

## Year of Induction 2000

### *CATEGORY: Prominent Person*



### **MR. Robert (Bob) Maver - Victoria**

Bob Maver was inducted into the Hall of Fame in recognition of his contribution in vision and drive in establishing Retrieving Trials in Victoria, developing them through to national championship level and for judging more than 200 Retrieving Trials over 43 years. When ANKC was created, Bob proposed formation of the National RAFT Committee and as inaugural Chairman was instrumental in establishing national rules for retrieving and field trials.

#### **As a Club Official**

Bob was an active member of the following canine bodies: -

- **Victorian Gundog Club**, since 1946
  - judge or steward at many Club events over the years
  - Life Member, 2000.
- **Kennel Control Council /Victorian Canine Association**, since 1946
  - Management Committee, 13 years
  - FTA / RAFT, 39 years, 12 as Chairman
  - Hereditary Diseases/Canine Health Committee for 18 years, inaugural Chairman and 11 years in that role
  - Finance Committee, 9 years
  - various other KCC/VCA committees, 37 years
  - Life Member, 1985.
- **Labrador Retriever Club of Victoria**, since formation in 1952
  - inaugural LRC Committee, 16 years Committee, a term as President
  - Life Member, 1970.

- **ANKC**
  - Hereditary Diseases/Canine Health Committee, 14 years, 4 as Chair
  - RAFT, 4 years as inaugural Chair.
- **Canine Research Foundation**
  - originator and Trustee, 11 years.
- **Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria**
  - 20 years as Royal Show Steward
  - Life Member, 2000.
- **Caulfield Kennel Club**
  - **Committee**, 13 years.

#### **As a Judge:**

Bob competed in Spaniel & Retriever Field Trials and, as a prerequisite to judging preliminary Retrieving Trials in Victoria, gained a licence to judge S&R Field Trials

- Retrieving events
  - a total of 210 retrieving events - in every Australian State, Mainland Territory and in NZ, including
    - 2 Preliminary RT's 1956
    - Inaugural Open RT 1957
    - Australian Open Championship RT 1970
    - 10 State Championships
    - 4 National Championships
  - frequently gave talks/lectures on RT's, their rules and judging
  - introduced practical training for aspiring judges.
- Gundog Shows
  - total of 65, in all Aust. States and mainland Territories and NZ
  - gave breed lectures and trained aspiring judges within the Gundog Group.

#### **As Owner/Breeder:**

- commenced breeding in 1948
- bred litters from only 2 Lab bitches, producing some notable show winners in the 1950's under the prefix Royella
- due to time constraints from 1960 onwards, including transfer with his family to live in USA, he mainly owned only one dog at a time
- Bob's dog RTCh Grenada Andy was available at stud to only a few selected bitches
  - mated to RTCh Shanstar Cassie, in 3 litters, they produced many RT champions, with the first and second generation descendants winning 6 National RT's in succession.

#### **As Handler:**

- commenced showing Labradors in 1946
- commenced field competition in 1947
- won the 1948 VGC Open Water Test, inspiring Bob to originate the concept of retrieving trials
- competed in RTs and FTs with Kaystorm Scot and RTCh Grenada Andy.

#### **In Brief: Memorable Highlights**

- introduction of the sport of Retrieving Trials in Victoria and the rapid spread to all States and Mainland Territories, contributing to preservation of the wonderful retrieving instinct and skills of the retrieving breeds
- judging the many and widespread RT's and Gundog shows
- attending WSAVA conferences in London (at own expense), one on hip dysplasia and later a second on elbow dysplasia, resulting in ANKC joining AVA in the Australian control schemes and having direct input to them
- introduction of successful programs for reduction of hereditary diseases using genetic testing, in Victoria and subsequent national adoption by ANKC
- formation and success of the Canine Research Foundation directed at improvement of canine health.

**Bob has dedicated much of his life to Gundogs in the field and show-ring, to canine health, and with 171 years of loyal committee service to his various clubs and associations. His trained and innovative mind, his vision and determination have produced significant advances in Gundog field competitions, and his passion and years of work in reduction of canine hereditary diseases have produced major results. He has retired with the satisfaction of knowing his efforts were well worthwhile for 'man's best friend'.**