

CLUB L'EPAGNEUL BRETON VICTORIA

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER



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CLUB L'EPAGNEUL BRETON CONTACTS

The last 18 months has seen many of our longstanding and valued Club Committee Members retire from their duties and thankfully many new and past Club Members have stepped up and provided their time and generous input.

President:	Mark Mallamaci
Vice Presidents:	Ayman Hassan and Coralie Moya
Secretary:	Bruno Benavente
Treasurer:	Angelo Barbopoulos
Newsletter Editor:	Sal Briganti
Membership Officer:	Gino Feola
Committee Members:	Michael Calleja Cynthia Toohey Emma Grixti David Bortoli Anthony Tripodi Michael Botti Joe Aprile Dean Rundell

Thanks to the existing and new members who have re committed to the club by renewing your membership, if you haven't done so yet, a form is included in this newsletter to do so, that would be very much appreciated.

For information about what's happening within our breed worldwide and at a club level check out the marvellous website of your Club L'Epagneul Breton.

If you have anything you would like to post or advertise on the website, please forward an email for committee approval at our club email address:

Club Website: www.clubbreton.com.au

Club Email Address: breton@clubbreton.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Members and Friends,

Firstly, many thanks for taking the time to read through this exciting newsletter. As many of you are aware we have had a “changing of the guard” at committee level at the club last year, and the club reached out for support. Well I am really proud to say with so many new faces and some old faces back to help promote and enjoy the breed we love, we managed to get a few events off the ground last year which was fantastic. An extremely successful Retrieving Trial with over 60 dogs entered, a Club Show, two fun Social Days in the park and we finished off with an event at Frankston Clay Target Club.

As we all know it takes many hours and a lot of commitment and dedication by volunteers to help make a club of any kind successful, so in saying that we can't thank enough all the past people involved who kept the club running. We must make a very special mention to Peter Price who has given his heart and soul to the role of Treasurer, and of course he also filled in so many gaps along the way as well. With well over 20 years of voluntary service to club, his contribution is simply outstanding. A huge Thank You Peter Price, from all of us.

With this new group of people who have now joined the committee and a few old faces returning we will do our very best to make this club as enjoyable and well-informed club to be involved in. The club welcomes everyone to be involved, from hunters, show people, trial enthusiasts, tracking, obedience, pet families and whatever else you do with your Breton, we welcome you all. We have so much experience on the committee and are always willing to help so don't hold back asking for support.

So, as far as upcoming events scheduled for the rest of this year, the club will run its first ever official Retrieving Ability Test for Gundogs (RATG), we will also have a club show, more days in the park with training if required and of course our Retrieving Trial and another Club Clay Target event.

That's enough from me now, just read on and enjoy the newsletter, and look out for dates and location of the events coming up in this newsletter and on the Facebook page. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any other committee members if you have any questions.

Best Regards,
Mark Mallamaci.
President - Club L'Epagneul Breton Vic.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD



Invite someone or become a member of this wonderful club, please contact us. We would love to hear from you!

Our club is a non-for-profit organisation with all contributions being allocated to organising events and up-keeping equipment for our members.

Annual membership is only \$25 AUD

For more info:

visit www.clubbreton.com.au/contact or email breton@clubbreton.com.au



CLUB SOCIAL DAYS IN THE PARK 2022

BY DAVID BORTOLI

With the resignation of quite a few committee members just prior to scheduled club events, the interim committee decided to alter advertised events and hold a Social Day at Birrarrung Park in Lower Templestowe, where the whole Brittany community would be invited to meet one another and their canine companions.

The first event, held on the 7th of August 2022 was a great success.

There was a good number of dogs present coming from a mix of Hunting, show and pet homes. A big thank you must extend to Cynthia Toohey who on the day shared obedience tips with new owners. It was a nice surprise to have a local jogger come over with her Brittany in tow and for her to enquire as to what the get together was all about.

Following on from such a successful day, the committee decided a similar day should proceed on the 11th of September. Michael Calleja was on hand and introduced those interested to some basic retrieving runs. This being very fitting for the upcoming club retrieving trial that was to be held in Nagambie. A BBQ was supplied by the club and with the weather holding out it again was seen as a success by all who attended. Coincidentally we were joined by a local field trialer, Guy Balasso, who was walking his GSP. He was happy to chat and offered help and advice to some new handlers.

We all agreed that these social days are important in not only socialising our dogs but to aid in helping newcomers and giving them some guidance so that they can not only get the most out of their dog, but also to introduce them to disciplines such as trialling which they may never have considered should they not have been exposed to it.



NEVER TOO OLD TO CHANGE

BY ROBERT WHINNEN

After almost 50 years of hunting with Labradors, a German Shorthaired Pointer and several Irish Setters, I found myself for the first time without a bird dog, just my lovely reliable Labrador Tom.

I have thoroughly enjoyed many years of experience in training, Field Trialing and hunting over bird dogs, with every Irish Red Stetter that I seriously campaigned in the Field Trials circuit, gaining their title Field Trial Champion Title. Regrettably my last Irish Setter Kate had died in tragic circumstances, and my long search for a replacement was becoming futile.

At 74 years of age, I was almost inclined not to get a new pup. I was falling into the doldrums of depression and my wife told me ***“If you don’t get another bird dog start digging your grave now!”***

It was Linda who saw Sal Briganti’s post on Facebook, the picture of his girl Cindy, like a beautiful girl in my youth made me interested, I started to research the Breton. To say that I was surprised and impressed with the French Field Trial dogs that I saw on YouTube is an understatement! I had always admired the tricolour English setters and Cindy was indeed a temptress beauty, totally out of character for me, the purchase of Kostya was largely spontaneous, my wife had a large part in my decision.

So it came to pass that our little bundle of joy Kostya arrived by air freight in early February 2022 , a little impish character of inexhaustible energy quickly settled down with Tom my Labrador. I let him enjoy his early puppyhood, my garden suffered as usual with a new pup, at around 6 months I began gentle place board training, recall and sit command, Kostya had his own opinion about this, this fellow was not going to be a pushover. Luckily I had some wide beats of excellent cover with a few quail that I was able to utilise to begin short runs of around 5 minutes duration, one has to be mindful that pups should never be allowed to run too hard or for too long whilst their skeletal structure is still developing. His natural quartering across the wind and high head air scenting impressed this old Setter man mightily.

Late Spring and early Summer found us working in lucerne during the post dawn cool, a few Stubble quail in the lucerne and a reliable resident covey of Brown quail often found out from their sanctuary of low shrubs really developed his prey drive, no more than 2 or 3 finds was quite enough. Enthusiastic chasing of flushed birds were allowed so as to further develop his prey drive, often I had to end our lesson after a particularly long chase as I was still not wanting him overdoing hard running.

In the later Summer months I utilised the excellent wide designated dog beach near my home, arriving pre dawn we inevitably had the whole two kilometres of beach to ourselves. As expected, with the company of Labrador Tom, Kostya quickly became a confident and proficient swimmer, long runs in loose sand up the dunes and digging holes to China certainly helped to develop impressive muscle tone.

Now Kostya is 20 months old and has developed into a first class natural at quartering accurately across the wind in a wide beat with pace and a beautiful gallop style, straight across his back from high nose to tail tip. These are attributes that only careful selection and diligent husbandry by breeders can achieve and maintain. After over 40 years running Irish setters in the hunting field, Field Trials and some judging appointments I feel that I am qualified in recognising a quality dog in the field, the aforesaid qualities of sound physical structure, pace and style combined with high prey drive when brought together in one dog are a true peal beyond price. I believe that Kostya is just such a dog, let us see if I am capable of developing him with my training skills, as said before Kostya is no pushover and I am discovering this now that I am training him to be steady to flush, gunshot and fall of the bird. I am well endowed with patience, just as Kostya is with stamina and stubbornness. In summary, the French "*joie de vivre*" certainly unequivocally sums up the character of the Breton.



My heartfelt thanks to Dr. Ayman Hassan and Sal Briganti, I have an obligation to develop as much as I can the raw material that they have provided to me.

Enjoy your Bretons in whatever way that brings you and them happiness.

Linda and Robert Whinnen.

WHY WE CHOSE A L'EPAGNEUL BRETON

BY MARK SARGISON

My name is Mark Sargison and I've been asked to write a short piece on why I chose a L'Epagneul Breton.

I have had several gundogs since I was 18 years old. My first dog was a GSP bitch that was purchased after going hunting quail with mate of mine and his GSP's. She was a great hunting dog, loved water and had a soft mouth.

My next dog was also a GSP bitch. We attended Maitland Obedience Club where I was introduced to Gundog Working Tests – old style RATG's & Retrieving Trials. She won the NSW State GWT & made it to AA Level Retrieving gaining her RRD Title. Unfortunately, she had a hard mouth issue and never reached her full potential although still a great hunting dog.

I then had two Labrador Retrievers both gained their RT Champion Title with Bob winning the 2013 NSW State Championship and both winning numerous AA Trials.

I am also a Championship Retrieving Trial Judge having judged the 2015 NSW State & 2016 NSW National Championships. I have been fortunate to Judge some great dog & handler teams.

My wife & I were looking for a dog for her birthday and after having a run of bad luck with Labradors and with the NSW Utility Gundog Field Trial Association starting up Non-Shooting Trials, we did some research and decided on a L'Epagneul Breton. Win win in my opinion.

Buster was born on the 14 th of December 2021 from a litter from Sal Briganti's bitch Cindy & Ayman Hassan's dog Rascal, and who arrived at our place 8 weeks later.

Buster is a tri colour with beautiful markings and was an instant hit with my wife and family.

Buster is currently attending Maitland Obedience Club, although it has been an extremely rain affected year with the local council not allowing us on the training oval on numerous occasions.

He is harder to train than a Labrador/GSP, being extremely energetic, wanting to play with every dog there, headstrong, with a soft temperament and super intelligent. He is developing slowly but I believe the fastest way to train a dog is slowly.

Buster is a great water dog, leaping into dams, across creeks and rivers plus has a strong retrieving drive although delivering to hand is still an issue I'm working on. He would prefer to drop the dummy at my feet. Two to three retrieves are sufficient for him as he soon loses interest if pushed too hard.

Buster is quartering well, has pointed several native Brown and Stubble Quail as well as some Jap Quail that I've bred for training purposes. He has also pointed ducks, swans, turtles and disturbingly snakes. He loves going out to our farm and other training properties. One property owner has commented on several occasions about his never-ending energy and willingness to please. Buster just enjoys spending time with my family and I. He is not gun shy and has accompanied me on several hunting trips.

Anybody considering a Utility Dog should seriously look at a L'Epagneul Breton, they're compact, easy to lift/transport, hardy, energetic, friendly, eager to please, great in water, attractive looking dogs and great with kids. Buster has never been aggressive towards any person, dog or animal.



Thank you to Sal Briganti and Ayman Hassan from Britabuhom Kennel, for allowing Sharyn and I to acquire such a well-bred, friendly and attractive dog who is a pleasure to own.

We're hoping he'll continue to develop into a great family and hunting companion.

Late news, Buster is now delivering dummies to hand beautifully.

We are over the moon with him!

Sharyn and Mark Sargison.

CLUB BRETON ANNUAL SHOW 2022

Sunday 30th October 2022 the club had its first championship show since 2015. A massive thank you to Coralie Moya, Cynthia Toohey, Jenny Sharrock and Caitlin Ryan, without these fantastic people the show wouldn't have happened. Overall, 15 entries all of which had a great afternoon with a grazing board afternoon tea and a wonderful time spent socialising and catching up.

Best in show SKYHUNTR STEALING THE SHOW (Dean & Kaitlin Rundell)

Runner up in show JAPIHA TAKE A CHANCE ON ME (Jenny Sharrock)

Special mentions:

Best Puppy BRITABUHOM VENTO (David Bortoli)

Best in Class GRANDESPRIT ACE (Michael Botti)

A big thank you also to all the handlers and of course our international judge Keith Simmons and steward Sylvia Meekings.

Thank You to Helen Green for photography.



More photos on Club LEpagneul Breton of Vic Facebook Page & www.clubbreton.com

CLUB BRETON – CLAY TARGET EVENT – DECEMBER 2022



On the 11th December 2022, the Club held a clay target day to finish the year off with a bang.

The day consisted of 25 trap targets and 13 pairs of double rises.

Super effort by all competitors, and great organisational skills by Gino Feola to get the day off the ground successfully.

It was a great turn out and a very well done to Bruno Benevente for taking first prize with a great score on a very windy and testing day with some very challenging targets and some very impressive shooting all around.

Thank you once again to Gino Feola for making this day possible.



CLUB STALWART, PETER PRICE - ON TARGET.

CLUB BRETON RETRIEVING TRIAL NOVEMBER 2022 .

BY MARK MALLAMACI

Hi everyone,

Just a few words about our Retrieving Trial held late last year.

With not having a trial for a few years it was great for the club to be back at its old stomping ground at Nagambie, what a great trial site it is, we had to push the trial out a few weeks with floods coming through the area as the Goulburn River was in full flood and did some serious damage as we all know. So many homes and properties were damaged, and some people are still yet to return to their homes, so sad.

With over 60 dogs entered it was sure to be a busy few days, see below for the results for both days.

Strong entries for Saturday with the most of the handlers camping over from the night before and enjoyed a nice camp fire, great company and many stories.

Saturday's winners:

Beginners Mrs. S Lesniauskas - Golden Retriever

Novice Mrs. S Lesniauskas - Golden Retriever

Restricted Mr R Tawton - Labrador.

Sunday, with the threat of a massive storm that was supposed to come through that never happened, plenty of handlers double pegged down the tents and screwed close their caravan doors and some even ran for cover to the local hotel, well the storm never came, but again strong entries and some brilliant dog work.

Sunday's winners:

Beginners: Mr S Gunes - GSP

Novice Mr T Palmer Labrador

Restricted: Mr R Thomas – GSP

A massive thank you to all competitors, helpers, stewards and the landowner for the permission to use this lovely location.

A special thank you to all of Club's committee members to help make this event possible and most important to Barry Kavanagh and Dianne Vapp.

The support that we got from Barry was outstanding, thank you Baz.

Hope to see you at the trial this year.

CLUB BRETON RETRIEVING TRIAL NOVEMBER 2022



More photos on Club L'Epagneul Breton of Vic Facebook Page & www.clubbreton.com

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER / WORKING TOGETHER.
CLUB BRETON &
THE WORKING GUNDOG ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WGAA)

Club Breton has recently had discussions with Kevin Phelp from the Working Gundog Association of Australia (WGAA), with the purpose of encouraging Club Breton Members to become more involved in the WGAA Training Days and Events.

Our two Clubs will endeavour to conduct some jointly run training days in the future to help Breton owners to be able to better train and better utilise their dogs in the field.

The WGAA was established in 1998 and is devoted to the breeding, training, promotion and trialing of working gundogs. The association provides training and trialing opportunities for all breeds of gundogs.

Monthly training days are conducted on the **3rd Sunday of every month** in the Clarkfield area commencing at 9am.

The WGAA is part of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA). The SSAA was established in 1973, and they exist to promote the shooting sports and protect firearms owners' interests. With over 40,000 members, SSAA Victoria is the state's largest body representing licensed firearms owners. Most members of WGAA are keen hunters and their dogs are used in the field as hunting companions. WGAA also conducts trials under the SSAA National Discipline system, and titles that are recognised nationally as a mark of achievement and excellence are awarded. WGAA is accredited with the Victorian Government as an organisation able to conduct field trials during open game seasons in Victoria.

WGAA CONTACTS.

Barry and Kathy Oliver - 0403 380 092 barryoliver@optusnet.com.au

www.ssaavic.com.au/clubs/clubs/working-gundog-association-of-australia
or

Facebook - WGAA - Working Gundogs Association of Australia (Victoria) |

CLUB L'EPAGNEUL BRETON EVENTS 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

RETRIEVING ABILITY TEST for GUNDOGS SAT 9th SEPTEMBER
Open to Members & Non-Members

CLUB SOCIAL DAY AT THE PARK
BIRRARRUNG PARK Templestowe
Members, Families & Friends Welcome

SUN 24th SEPTEMBER
10am to 1pm

RETRIEVING TRIAL
RETRIEVING TRIAL
Open to Members & Non-Members

SAT 14th OCTOBER
SUN 15th OCTOBER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
All Club Members Welcome

THUR 26th OCTOBER

CLUB OPEN SHOW
Open to Members & Non-Members

SAT 4th NOVEMBER

CLUB SOCIAL DAY AT THE PARK
BIRRARRUNG PARK Templestowe
Members, Families & Friends Welcome

SUN 3rd DECEMBER
10am to 1pm

CLUB CLAY TARGET DAY
FRANKSTON CLAY TARGET CLUB
Members, Families & Friends Welcome

SUN 10th DECEMBER

WORKING GUNDOG ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA (WGAA)
WGAA Training Days on **3rd Sunday of Every Month** in Clarkfield, Victoria.
We encourage Breton Club Members attend for Gundog Training for the Field.

Further Details including Times & Addresses to be provided on **CLUB WEBSITE & CLUB FACEBOOK** Page closer to the Events.

LITTERS & BREEDING INFORMATION

SEE CLUB BRETON Website www.clubbreton.com.au



EMAIL PUPPY ENQUIRIES TO: [BRETON@CLUBBRETON.COM.AU](mailto:breton@clubbreton.com.au)

FOUR-LEGGED FAMILY & FUN



Please send any Photos you wish to share to breton@clubbreton.com.au

RECIPE

VENISON STEW



Serves 4

Ingredients

- 500 grams venison, diced with all sinew removed
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 and 1/2 cups diced potatoes, (about 3 medium potatoes)
- 2 cups diced carrots
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tsp. Hoyts Mixed Herbs
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1 15 Oz. can diced tomatoes
- 4 cups beef, chicken or vegetable stock
- 200ml of Red Wine or 3–4 dashes Worcestershire sauce (optional)

Instructions

- Dice the venison into bite-sized chunks, being sure to remove any of the silvery sinew tissue. Leaving this on makes the meat tough.
- Add the olive oil to a large pot or Dutch oven and heat over medium-high heat.
- When the oil is hot, allow the venison to saute for 5-7 minutes or until the edges start to brown. Remove the venison from the pot and set aside.
- Turn the heat down to medium and add the potatoes, carrots, celery and onion. Allow the vegetables to saute for about 8-10 minutes, or until they begin to soften.
- Then, add the garlic, Hoyts Mixed Herbs, salt and pepper and cook for an additional minute before adding the tomatoes, Stock and Wine or Worcestershire sauce. Then, add the venison back to the pot. Stir well and bring the stew to a boil.
- Once a boil is reached, turn the heat to very low, cover the pot with a lid, and allow the stew to simmer for at least 2 hours until the venison is tender.
- Serve hot (is amazing with crusty bread).



UP TO 50% OFF CLUB MERCHANDISE

A ONCE OFF OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE OUR EVER POPULAR CLUB JUMPER, CLUB VEST OR CLUB POLO SHIRT AT UP TO **50% OFF**.
SUBJECT TO SIZE & AVAILABILITY. SELECTED ITEMS, UNTIL STOCK RUNS OUT.



CLUB POLARFLEECE JUMPER WAS \$60, **NOW \$40**

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CLUB POLO SHIRT WAS \$50, **NOW \$30**

CLUB L'ÉPAGNEUL BRETON MERCHANDISE



Beanies
AU\$20.00



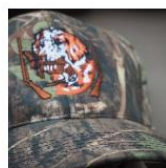
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FREE Club Sticker with every item purchased.

Please go to: www.clubbreton.com.au/shop

Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc. Membership Application 2023

Name.....

Phone.....

Address.....

..... State.....Postcode.....

Email.....

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 \$40.00 Single \$25.00 Junior \$15.00

Signed:

Date:

Please complete all details and forward to the Treasurer

To pay your membership into the following account by direct deposit:

BSB **013347** Account **009799517** Account Name **Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc**

In the description field, please include your surname and email address.

You may pay direct deposit via internet banking, or you can deposit your membership by visiting a branch of the ANZ Bank, if you do this you must send an email to our email address advising that you have made payment and the date. Club Email Address: breton@clubbreton.com.au

Payment by Cheque should be made payable to Club L'Epagneul Breton Inc.

Please Note: In 2023, the Club will also be implementing a Web Page Tool to help automate Membership Renewals and processing of memberships. We will keep you informed.

Treasurer – Angelo Barbopoulos 0422 814 849