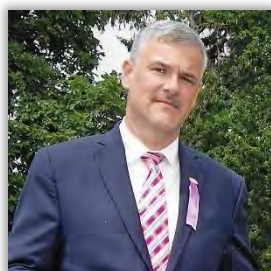


2024 ADVANCE™ SYDNEY ROYAL DOG SHOW

MEET YOUR JUDGES



MR SHAWN J. NICHOLS (CANADA)

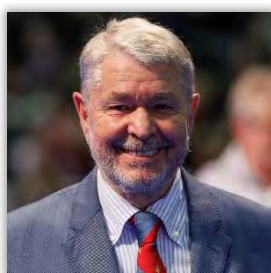
Conformation

While Shawn began judging in 2012, his involvement with purebred dogs goes right back to the early 1980's when he attended his first show.

As a professional handler of all breeds, Shawn has also bred and shown Wire Fox Terriers, and Scottish Terriers, as well as Toy and Miniature Poodles under the Typecast prefix, and Whippets under Brushwood. His commitment to the sport has also allowed him the opportunity of working with professional handlers including Mark and Sally George, Tim Brazier, Mark Shanoff and Carol Graham.

Shawn has served on the board of several clubs, is the Chairman of the Evelyn Kenny Kennel and Obedience Club and in 2007 purchased and assumed responsibility for the 'Terrier Type' magazine.

Shawn received his 'all breeds' judging status in 2022 and believes it's a privilege and great responsibility to critique dogs to their breed standard and against their competitors. He's had the honour of judging in the USA, Korea, Mexico, Chile, Columbia and Australia.



MR LAURENT PICHARD (SWITZERLAND)

Conformation

Laurent has a long and distinguished association with the dog world, having bred his first litter under the Vigie prefix at the age of 15.

This was an Irish Setter litter and since then his passion has expanded to include American Cocker Spaniels, having bred more than 300 Show Champions across 40 years.

Laurent's 'Very Vigie' Kennel has had a strong influence in Europe, his biggest win achieved in November 2015 with Very Vigie I Don't Know designated as Eukanuba World Champion in Amsterdam.

Laurent's home bred American Cocker Spaniels have won many world titles over the years and in 2014, Very Vigie was elected 'Top Breeder' (all breeds) in Finland. Laurent's breeding program has also included Pugs, Maltese and Weimaraners.

Laurent's judging career began in 1978, he is licenced for All Breeds and has officiated at some of the world's most prestigious shows in countries including the USA, China, South America, and Australia.



MR JUHA O. KARES (FINLAND)

Conformation

Juha has been involved with pedigree dogs since he was a child, breeding his first Löwchen litter in 1983 and his first Lhasa Apso litter two years later.

His passion for dogs saw him establish the renowned Chic Choix Kennels in Finland, specialising in Lhasa Apsos. He has also bred Irish Setters, Deerhounds and King Charles Spaniels with more than 650 Champions around the world, over 160 Best in Group 1st winners and some 70 All Breed Best in Show winners.

Chic Choix has bred a record of more than 50 World Winners and bred or owned BIG/BIS winners in Bichon Frises, Maltese, Norrbottenspets, Greyhounds, Azawakhs, Alaskan Malamutes, Sealyham Terriers and Bracco Italianos. Many champions have also been named among the Kennel's Tibetan Spaniels, Griffons, Smooth Fox Terriers, Australian Silky Terriers and Yorkshire Terriers.

As a published author, Juha has written two books on pedigree dogs along with countless magazine articles.

Juha has served as the President of the Finnish Dog Breeders Association and became a Judge in 2002, officiating at shows across the world. His lives by the motto 'joie de vivre' with hobbies including photography, travelling, and spending time in nature.

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MR STEPHEN MEREDITH (NEW ZEALAND)

Sweepstakes

Stephen has been immersed in the world of dogs his entire life, growing up in Wales with Lurcher, Whippet, Jack Russell and Labrador working dogs.

In 1979 Stephen emigrated to New Zealand and together with his wife began showing dogs, starting with their first two Labradors. One of these became the foundation bitch for the extremely successful Mervale Labrador Kennel. Stephen is also proud to have owned and shown the first ever New Zealand Grand Champion Labrador, NZ GR CH Southerly Shadow.

Since the early 1990's Staffordshire Bull Terriers have become Stephen's passion, breeding under the ROJEME prefix which is one of the most successful Terrier Kennels in New Zealand. He has bred and owned well over 50 champions including the first Supreme Show Champion and Grand Specialty Champion, Rojeme Pop Gun.

Stephen is an Executive Councillor with the New Zealand Kennel Club, has been judging since 1991, and is licenced for all breeds. His knowledge and esteem have taken him across the world, judging both All Breeds shows and Specialty Breed Shows in countries including New Zealand, Thailand, Ireland, Columbia, China, Australia, and South Africa.



LISA SINCLAIR (VICTORIA)

Obedience

Lisa began training dogs more than three decades ago in Scotland, then continued in England before emigrating to Australia with two golden Cocker Spaniels. Soon after she adopted two more golden Cockers and began taking part in Agility and Obedience Trials.

Lisa and her 12-year-old Border Collie 'Coffee Crème' hold titles in Obedience, Tracking and Rally and are now having fun with tricks!

Lisa lives and judges in Victoria during the Summer but spends the Winter months living and judging in sunny Queensland. She's a firm believer that Obedience Trialling should be fun for both dog and handler and as a judge aims to put competitors at ease as much as possible.



VICKIE HARRIS (NEW SOUTH WALES)

Obedience

Vickie was born and bred in country New South Wales and with her first pedigree Golden Retriever, established Harvikgold Kennel in the 1990's, focussing on obedience and conformation.

Vickie has been instructing and competing for the past 16 years and her achievements include 13 dogs with Obedience titles including CCD, CD, and CDX. Vickie also has 9 Rally Champions including 4 to Rally Masters, along with several dogs with RATG, Tricks and Scentwork titles.

Vickie thoroughly enjoys judging at both Obedience and Conformation Shows.



KIM HOULDEN (VICTORIA)

Rally Obedience

Kim's interest in Obedience began back in 1988 when her family welcomed their first Golden Retriever 'Cleo' who gained her Novice and Open titles.

It wasn't long before Kim took up tracking which led to her first judging licence in 2004. She was encouraged to commence Obedience judging and gained her CCD licence in 2008.

Taking a break to concentrate on trialling her own dogs, Kim achieved titles from CCD through to Open and trialling in UD. Her dogs bred under the Goldnymph prefix compete successfully in Conformation, Tracking, Track & Search, Obedience and Rally and have gained many titles over the years.

Kim became a full panel Obedience judge in 2017 with highlights including Rally at the 2023 Royal Melbourne Show, Obedience at the 2023 Sydney Royal Dog Show and both disciplines at National Trials for several breed clubs.

Kim is also a member of the Dogs Victoria Obedience, Tracking and Endurance Committee Training and Assessment panel and considers it a privilege to mentor new trainees in becoming judges.

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SHANELLE CORBEN (NEW SOUTH WALES)
Rally Obedience

Shanelle's passion for dog sports began with her beloved Border Collie 'Kadie' in 2013, and since then her commitment has only grown stronger.

Shanelle has a long list of competition achievements having excelled in Obedience, Endurance, Dances with Dogs and Tricks. She obtained her Rally Championship in 2018.

In 2019 Shanelle decided to extend her love for Rally by becoming a certified judge, then in 2022 also obtained her Trick Judge certification. Shanelle thrives on creating innovative and enjoyable Rally courses, designed to suit dogs of all sizes and breeds. She says watching the synergy between handlers and their canine companions as they're navigating her courses brings her pure joy!

Shanelle considers her involvement in the canine community a lifelong journey and she also enjoys contributing through instructing at her local obedience club as well as organising training sessions and workshops with other clubs.



KAREN WINZAR (QUEENSLAND)
Agility

Now living in Queensland, Karen first became hooked on Agility in 2007 in Alice Springs. Back then she competed with her Labrador 'Darla' and says it was the days when handling was what you did with your lead!

Karen is thrilled the sport has come a long way since then, especially regarding safety which is a subject that's extremely important to her.

Her Agility sport highlights include competing with her now retired Labrador 'Cleo' at the Queensland State Titles and qualifying for the finals. These days she's now semi distance handling a super-fast rescue Border Collie 'Luna' and having fun with directionals and verbal cues.

Karen's course design style is fast and flowy but technically challenging, aimed at testing skills whilst also providing lots of fun. She's dedicated to the sport as well as to providing encouragement and urges competitors to come and chat with her when she's not busy judging.



GEOFF TAYLOR (VICTORIA)
Agility

Geoff lives in Kyabram Victoria and has been involved with Agility for the past 15 years, running dogs from Novice through to Masters.

He became a Judge seven years ago, and has officiated at competitions in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales and the ACT. He's also been a Steward at Melbourne Royal for Action dog events.

Geoff's aim is to ensure his courses are flowing, with an emphasis on fun for both dog and handler. His passion for the sport includes fostering a camaraderie among the Agility community and he looks forward to meeting new competitors at the 2024 Sydney Royal Dog Show.