



MENTOR PROFILE 2015 MASTER CLASS – MR ANDREW O’LOUGHLIN

My name is Andrew O’Loughlin and I am from South Australia.

My parents formed Arkahla Kennels in 1992 and I started learning how to handle Shepherds from a young age and some of my fondest memories are from Youth Handler Competitions, particularly in Broken Hill. Another memory I have is a ‘Fun Day’ the GSDCSA held with members of the Adelaide Crows there to help judge and also having handler classes (which ended up being one on one) with Jan Strachan as a youngster sticks in my mind.



As I grew up, people started giving me dogs to handle and train. The two that stick in my mind the most are thanks to Kevin and Velga Corlett, and Peter Damarell and Jane Pike. Kevin and Velga allowed me to handle one of their dogs to finish in second place at a

Broken Hill show and they were always willing to give me the opportunity to handle their dogs. Peter and Jane allowed me to help them by training ‘Paris’ (Blitzenhund Sorbet City) when my mother and Jane would train together. I remember with much pride handling my parent’s own breeding at the Adelaide National in 2004 where Arkahla Gonzo finished 16th in Open Dog. Since that National I have handled dogs that have been highly placed and at the Canberra National I finished on the pegs in the Minor Bitch Class 4th, Junior Dog Class 2nd, Minor Dog Class 9th, Puppy Bitch Class 8th and Intermediate Dog 8th.



Recently I was charged with the job of teaching Vonpeta Ugottabekidding to gait off lead for the Victorian State Breed Exhibition, which we successfully completed. This was my first experience handling at a Breed Exhibition which was fun.

Over the last 5 or so years, my interest in the German Shepherd has increased - I am handling more dogs and this year I have started to serve as a committee member for the South Australian Club. I have been very lucky over the last few years to have been asked to handle some lovely animals, bred by renowned kennels such as Vonpeta, Leberhine, Bluemax and Fremont.

