



Frankston Branch News

Official Newsletter of Frankston Field & Game A.B.N 97 827 331 728

June / July 2010

HAVE SOME WINTER FUN - DUCKS, QUAIL, FOXES & CLAYS

ARE LABRADORS THE BEST DOGS EVER?

When I first became active with the branch a couple of years ago, an unexpected personal benefit was the rediscovery of writing. For many years I'd not taken the time to read a proper book nor had I penned anything more substantial than run of the mill correspondence. Once I got back into it I found I thoroughly enjoy putting pen to paper and have relished the chance to contribute to the Frankston newsletter and other shooting publications.

Having said that, as much as I've enjoyed it, something that's bothered me in recent times is the question of how to keep this newsletter fresh? I've actually become quite paranoid that without the contributions of some additional authors, this newsletter may well become regarded by some as a cheap sedative for the sleep deprived!

For some time now I've asked members to please send in stories, hunting reports or other contributions in order to keep the contents of our newsletter and new web site both varied and interesting. The results have been mixed and we persevere.

Sitting here at my laptop listening to the loud Labrador snores of our family pet and gun dog Charlie. I pondered how we might encourage or provoke contributions from members. Then it struck me, **what better topic to get hunters talking than the question of "what is the best gun dog breed?"**

I've been lucky enough to have enjoyed the companionship of a number of great dogs. I've also been able to hunt over some tremendous working dogs of different breeds owned by friends and family. Above all others one breed stands out to me as the best of the bunch - Labrador Retrievers.

Some cursory research of the breed tells us its native to the coast of Labrador but was exported to the UK around 1800. Bred as a working water-dog, it was adapted for just about any and every duty imaginable including the retrieval of fisherman's nets

A stocky dog varying greatly in height and size, it has a short but thick coat with a dense and water-proof undercoat. It can be coloured black (the best), yellow and brown.

Labradors have a playful but gentle temperament and I'd venture to say they're one of the best gun-dogs of all to keep if you have a family.

From the President . . .

I'd planned this President's report to be a run down of 2009/10 with a view to bringing members up to speed on our accomplishments and plans for the coming year. In advance of the upcoming AGM it seemed important but a report crossing my desk today seemed bigger than that. It outlined the goals, activities, funding and sponsors of some of the shooting sport's most vehement opponents. My draft report was scrapped and I'll instead attempt to run you through some absolutely disgraceful examples of why we all must take an interest in politics and not only use our election votes wisely, but vote with our feet whenever we spend our "hard-earned" at the shops.

I'd made an inquiry of FGA head office, asking if they knew where I might find an article I'd read some time ago "outing" a number of household-name businesses documented as financial backers of the extremist left and various animal-rights organisations. The prompt reply advised the article had been withdrawn pending legal advice. Apparently the companies concerned had objected quite "litigiously" to being named in this way. I was instead passed a very disturbing internal FGA paper entitled "\$83.3 Million and Counting", a reference to the level of funding animal rights extremists have been able to secure in Australia. Some of their backers are brands producing goods that you and I consume daily.

You'd appreciate I'm hesitant to name these organisations at this time and in printed media for very obvious reasons. What I will do is give you heads-up these companies are so common that you're very likely drinking their products, wearing their clothes or chilling their wines as you read this!

Before you dismiss these lines as the paranoid rantings of a far-right conservative, please understand I was once very sceptical too. This changed as my eyes opened to just how great a threat to our way of life we now face. The paper I refer to here was compiled from web and media quotes of organisations that would irreversibly change the Australian lifestyle. There's no need to editorialise or embellish, their views are public record and speak for themselves.

I would encourage each and every member to do a little web-surfing. With extensive on-line information easily accessible at your fingertips, it's actually quite unnecessary to publish names and details. It takes just seconds in fact, to find enough rubbish to "bring up the days takings" and turn you off the sponsors and supporters of the lunatic-fringe forever.

In my readings today the first little gem was from a well known international group boasting over 2 million members. This mob widely advertises and targets our youth. I quote "Hunting is nothing more than a violent form of recreation". There were then pages and pages of arguments about the evils of the thoroughbred horse breeding and racing industries as well as condemnation of the established practices of equine veterinary surgeons. Ironically animal libbers accept sponsorship from sparkling-wine producers which are a major benefactor of the Spring Racing Carnival. I wonder if these wineries read up on the lobbyists views before they wrote the cheque and authorised use of their brand...?

Reading on, **some activities our opponents campaign against include egg-farming, hunting (obviously), fine wool production, rodeo's, circuses, animal testing, dairy farming, mulesing, fishing and companion animals (AKA the keeping of pets). Yes you heard it right, these are well funded extremists who hate fishing and want your kids to grow up as vegans without pets!**

Make no mistake, these organisations do not share our values nor have any concept of moderation or compromise. They seek to change YOUR way of life! What you eat, how you work and the sports you indulge on when the weekend comes around. They have the support of wealthy and influential backers and the ears of powerful people! Before you vote in 2010 think about the world you want your kids to grow-up in, but also take some time in daily life to research companies you patronise. Open your eyes and most importantly, tactfully try to influence the views of friends, family and associates.

The greatest battle we'll face in our lifetime is breaking through disbelief and political correctness to get the truth out. None of the above is secret nor private, the mainstream media just don't want to touch it. If you think it's not a problem just consider the nanny state we live in right now! How many restrictions, licenses and government interferences can you bear? If the Australian way of life is to be preserved we must win the information battle and it starts with you at grass-roots level.

WANTED - PHOTOS, STORIES & HUNTING REPORTS

www.frankstonfga.com.au IS YOUR WEBSITE AND THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER

WE WANT YOUR REPORTS, STORIES AND PHOTOS!

CONTRIBUTE BY EMAILING frankstonfga@gmail.com

Frankston Field & Game - Hunting

DUCK SEASON WRAP UP - QUAIL HUNTING AND FOX DRIVES

DUCK SEASON

We'd hoped to be able to provide you a bunch of reports from hunters traversing the state; stories of full bags and friends enjoying great times in the great outdoors. The latter is certainly true but few reports have come back of hot shooting!

In fact after opening weekend almost no reports have come back full-stop. The few we have received relay stories of quiet days with few shots fired. Many members have also predictably become quite secretive which is understandable given the hard work and scouting it's taken to actually find somewhere holding a reasonable number of resident birds.

One type of report we have received often and from many sources, has related to mass breeding events occurring to the north of the state throughout NSW and Queensland.

One example, my father-in-law Bryan called me last week from Bundaberg QLD where he and his group of "grey-nomads" are holidaying. In between cooking mud-crabs and devouring ice-cold forex, they're having to literally shoo away hordes of ducks invading the camp-site! He's also seen magpie-geese for the first time ever, and not at a distance either but within metres of the annex! He could have taken a full "Victorian-bag" with a butterfly net!

What's also been particularly interesting is news that among the many waterfowl to our north, there are hundreds of downy younglings!

As I write, we have one last weekend to go with which to round out the 2010 season. I hope as you read this you'll have fond memories of that closing weekend.

MINYIP QUAIL TRIP

For those who've never attended, the branch's annual trip to hunt and shoot as guests of Minyip FGA is a true highlight of the Frankston calendar! It's been a fixture for many years representing one of the best opportunities open to Melbourne based quail hunters.

The annual trip is due to run for 2010 on the weekend of the 19th and 20th June. Final details are being ironed out as this newsletter goes to print.

A two day event, members will start with a full days quail hunting across some carefully selected private properties accompanied by the members of Minyip FGA. On the Saturday night it's customary to enjoy a meal and drinks with the Minyip FGA crew. In some years this has been a game dinner, this year we understand the Saturday night will take the form of a gathering at the local pub for a fine counter meal fixed by publican Andrew, one of our Minyip FGA hosts.

The Sunday morning will start early, with the locals and visiting-team hitting the fields for a half day of quail hunting. After this an inter-club 50 target sporting clays event will be contested at their grounds.

This year Frankston committee member Graham Lewien is helping organise the event from our end. He's booked a number of rooms (\$20 per head) at the local pub which are filling fast. He's also been talking to the Minyip FGA guys who enthusiastically report they are having a tremendous quail season!

Many including Graham have chosen to stay Friday and Sunday nights but you only need

to stay Saturday night as a minimum. Given the four plus hour drive from Melbourne, it's a good idea not to rush home on Sunday. Your patronage is also a welcome way of supporting the town hosting you.

If this interests you, please contact Graham as soon as possible. Pub rooms are filling fast and he also has to confirm numbers for our hosts.

Be aware you will be able to camp at the Minyip club grounds however facilities are limited. For a small donation you can shower at the pub.

One final thing, if you want to hunt quail but leave before the Sunday afternoon clay-target event, you will not be welcomed. Our hosts love to have a shot at their range and it's expected visiting Frankston members will join them.

KERANG MARSHES FOX HUNT

In 2009 Bendigo FGA put out the word they'd accessed several state game reserves and some protected public lands with the DSE's blessing. In order to host one of the biggest fox drives in recent times they ambitiously sought 150 odd shooters from branches around the country. In the end they got eighty plus shooters which I reckon is still pretty damn good! A few of us attended and had a great time. The fox hunts were also very productive.

I've been speaking with organiser Mark Daly, who's planned a sequel this July. There will be details posted on the website shortly else you can email frankstonfga@gmail.com to register your interest.

Mark is hoping for a substantial attendance and we at Frankston plan to answer the call and enjoy a very social and action packed weekend.

Committee Contact Details

President: Steve Harris

0412 708 371 - sharris@bkmoney.com.au

Vice President: Michael Eddy

0409 148 548 - meddey@vatergroup.com

Secretary: Jessica Walker

0415 557 130 - jessmw_85@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Larry Lambrou

0439 350 852 - llambrou@homewrap.com.au

Committee and clay targets: Dave Jencke

0417 545 661

Committee and clay targets: Graham Lewien

0408 584 756 - lewien@netspace.net.au

Committee: Guy Pilkington

0417 398 362 - guyp@betterrentals.com.au

Upcoming Events

JUNE

3rd Hunters Hang Out
12th 75 Target Sporting Clays Competition
17th Committee Meeting
26th 75 Target Sporting Clays Competition
19-20th Minyip Quail weekend
Tba Sth Gippy FGA fox drive

JULY

10th 75 Target Sporting Clays Competition
15th Committee Meeting
23rd Annual General Meeting
24th 75 Target Sporting Clays Competition
Tba Kerang Fox drive weekend

AUGUST

5th Hunters Hang Out
14th 75 Target Sporting Clays Competition
19th Committee Meeting
28th 75 Target Sporting Clays Competition

All members are welcome to attend committee meetings. Committee meetings are held 6:30 PM Thursdays. Watch www.frankstonfga.com.au and future newsletters for updates
Frankston Field & Game News, June to July 2010

FRANKSTON FIELD & GAME

NOTICE OF 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS TO BE HELD FRIDAY, 23RD JULY 2010 8 PM SHARP

To Confirm Minutes of 2009 Annual General Meeting
To Receive President's Report and Financial Statements
To Elect Office Bearers for 2010/11

Nominations are hereby called for the following positions: President, Vice President,
Secretary, Treasurer and 2 Committee members

All nominations and/or any business on notice must be with the Secretary of the
branch, Ms Jessica Walker, no later than 5 PM, Friday July 9th, 2010.

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE

I, _____ being a financial member of Frankston Field and

Game, hereby nominate _____

for the position of _____

Seconded: _____

Accepted: _____

Please post form to: The Secretary, Ms Jessica Walker, Frankston Field & Game
8 Westminster Crt
Somerville, VIC, 3912

BRANCH LIFE - 2009/10 A YEAR IN SUMMARY

DUCK HUNTING

2009/10 was a big year for duck hunting! Hunters kicked it off heading north of the Murray in November to participate in the annual NSW rice crop mitigation program. For most locating properties proved problematic given the drought has decimated the rice industry. The branch didn't run an organised trip for that reason. However a few hunters worked hard and found properties with a water allocation. They reported some seriously hot shooting! The old adage "you have to be in it to win it" rang true. If you were prepared to do some driving you'd do well!

Roll the clock forward and in January; despite continued lobbying by animal rights fanatics, 2010 duck seasons were announced for Vic, Tassie and South Australia. Bag limits were increased, the season was longer and a number of species were reintroduced for hunting after an absence in 2009. Hailed as a victory for common sense, increased numbers of hunters took to the field in March continuing the duck opening traditions of their forbearers. The branch facilitated WIT testing for some 90+ young and new shooters, keen to either hunt for the first time in 2010 or in a few cases rejoin their mates having not hunted since pre-WIT test days. Fantastic!

There was only one problem... Heavy flooding and storms in NSW and QLD in Feb and March saw masses of birds leave the southern states. A month later duck opening was a slow day for most. Optimism that prospects would improve in April and May also failed to pan-out. Despite this, hunters reported great times and are excited about 2011 hearing there's a one in one hundred year waterfowl breeding event occurring up north!

FOX HUNTING

2009 saw substantial numbers of foxes shot and initiatives like the Fox-Stop program contributed to the growing view in the community hunters are conservationists with an important role in environmental management. Disappointingly no one stood up as Branch Hunting Officer in 2009/10 which left us behind the 8-ball organising trips. Rather than flog ourselves trying to be "everything to everyone" we concentrated on tasks at hand and worked hard at the periphery building bridges with active fox hunters from rural branches. The July 09 two-day fox hunt with Bendigo FGA at Kerang was one result, and a great success it was too! We've also been invited to hunt with South Gippy FGA during June and July.

QUAIL HUNTING

2010 was hoped to be one of the best quail seasons on record. Early indications certainly supported this proposition but like our ducks, Victorian quail in many areas have taken to northern pastures, Some reports have filtered back of tremendous shooting but it is indeed patchy. 2009's quail hunt at Minyip was bigger than ever and as this newsletter goes to print we are planning the 2010 trip. The Minyip crew are telling us the season is going VERY WELL for them and we wish our Frankston participants and our generous hosts from Minyip good luck!

CLAY TARGET

2009/10 has been very exciting in terms of the redevelopment of the ground and reorganisation of competitions. Twice-monthly competitions and weekly Thursday practice shoots continue to grow and we eagerly await the opening of new shooting areas recently constructed. Thank-you to our regulars for patronising the branch, our grounds crew Dave, Laurie, Graham and Johnny Bear, everyone who attended working bees and our office staff Jess and Brittany. There are plenty of others helping from time to time and the atmosphere has been great! A mention also to Margie for starting the wood-heater on cold mornings when my hands feel like ice and no-one wants to venture into the fog to set ground.

POLITICAL

We continue to keep a close eye on politics but have missed politically savvy members of the previous committee (now retired). It's a steep learning curve! 2009 did see hunters make some positive political inroads. A continued and very nearly successful push to reinstate NSW duck hunting on public lands remains underway. The improved southern season regulations were well received and there was even some positive PR around duck opening. Largely the anti's were ignored by the media and we saw a number of protesters arrested at Dowds Morass on opening weekend. Lets hope the various charges including allegations of property damage stick when they reach the Magistrates court! Contrasting to this we continue to cop it along the Murray. With state and Federal elections looming we all need to be vigilant and make sure our votes count!

SOCIAL

Frankston has always been a social branch. We run Christmas shoots, bi-monthly hunters hangouts and an annual duck fever where members in their hundreds can catch up for a drink and a laugh while being informed by a variety of excellent speakers. The 2010 duck fever night in March was as big as ever with 115 attendees, plus speakers, exhibitors and organisers. The group had a ball until well after midnight!

THIS IS JUST A SNAPSHOT OF SOME OF ASPECTS OF BRANCH LIFE IN 2009/10. JOIN US NOW! BECOME INVOLVED

BY ATTENDING BRANCH EVENTS, WATCHING NEWSLETTERS AND VISITING WWW.FRANKSTONFGA.COM.AU

www.frankstonfga.com.au

Committee would like to thank Member Ben Drakeley for his tremendous ongoing work on our website. Having volunteered his time and skills in 2009 to establish a new branch website, Ben delivered in December, and continues to update it on a weekly basis with all the latest competition results and branch news. A perfectionist, Ben is constantly refining the content and presentation. *Thanks mate, great work!*

We need YOU!

Help keep YOUR website and newsletter interesting by emailing ideas, photos, reports to frankstonfga@gmail.com

Frankston Field & Game - Clay Target Competition

In recent times a number of competitions have been hosted and capital works progressed. We've also applied for significant council grants to acquire new clay target traps and will learn of our success or failure late in July.

One of our biggest handicaps at Frankston is the small space our range occupies. Limiting target variety, the new ground works are very welcome in expanding the options available to ground setters. Already making a difference the works when complete will be amazing and elevate our facility to among the best in Vic!

It's very apparent winter is now upon us. Cold weather, rain and ominous clouds have discouraged shooters from attending competitions. Our ground works have also slowed. You have to take the good with the bad and overall we're trending upwards.

Ground works

I can report we're making excellent progress with the redesign and excavations. In recent months we've completed the bulk of the earthmoving and the safety mounds are done.

Our two new shooting bays are now ready to use, however we've held off opening them up for competitions until we can construct a basic fence along the back to dissuade kids or other curious people from walking up the side of the mounds for a sticky-beak. It'll happen soon but it's better to be safe than sorry.

Exciting news. a 6.4 metre long 1.5 metre wide concrete slab weighing some 7.5 tonnes was delivered this week, which will be placed across the creek as a bridge to join the existing ground to the newly excavated track and shooting area in front of the two new bays. Thanks to Graham Lewien of committee for organising this and for using his network of crane and truck drivers for our benefit to make it a reality. Graham has also personally completed the footings for the bridge.

Various fences, retaining walls and gates have also now been completed and modifications to the sheds and sporting clays hut have also been done to make things a bit more homely.

Competition results:

Sat 8th May 2010 – 75 Target Memorial shoot for Brian Walker and Barry Howe

Some 92 shooters assembled to enjoy a tremendous layout on what turned out to be an absolutely magnificent autumn day!

The annual Memorial shoot is an event that is among our biggest and most favourite to host. Born many years ago as two separate memorial shoots, in 2009 foul weather in March saw the postponement of the Brian Walker memorial and we decided to combine it with the Barry Howe event. Feedback after the combined 2009 event was extremely positive hence we repeated the formula in 2010.

The Barry Howe memorial is provided for by Barry's friends and family in order to remember this past stalwart of both Pt Phillip and Frankston branches. It's shot over two weeks with the first leg at Pt Phillip and second at Frankston. Contested by Veterans only, places re awarded out to fifth with both shells and trophies going to the winners. An inaugural cup is also maintained for the annual champion's names.

The Brian Walker memorial is shot by open competitors i.e. all other grades excepting Veterans, and is contested in the memory of Brian Walker, a past leader at Frankston and father to Brittany and Jessica both of whom are intimately involved with the branch. Jess also serves as our current club Secretary.

Call me sentimental but I think it is tremendous these memorial shoots continue as a branch tradition each year. It's testament to the men that so many people attend and enjoy themselves in their honour. Also lovely to see in 2010 we welcomed THREE generations of Walkers to the club rooms at presentations this year with Brian's widow Leanora, daughters Jess and Brittany and granddaughter, one year old baby Hailey.

AA: B. Gonzales, E. Treadwell, J. McWilliam
A: A. Backman, D. Clipson, A. Opie
B: P. Riddell, R. Damico, B. Drakeley
C: K. Kirley, A. Palmieri, M. Annett
Vets: W. Cumberland, R. Evans, C. Barker I. Box, B. Snowden
Ladies: M. McDonald, C. Bassitella, R. Kirley
Juniors: J. Paglia, J. O'Keefe, R. Eddey

Sat 24th April 2010 – 75 target

Some 51 shooters attended on what was a cool and overcast day. The weather was threatening from the beginning but luckily for us the rain held off. The ground was actually partially flooded due to some heavy rain in preceding days but this didn't hamper us in the end. In fact it provided my Labrador Charlie a "tail-waggingly" good place to do some retrieval practice the day after the comp. Unfortunate we didn't achieve a bigger attendance but it's apparent the winter months are upon us and bringing a hand-full of slower days. Members on the day also reported friends and family were elsewhere trying to

rustle up a few ducks or quail. We hope they fared well! Despite all this a great day was had by all and some terrific shooting was exhibited by our competitors.

AA: B. Sartori, S. Smith, R. Hill
A: M. Wright, M. Holmes, J. Pannuzzo
B: S. Debrincat, P. Kellett, G. Evans
C: A. Palmieri, C. Kyriakou, B. Glenn
Vets: L. Box, V. Ruddick, M. Terrington
Ladies: M. McDonald

Sat 10th April 2010 – 75 targets for Kevin Cloke and Wattmaster

Some 45 shooters attended to compete for a generous pool of electrical tools provided by our good mate Kevin Cloke and his business Wattmaster.

It was a cool day with threatening clouds. The rain held off though and competitors had a ball shooting some challenging targets. Afterwards many took the chance to have a cold drink and talk all things hunting, with many of the competitors having taken to the field for ducks and/or quail in recent days. Once again many regulars were hunting this weekend impacting our numbers.

High Gun: T. Mitrakis
AA: J. McWilliam, J. Quinn
A: A. Opie, E. Mills, S. McVean
B: S. Concilla, M. Bryan, T. Chadwick
C: D. Scantlebury, G. Harney, L. Frankhauser
Vets: L. Box, R. Carter, B. Sanger
Juniors: M. McWilliam, J. Vincent, P. Vincent

Sat 28th March 2010 – 75 target

A humid day greeted the 42 competitors. A quiet day by usual standards, our competition fell a week after duck opening and one week before Easter weekend. In any case we had a ball and thank those who attended!

AA: B. Mortenson, L. Marriott, A. Hjorth
A: J. Unsworth, S. Harris, V. Fidelle
B: A. Xenidis, L. Lambrou, M. Exelby
C: F. Scriva, I. Spiller, S. Amanatidis
Vets: R. Carter, B. Sanger, D. Grenfeld
Ladies: L. Shaw
Juniors: G. Thomas

In between newsletters read Claybuster the new full-colour online clay-target newsletter provided monthly by Feathers and Fur magazine. Visit www.claybuster.com.au to register.

Results are also published twice monthly on www.frankstonfga.com.au

UP AND COMING COMPETITIONS

75 Sporting clays - Sat June 12th, 11am for Agresta Constructions

75 Sporting clays - Sat June 26th, 11am

75 Sporting clays - Sat July 10th, 11am for Phil Taylor and Whitehorse Arms

75 Sporting clays - Sat July 24th, 11am

Location: Rossiters Road, Carrum Downs

Contact Dave Jencke and refer to FGA shoot book and www.frankstonfga.com.au for details and updates

Hunter's Hang Out

Thursday, June 3 - Start 8pm

Duck season wrap-up and Quail season reports

Planning for Minyip quail trip

**Planning for Kerang fox hunting weekend
with Bendigo FGA
(the Marshes and Lake Bael Bael)**

**Possible Day trips fox driving
with South Gippy FGA (Leongatha area)**

Discussion of potential Magpie Goose hunt in Sept/Oct

Club Rooms - Rossiters Road, Carrum Downs

Sponsor's Honour Roll

WATTMASTER

WHITEHORSE ARMS

CARLSON CHOKE TUBES

SCERRI BROS BILLIARDS

DKS OUTDOORS PROMOTIONS

AUSTRALASIAN SPORTS HUNTING ALLIANCE

BRIAN WALKER FAMILY

BARRY HOWE FAMILY & FRIENDS

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Please support those who support your sport

Continued from Page 1

I can certainly vouch for the suitability of Labradors in homes full of kids. Ours endures daily torture from our four year old son, his cousins and friends, ranging from the pouring of sandpit contents into his ears to having his testicles trampled as he's slept up against the couch. All that and he's never so much as growled!

Of course I'd never advocate parents "trust" any dog completely around young children. Like any breed appropriate supervision is a must. Rather than cause harm, a Lab however, is far more likely to become your kid's best friend and partner-in-mischief in short time.

While Labs generally have hearts of gold they'll still give a very good account of themselves as guard dogs which is also very useful. They have a big-dog bark and a black lab in particular can look quite imposing at the side fence. Ask my postie.

As a hunting dog Labs are often called a "utility" dog. They have a keen sense of smell, are naturals in the water and have been trained to flush, point and retrieve just about every game species getting around. They have even been used by Sambar stalkers to scent for stags up in the mountains.

Selectively bred and conditioned to work in just about any weather condition, Labs particularly excel as duck dogs. They can and are frequently trained-up to field trial standards but hunters wanting a good honest duck dog will also be pleasantly surprised with just how little effort is required to bring out the hunter in most Labs.

In the wider community the typically high intelligence and adaptability of the breed has also seen them used as drug dogs, aids in the police and military, (regrettably) advertising props for toilet-paper commercials and their most publicised role of all, as guide-dogs for the blind.

So what are the drawbacks of the breed? They certainly exhibit a fair degree of "puppyness" while young. Some also have a talent for digging and chewing about the back garden when bored, but then again that could probably be said about most breeds.

Another issue all Lab owners are likely to deal with one day, is the breed's inherent susceptibility to hip dysplasia and common tendencies to become overweight in old age. This is particularly so when exercise routines are deficient or they aren't afforded the regular opportunity to work for their supper.

To sum up, Labs are a lively, affectionate and loveable breed. They're common, affordable to purchase, easily trained and both effective in the field and as pets at home for the kids.

So there you have it. The gauntlet is now thrown down to all you GSP, Weimaraner, English Pointer and Breetan fans out there.

I'm aware of a number of keen field-trial enthusiasts among our membership. We'd love to hear from you! Particularly if you'd like to share some of your knowledge or reports of field-trial events you've attended.

Send your take on the whole gun dog debate to franktonfga@gmail.com Outline your favourite breed and exactly why you think they're the best dog of all.