

The Maitland Dog Obedience Club successfully hosted a thrilling weekend of gundog trials on September 23rd and 24th, 2023. The event took place against the backdrop of the scenic Tocal Agricultural College, attracting a highly competitive field of dogs in both Novice and Open classes.

The Trial featured an impressive array of gundog breeds, each highlighting their unique abilities and talents. The diverse mix of Retrieving Champions and newcomers added to the excitement and diversity of the competition. The participants and their dogs demonstrated dedication and sportsmanship throughout the weekend, creating a warm and supportive community of gundog enthusiasts.

The success of any gundog trial rests significantly on the competence and fairness of the judges, and this event was no exception. The Maitland Dog Obedience Club was fortunate to have a panel of experienced and knowledgeable judges, including Lynne Elliott, Sandra Hodges, and Brad Leggett. Their expertise ensured that each run was challenging, fair, and consistent, providing a true test of the dogs' retrieving abilities.

The judges designed runs that were not only challenging but also fair. These runs pushed the dogs' retrieving abilities to the limit, resulting in some exciting performances. Throughout the event, a spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie prevailed among the participants. Handlers and spectators alike celebrated each other's achievements, creating a supportive and inclusive atmosphere. The weekend was filled with memorable moments and impressive performances by both novice and experienced dogs. MDOC were fortunate and thankful to continue a successful long running association with Tocal Agricultural College, a perfect setting for RATG that added to the ambiance of the event. Novice handlers and their dogs displayed their potential in this class. The enthusiasm and determination displayed by the participants were truly inspiring. The Open class saw seasoned competitors and Retrieving Champions in action, setting a high standard for the event.

The Leggett Family Perpetual Trophy for the Highest Scoring Competitor (combined score over three Trials) was awarded to Labrador Retriever RT CH TIRNANOGE FAULT FINDER and Peter Betteridge.

Saturday AM Novice Trial – Sandra Hodges

16	Golden Retriever	MHADAIDH ROB ROY MACGREGOR (AI)	R TEMPLE	85	1 ST
1	Weimaraner	MORAGO GHOST OF BIG SPIRIT LAKE	A & J MENIL	76	2 ND
17	Labrador Retriever	JARKK WHERE ARYA GOING RN.	D DUTTA	75	3 RD

Saturday AM Open Trial – Brad Leggett

24	Labrador Retriever	RT CH TIRNANOGE FAULT FINDER	P BETTERIDGE	92	1 ST
28	Labrador Retriever	LUNA RIDGE MR HOAD	P BETTERIDGE	86	2 ND
31	Labrador Retriever	RT CH WATERMARK N FARMER'S LITTLE DARLIN' (IID) (IMP USA)	P BETTERIDGE	85	3 RD
27	Golden Retriever	RT CH ELLISHEA RIPS REBEL (AI) ORA	R TEMPLE	84	

19	Labrador Retriever	GAMEFINDER ZOLPHOEN PIEPER NRA RN	M AULD	75	
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Saturday PM Novice Trial – Lynne Elliott

11	Golden Retriever	MHADAIDH ROB ROY MACGREGOR (AI)	R TEMPLE	93	1 ST
18	German Shorthaired Pointer	FENRIK GET OFF OF MY KLOUD BREED	C LUNDBERG	87	2 ND
13	Labrador Retriever	JARKK WHERE ARYA GOING RN	D DUTTA	86	3 RD
7	Hungarian Vizsla	VERCAIN LOVE FIRST SITE	A&J JONES	84	

Saturday PM Open Trial – Sandra Hodges

22	Labrador Retriever	RT CH TIRNANOGE FAULT FINDER	P BETTERIDGE	97	1 ST
25	Labrador Retriever	LUNA RIDGE MR HOAD	P BETTERIDGE	96	2 ND
35	Golden Retriever	RT CH ELLISHEA RIPS REBEL (AI) ORA	R TEMPLE	95	3 RD
37	German Shorthaired Pointer	POINTMORE BLACK RAIN (AI) CDX RA ORA	EJ McENIERY	90	
33	Labrador Retriever	RT CH WATERMARK N FARMER'S LITTLE DARLIN' (IID) (IMP USA)	P BETTERIDGE	88	
23	Weimaraner (Longhair)	GRAUSTURM PLAY IT COOL CDX. SWA RA. QND. ORA.	A GOEHRING	75	

Sunday Novice Trial – Brad Leggett

19	Golden Retriever	MHADAIDH ROB ROY MACGREGOR (AI)	R TEMPLE	88	1 ST
3	Weimaraner	MORAGO GHOST OFBIG SPIRIT LAKE	A & J MENIL	76	2 ND
7	Labrador Retriever	KUVEN A GREAT CHOICE CCD CD CDX	E RYAN	75	3 RD

Sunday Open Trial – Lynne Elliott

37	Flat Coated Retriever	PEPPATREE FIFTY SHADES OF BLACK (AI) RA CCD NRA	H MANN	94	1 ST
20	Golden Retriever	RT CH ELLISHEA RIPS REBEL (AI) ORA	R TEMPLE	92	2 ND
30	Labrador Retriever	RT CH TIRNANOGE FAULT FINDER	P BETTERIDGE	91	3 RD
22	Labrador Retriever	RT CH WATERMARK N FARMER'S LITTLE DARLIN' (IID) (IMP USA)	P BETTERIDGE	90	
34	Labrador Retriever	PEPPERTREE BELIEVE IN MAGIC RRD ORA	S HODGES	90	
38	German Shorthaired Pointer	POINTMORE BLACK RAIN (AI) CDX RA ORA	EJ McENIERY	86	
35	Labrador Retriever	LUNA RIDGE MR HOAD	P BETTERIDGE	85	

28	Flat Coated Retriever	PEPPATREE FENRIR RN. NRA	B USMAR	77	
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The success of the Trial would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of numerous individuals and volunteers. The true spirit of teamwork and community on display over the weekend was instrumental in creating a positive and memorable experience for all involved. It is with immense gratitude that we extend our thanks to everyone who contributed significantly to the event:

- Liz Johnson, Lorraine Edman, Deb Hudson, Rees John, Sarah Slade and Donna Herbert, your tireless efforts in preparing and serving a delicious feast for lunch and dinner made the event even more enjoyable for all participants. Your dedication to ensuring that everyone was well-fed and energized throughout the weekend did not go unnoticed.
- Thanks to Karen Moller and Lorraine Edman for sourcing and organising prizes for the Trial raffle. MDOC would like to express our deepest gratitude to Bunnings and Raymond Warehouse for the generous donation of gift card prizes for the raffle. This support made a significant impact to our fund raiser for this event, and we couldn't be more thankful.
- The backbone of a RATG Trial are volunteers who man throwers and coordinate competitors to keep the event running smoothly. We owe a tremendous amount of thanks to Steve Herbert, Paulina Phillips, Naomi Eagleton, Amanda George, Erin Matthews, Netta Moxey and Roopam Ghosh for your assistance throughout the weekend, we truly could not host a successful Trial without you.
- We extend our sincerest thanks to Greg Christie. Your talent, passion, and commitment to your role as the event photographer in capturing the remarkable bond between handlers and their gundogs added a unique dimension to the event, allowing us to celebrate the achievements, camaraderie, and sheer joy experienced throughout the weekend. We look forward to cherishing these photographs for years to come.
- In recognizing the exceptional individuals whose unwavering support and commitment have been pivotal in making the MDOC Triple RATG Trial a resounding success, we extend our deepest appreciation to Lynne Christie, our dedicated Dogs NSW Representative. Lynne's role as a liaison between MDOC and Dogs NSW has been invaluable. Her passion for the sport, her understanding of the regulatory landscape, and her tireless advocacy have helped to create a supportive and nurturing environment for gundog enthusiasts. Her dedication to the success of the event, as well as her ongoing support of MDOC, is a testament to her commitment to the sport and the community it serves.

In addition to the dedicated team of volunteers and committee members who contributed to the success of the MDOC Triple RATG Trial, I would like to extend a heartfelt and special thank you to Ted McEniery. Ted's tireless efforts and commitment behind the scenes were nothing short of extraordinary. He played a crucial role in ensuring that all the equipment was in optimal working order, meticulously setting up runs, managing financial responsibilities, and undertaking a monumental amount of work to ensure the seamless execution of the Trial. His meticulous attention to detail and the countless hours he invested in the background were pivotal in guaranteeing the Trial's success. His willingness to take on various responsibilities and manage the logistics of the event with precision made a significant impact on the overall experience for competitors and judges. On behalf of the MDOC and everyone involved in the Triple RATG Trial, we extend our deepest gratitude to Ted. Thank you, Ted, for your outstanding contributions to the success of this Trial!

The Maitland Dog Obedience Club Triple RATG Trial on September 23rd and 24th, 2023, was a resounding success. It brought together gundog enthusiasts, showcased the incredible talents of the dogs, and provided an unforgettable experience for all involved. Congratulations to all who participated, and we look forward to future events that continue to celebrate the bond between humans and their gundogs.

Trial Secretary
Natalie Squires