



Hans-Juergen Neddermeyer - A Tribute.

Dear Joylene, Martin, Helga, and friends of Juergen Neddermeyer, I am honoured to be part of what today is: A celebration of a well lived long life of a man who touched all of us in a positive way.

Juergen, as we have already heard emigrated from Germany and like many new immigrants worked very hard, established himself and then went on to set up and run a most successful bricklaying business.

In parallel with his drive for working hard and passion for his business, his other great passion was his love of the German Shepherd Dog!

This passion saw him first involved with the German Shepherd Dog Council of Australia in 1967. In 1969, he became its main stay due to the untimely death of its founder the late Roy Brabham.

In those days the Council had little influence or effect, but Juergen had a vision to see the council mirror the breeds parent club in Germany. Together with the late Wally Riemann and Max Stokes and together with a growing group of idealists, commenced to be active with regards to the lifting of the import ban on German Shepherd Dogs, better known in those days as Alsatians.

Juergen also saw the need to have a Council President who would be a very good communicator, amicable, well known in the all breeds circles and could share his vision for the Council: he himself never wanted to be the Councils leader!

At that time he persuaded Louis Donald, a very young, successful breeder and exhibitor of GSD, who is here with us today, to become President: Juergen's search for a talented person to carry the organisation forward proved correct as Louis held the position for 18 years- in this period Juergen played a significant role in contributing and supporting his fellow members of executive, of which: Barry O'Rourke and his close friend James Rodger are here today, in driving and achieving major change in an hostile anti GSD environment where in effect the English Kennel Club model and regulations were in place by default.

It must be said that the changes as enacted by Council during that period acted as drivers much later for other Breed Councils to follow.

Juergen, was also a breeder and exhibitor of GSD. Once the import ban was finally lifted, his passion and love for the breed saw him invest large sums of money by importing a number of male dogs from Germany. This act along with others who did the same in those days was his way of kick starting the breed's development: The kennel, Adelora, as shared with Joylene, Martin, Lyle and the late Jan Strahan is a most successful kennel albeit not as active as it was 5 years ago. This

passion for showing and breeding saw him also join the peer group of our organisation as a most respected GSD Judge and Breed Surveyor.

Juergen never wanted the spotlight and or craved attention. He was in many ways, the conscience of the organisation; he was determined and passionately added to any debate. He was an excellent mediator, calm but at times could, due to the nature of the debate voice his frustration with a forceful succinct common sense precise that would drive the discussion back to the point and resolution had.

To those younger enthusiasts, many are here today, he was always engaging and encouraging. He was also a mentor to many of us who took on the next step and became Judges and Breed Surveyors: his critique of us as judges was always positive and insightful. I was always impressed with his stance ringside, cigarette in hand: he was a meticulous recorder of results and could provide an in detail analysis of judging at day's end!

Juergen's dedication and work for the breed, the Council and the German Shepherd Dog Club of South Australia over 40 years saw him awarded that clubs Life Membership and the Councils Special Distinguished and Meritorious Award and Service Award.

He was only one of two persons in Australia to be recognised by the Verein Schäferhunde (SV), the breed guardian in Germany. He was awarded the SV Service Award in 1984 and the only one to be presented the SV Significant Achievement Award in 2006 for sustained long service to the breed. Both these awards were given in due recognition of his role in the transformation of the breed in our country and the deep respect and regard he was held in by the SV hierarchy.

Juergen's long life commitment to the German Shepherd Dog, our Council and GSDCSA cannot be understated. His sustained and most valued contribution to the success of Council and betterment of the GSD in Australia must be lauded: He was the keystone of an organisation that over a long period of service saw him hold a number of roles as an essential member of its Executive.

Juergen was a friend to many in our fraternity; he was generous and did not ask much of anyone, he was a confidant and a true and a sincere man.

He was good humoured, positive in outlook and always the gentleman.

He will be missed by all of us but not forgotten.

Rest in Peace, our dear friend.

Thank you

Vince Tantaro

30 March 2017