most people start with land based retrieves & then move onto water work. I prefer to start the other way around. Why? I like to use my dog's instincts to my advantage rather than against me. On land our dog's natural instinct is to go away from us to hunt. This means a young pup may present problems in coming back when called, or he may not want to pick up a thrown item if there are better smells to distract him.. In water, any dog's first instinct is to come toward his trusted owner & friend (you). This makes it so much easier to teach your dog to bring something back to you. Now obviously this is best started during the warmer months so if the weather is a little unkind then work on obedience until the warmer months come along. There's plenty of time to let him smell quail & rabbits in the field during these colder months, so we don't need to worry about water work until it's warm enough for our pup to want to go for a swim. Please don't try water work during the colder times of the year & *never, ever* throw your pup into water to try

teach him to swim. Creating fear in a pup & making him deathly afraid of water won't help him at all. Even if he does eventually learn to swim you will almost certainly guarantee that he will never retrieve reliably for you. He needs encouragement to start with, not bullying. No young puppy is going to be too interested in picking up a thrown object if they are struggling to keep their head above water. So first the pup needs to be a confident swimmer. He needs to enjoy being in water & making him afraid of it or trying to get him in when it's as cold as ice certainly won't help matters at all. It'll create problems that may never be fully overcome.

To achieve this I like to start with the young pup walking through shallow waters whilst we're out together. Once he's shown you he's not afraid of water then get the waders on & get in there with him. Lots of encouragement & enthusiasm is the go here. Start this during summer when he wants to get in the water, not during winter when the cold will worry him. As his swimming gets better, over several sessions I will eventually introduce a duck or pigeon wing into the scene. Whilst I am standing waist deep in the water with the pup swimming around me I will gently drop the wing a couple of feet in front of him. Not too far at this stage, only 2 to 3 feet or so. No doubt he will take it into his mouth & swim back to you. Take it from him & again drop it a couple of feet in front of him. Gradually increase the distance *over several sessions* until you are throwing the wing as far as you can (probably 10-15 feet or so). I then tape the wing onto a 'dummy' & start again by gently dropping the dummy a couple of feet in front of my swimming pup's nose (don't splash him & put him off here). As he learns to take it in his mouth & swim back to you, you can again gradually increase the distance until he's swimming out 15 to 20 (or more) feet to retrieve the dummy. Please note, *all this is done with you standing waist deep in the water*. By doing this it is much easier to get the pup to come back to us & each time we take the dummy off the pup he is actually thinking he is giving it to us. So he will be learning to bring thrown items to us & not try to run off with them.

Over time the distance I get the young dog to retrieve is gradually lengthened. All this is still happening with both myself & the dog in the water. Once I've got him to the point of going out 20+ metres to retrieve I then start to introduce land. This is done by my starting off standing in the water whilst he's swimming around me. I throw a retrieve for him & as he's on his way back to me I will gradually back out to a point where he is actually standing in front of me when I take the dummy from him. Gradually I will get him to the point of bringing him all the way out onto dry land to deliver. Only now will I start sending him from dry land to retrieve in water & then deliver back on dry land again. Don't be tempted to rush this process. Take your time & be patient. Your dog's attitude to his work is your best guide here.

After having gone through this procedure for quite a considerable time over many sessions I then start to give him some land retrieves. At the end of his water session. This is done whilst we are walking back to the car & he just gets one or two to start with. Eventually I will start a session with one or two land retrieve before taking him to the water. In the end I will increase the number of retrieves he is doing both on land & in water.

CLASSIFIEDS

It is Editorial policy that anyone with litters to advertise, or anyone seeking pups, shall be entitled to advertise through this newsletter without fear or favour. Contact between breeders & prospective purchasers shall then be the business of those parties, & the Club L'Epagneul Breton shall accept no responsibility for any further dealings. The Club L'Epagneul Breton will not show favour toward any particular breeder & are not willing to endorse any litters so as to remain neutral in any private dealings.

Bill Allen Newsletter Editor.

FOR SALE.

Club L'Epagneul Breton Merchandise

Club L'Epagneul Breton Caps \$15 -
Dark Green/Brown Peak - Cream/Brown Peak
Club L'Epagneul Breton Badges Cloth \$8 Metal \$5
Contact Andrew Yeomans on;
9584 4526

North West Four Wheel Drive & Camping

For all your 4wd accessories & camping gear contact Frank Cassar at;

Tel. 03 5428 7475 Fax. 03 5428 7476

Email. northwest4wd@tsn.cc

37 Gyro Close Riddells Creek Vic 3431

**LIGHTFORCE SPOTLIGHTS. FREEDOM TENTS,
SOUTHERN CROSS TENTS, TJM & ARB ACCESSORIES, AND MUCH
MORE.**

For Sale

Browning B25 Shotgun—B1 (C) grade Field/Sporter.

Fully hand made in Belgium this gun is an excellent example of workmanship from the world's premier maker of shotguns. Beautiful stock wood, extremely tight (as new) condition, 28inch barrels choked IC and mod. Forcing cones lengthened. A truly magnificent gun well suited to sporting clays, duck hunting, rabbiting, quail hunting, or chasing upland birds. A great all-rounder.

\$4000 neg'

For more information contact Bill Allen on;

(03)9741 9534 Mob 0417 393 466



Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc.

Membership Application 2008

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

State _____ Postcode: _____

e-mail: _____

Are you a member of the VCA? YES () NO () If yes please provide your VCA No. _____

I desire to become a member of Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc. Vic. And in the event of my admission to the Club as a member I agree to uphold and be bound by the rules and regulations of the club.

Types of Membership: Dual () Single () Junior ()
New Member () Renewal ()

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE AND PAYABLE BY 1 SEPTEMBER EACH YEAR

Fees: Dual \$20.00 Single \$15.00 Junior \$2.00

Members wishing to join puppy buyers will be charged \$2.50 for 12 months duration after which normal fees will apply.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please complete all details and forward with your fees to the Treasurer.

The Treasurer
Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc.
C/- PO Box 2122
Templestowe Heights VIC 3107

Cheques should be made payable to *Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc.*

My Mate.

It has often been said that a man only ever has one good dog in his life. I don't necessarily subscribe to that line of thought. I've been fortunate to own several extremely good dogs during my near 25 year association with the Epagneul Breton breed. I do think however, that a man (or woman) may only have one really special dog in their lifetime. Why that dog is special can only really be understood by that particular person.

Just over 13 years ago I paid my mate Alby Mangion a social visit. Whilst there I was fortunate to see a pup he had bred being put through it's paces. I knew straight away that what I was witnessing was something very special indeed. Never had I seen a dog with such natural ability, such an incredible nose, and such a depth of desire to retrieve. He loved the water and had the biggest heart I had ever seen. He would go after anything that Alby could throw for him, no matter how thick the cover he faced. I even have video of the young pup retrieving spanners and shifters that Alby would throw into the paddock for him. Shortly after, Alby was kind enough to sell the young pup to me and so 'Wayland Max' and I first went home together. Jump forward to 2008 - Just over a month ago I took Young 'Ned' (Max's son) for a walk to the local swamp for a little retriever training. Max came along for the walk. Little did I know then that at the completion of that session, Max and I would go home together for the last time.

On the evening of August 12th 2008 I said my final goodbye and laid my best mate to rest. He was one month past his 13th birthday. Perhaps it was fitting that it occurred on what is known in England and Scotland as 'The Glorious 12th' - the opening of the Scottish Grouse Hunting Season. Max was no great trial winning dog, although we did do quite well in the end with a couple of wins and placings at Intermediate (Novice) level and Advanced (Restricted) retrieving trials. No Max was one of those dogs that started slow and just kept getting better as the work progressed. His 10th retrieve was always better than his 1st, but trials only allow 3 runs to get it right. No, it was in the hunting field that Max rose above all others. He never refused when I asked him to retrieve. His record is 387 pigeons in a single day's hunting. His nose never let him, or I, down when he hunted. Often he would find what others could not. He would retrieve what others would not. The water was never too cold or flowing too fast. The mud was never too thick. The birds never too smart. He would never give up whilst he could see or scent game. Together we hunted quail, partridge, pheasant, duck, rabbit, hare, fox, and even the mighty Sambar Deer.

I had thrown 1 dummy too many for young 'Ned'. The smell of the nearby hare was just too enticing for him and he became distracted for a just few seconds. He lost the mark and, not wanting to loose a good dummy, I thought I would try old Max just one more time. Even though he was blind in his left eye and could not see more than 5-10 feet out of his other 'good' eye, he never hesitated or faltered when I gave him a line and quietly asked him to 'fetch' one last time. On tired old legs he ambled slowly out into the swamp. His giant heart again took him the distance and his brilliant nose once more pin pointed the dummy. Once more he delivered gently to hand and I gave him a loving scratch under his chin one last time.

I came home to find Max barely able to rise from his kennel to greet me, but still he made the effort. He had stopped eating a few days earlier and his big body was cold, even though he had his grandson 'Buck' to keep him warm in the kennel. I worried that he was nearing the end of his journey. Gently I picked him up and carried him in, to lie in front of the heater. Max was never an overly affectionate dog, a scratch under the chin or behind the ear was all he ever sought. As I lay down with him he rested his big head on my arm, with his nose under my chin. He looked into my eyes and I knew that he knew, his time had come. I could not let him waste away any further and knew in my heart what had to be done. A phone call was made to my mate Wayne Phelps and together that evening we buried the greatest Epagneul Breton I have had the good fortune to know.

There will be other good dogs in my yard. A man *may* have many good gundogs within his life.
But I will never have another 'Wayland Max'.
Sleep well old Mate - you've earned it.

Bill.

I have done mostly what most men do.
And pushed it out of my mind.
But I can't forget if I wanted to
Four feet trotting behind.
Day after day, the whole day through
Wherever my road inclined
Four-feet said: "I am coming with you"
And trotted along behind.

Rudyard Kipling.