

27th Abyssinian Breeder Show

The 27th Abyssinian Breeder show will be held in Canberra on Saturday, 14 May 2011, with arrangements just like the last few years. It will be a 3-ring show with one overseas judge who is making a return visit, and will be followed on Sunday by the 3-ring, all-breed Birman Cat Club of Canberra show, where overseas judges will also be officiating. Both shows will be held at the current venue, the Burns Club in Kett St Kambah. As regular attendees will know, this is an excellent venue, with all the comforts and amenities of a club.

The Burns Club is in south-west Canberra, just off the Tuggeranong Parkway – and thus very

easy to get to – about 30 minutes' drive from the Queanbeyan motels where most of us stay.

The closing date for the Abyssinian Breeder Show will be in the last week of April. Schedules will be e-mailed to all subscribers and any non-subscribers who attended last year, in March.. They will also then become available for downloading from the home page of my Web site at <http://www.nileabys.com/>. The schedule will also provide contact details for obtaining the Birman All Breeds show schedule. Let us hope we can continue the past few years' excellent attendance.

G.K.

Judges for the 2010 Show

Ring 1 – Ingrid de Wet (SACC)

Ingrid got her first Colourpoint, a Blue-Point female, on 6-Jun-80; this was the start of her love affair with the Colourpoint Persian. She has been on the Cat Fanciers' Club of South Africa committee since 1988, and held several positions over the years, including editor, show manager and delegate. She has been SACC Breed Council Secretary since 1996. In April 2008, She represented SACC at the world Cat Congress in Houston, TX.

Ingrid became an all-breeds judge in 1999, having been involved in judges' training since the mid 90s.

She has been privileged to judge in other countries, in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres. Her trips included a visit to Windhoek in Namibia,, and she has enjoyed judging and admiring cats shown by fellow South Africans in others associations in RSA. Ingrid judged at the 2010 CCCA National Show in Melbourne.

Ingrid de Wet

(Ingrid did not provide a photo – Ed.)

Ring 2 – Penny Bydlinski (FIFe)

Penny was brought up in the UK with cats of one sort or another but bought her first Burmese in Canada in the 1960s. She bred Burmese under her prefix of *Penric* from 1969 to 2007. She has also bred Persians and, together with her partner Roger, Abyssinians under the cattery name *Rydene*. Although Burmese will always be her first love, Abys run a close second and are a breed which she feels very strongly about.

She qualified as a FIFe judge for shorthairs in 1981 and later for both the Longhaired and Semi-longhaired categories. She was on the FIFe board from 1993

until her retirement in 2005, having been General Secretary for 10 years. Penny has judged extensively all over Europe, South America, Indonesia and Malaysia as well as in Australia and New Zealand.

She was Chairman of the first FIFe member body in the UK and actively involved in its successor, serving on both the Show and the Judges Commission as well as being Chairman, until her retirement in 1975, of the Garden of England Cat Club which she founded in 1991.



Penny is now semi-retired and living in the hinterland behind the Gold Coast in Queensland. She is still secretary of the World Cat Congress, a post she has occupied since 1995 and which she enjoys very much as it gives an opportunity of meeting and exchanging ideas with people from other organisations round the world. She judged at the 2010 CCCA National show in Melbourne.

She now has more time to enjoy her hobbies of books, embroidery, theatre and gardening in the very beautiful surroundings where she lives with the company of her three cats, a black Exotic neuter (who needed a home), a brown Burmese kitten and, of course, an Aby neuter.

Penny Bydlinski

Ring 3 – Janis Christison (QFA QLD)

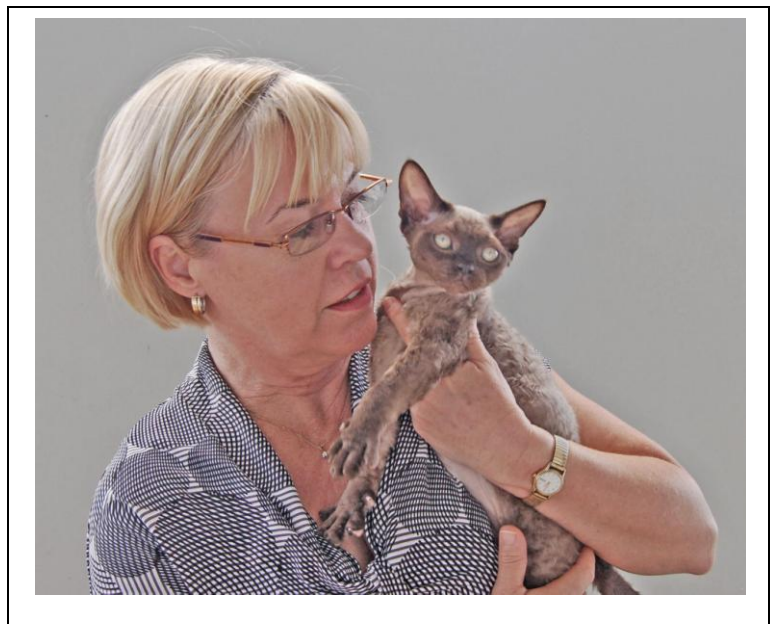
I am an ACF Inc International All Breeds Judge and since 1992 have judged regularly in all Australian States and New Zealand. I live in Brisbane, and am licensed by the Queensland Feline Association Inc (QFA). I have been actively involved in all facets of the cat fancy for over 34 years and am currently a Vice-President of Queensland Feline Association Inc and a Tutor Judge. I have been President of QFA's Judges' Association for several years. I am President and a foundation member of my club Flash Felines and a life member of the ACT Longhair Cat Club (of Canberra, where I began my journey in the cat fancy).

I have served the cat fancy in many capacities over the years but especially in managing many shows both in Canberra and Brisbane. During 2008 I co-ordinated the ACF Inc National Cat Show which was hosted in Queensland. For several years I have co-ordinated QFA's Judges' Association annual workshop which is compulsory for our judges to attend in order to renew their licence each January. I love to share my knowledge and experience with breeders and trainee judges. Judging and tutoring are my two great passions.

I have adored cats since early childhood (I still have on my sideboard a treasured professional portrait photo of myself aged two years with my tabby "Josie" under my arm) and my fascination with felines is no less today. I feel lucky to have become involved in the cat fancy at an early age and enjoyed every aspect so much that I was keen to study and become a judge. This in turn has allowed me the privilege and great pleasure of being able to regularly handle so many magnificent cats and to meet and talk with their proud breeders and owners.

I began breeding and showing Persians (colour-bred blues, creams and blue-creams) in Canberra in 1976 and when I moved 'home' to Brisbane in 1989 I added other colours and patterns to my program including patched, tabby and silver. I also began an Exotic program. Whilst I always bred from only a very small group of cats, I enjoyed success with both breeds over the years. I was fortunate to achieve Cat of Year awards in 1987, 1990 and 1998 – each time with a Blue Persian! My 1998 winner, a Persian from my Exotic program, looks as magnificent today as a 14 year old neuter as he did in his show days. Though I am not currently breeding, I am a slave to 6 cherished Exotic and Persian retirees as they continue to give us so much affection and pleasure in their twilight years.

My husband Alan and I have been married for 36 years and we have one adult daughter Leonie. I feel fortunate my family has supported me in my hobby of



cat breeding, showing and judging. During my 'working years' I performed secretarial and personal assistant duties mainly in Government departments, my last position being personal secretary to the Surveyor-General in the Australian Government in Canberra. These days I am content to call myself a Domestic Engineer and my time is spent dedicated to my extended human family, my old cats and, of course, to the cat fancy.

I am looking forward to judging at the 2011 Abyssinian Breeder Show in Canberra and hope the entry will be as robust in numbers and quality as it was when I judged the show several years ago. Judging Abyssinian/Somali shows is always a challenging and exciting assignment due to the exacting official standard for the breed and the depth of quality of exhibits that breeders/owners consistently bench for assessment and competition.

Best wishes to all from *Janis Christison.*