

Snowsteeds History

Snowsteeds began in 1995 when I bought my first mal Ben, it was my intention to breed and raise beautiful looking, great temperament, healthy dogs right from the start and so I spent a lot of time researching before I bought my first boy and then even more research before purchasing the beautiful Tedra to officially start my breeding program. My family and I have been involved in breeding stud cattle, horses, and dogs for many years and so it was a natural progression for me to establish my own kennel. I race and show my dogs and my personal aim is to have my dogs titled with both their conformation (Australian Championship) titles and Working sled dog titles.

I bought Tedra from Rhonda Miles' famous Kemulvak kennels in Broadford after many years of searching for the perfect mate for my first mal Ben (Shawgyn Apalachi Warrior). The first Snowsteeds litter was born in 2002 and produced four beautiful live pups that were dubbed the "Mighty" litter as those amazing pups survived both a tiger snake bite while they were still in utero and a week's premature birth. Bear was the first born male at Snowsteeds and grew up to become a phenomenal lead dog, and an Australian Champion as well as my best mate. I was so pleased with the Mighty ones that I repeated the mating a year later. A healthy litter of eleven pups were born this time thankfully with no drama's and were dubbed the "bible babies" being named after biblical characters. These pups are spread across Victoria, NSW and Queensland with two of them; Genna and Sera residing here with me.

Very sadly I lost my beautiful Ben in 2004 to a tiger snake bite (and then even more tragically my beautiful Bear in 2010 also to a Tiger Snake) and so my search for a sire that could better his achievements began. After much researching and lots of running around looking at potential sires I decided on "Aust Ch Kemulvak Be My Baby" (Chuckie) as the sire of my Winta litter, which consisted of 6 beautiful pups. Chuckie was also bred by Rhonda Miles and always impressed me with his great attitude, movement and good looks.

The fourth Snowsteeds litter was dubbed the "Rustic" Litter after their Sire Russ (Australian Grand Champion Chimo Power Of One R.O.A) and their humble country upbringing. Russ was the best moving Malamute I'd seen and I was very grateful to his owners Michelle Watson and Tonya Syme for allowing me to use him over Genna. These 8 gorgeous pups have done exceptionally well in the show ring with class in show and Royal show wins to their credit. This litter produced "BIS CH Snowsteeds Rustic Rising WTD" who has been an outstanding show and racing dog and has at times held the position of "Number 1 Malamute in Australia" (Dogzonline show breed point score), and was the AMCV's Top Malamute, Top Dog and Intermediate Dog Winner of the 2009 Show Point Score. Brewin is definitely an over achiever and we are oh so proud of this young boys achievements. The Rustic kids have also done exceptionally well in harness with State cup and point score wins to their credit.

Midas (Multi BIS, Multi RBIS, Supreme Champion Chimo Let Th Games Begin WTD) came to live with me at 9 weeks of age in 2006. In many ways Midas was a turning point for our kennel bringing size, substance and speed into our line. He has also been a phenomenal show dog (more about him later).

My fifth litter was my "Heavenly Litter" which in many ways combined the old and the new with it being Tedra's last litter and Midas' first. There were 7 Heavenly Babes and these pups have also gone on to Class in group show wins, Australian Championships, Working Titles and our first ever open sled race winners.

My sixth litter was the "Sweet Heart" litter of which there were eight. This litter's dam (mother) was "Snowsteeds Seraphim WTD" (Sera). Sera had a few set backs in her life including a dog attack and a brown snake bite which has seen her out of the show ring for long periods of time. She was shown as a puppy for class in group wins but hasn't been back since except for an AMCV Members competition where she was awarded Best head bitch, Best coat, Best Tail and Best Trick! The Sweethearts were sired by Midas and this combination produced Class in Group winners in the show ring and without a doubt some of the most talented young sled dogs we've produced, with Bridie Jayne and Heidi rocketing over the courses during the winter of 2009. Bridie is an amazing talent taking on duel lead of our six dog team in her first official race. She was AWESOME!!!!

Then came the unexpected arrival of the "Ice Babies", the result of a very sneaky mating between Bear and Sera. The first we knew anything about it was when Sera's abdomen started to expand rapidly and three weeks later nine healthy little pups joined the rest of the Snowsteeds crew. Two of the little girls Sasha and Betty got to stay. Fondly dubbed the 'mini's' these two girls along with their mother and half sister Bridie made up our four dog team in 2010. They were such a fun and hassle free team to run and even developed their own fan club.

The "Return Litter" (so named because after Sera and Bear taking things into their own paws in 2009 we were back on track with our breeding program). The Return litter was the long awaited joining of Genna and Midas. Midas is line bred to the top producing family in the world and is a very important and exciting addition to my kennel. Midas is a superbly put together dog with outstanding movement and a personality to match. Midas' breeder Tonya Syme of Chimo Kennels is the daughter of Tony and Marilyn Syme who are credited with breeding the first Malamute litter in Australia back in the 1980's and as such have a long history in this breed. You can check out Tonya's Chimo site on the Internet, there are pictures of Midas, his parents and grandparents and a little information about each one of them. <http://www.kaynineonline.com/chimo>

The Return litter was well worth the wait with some exceptional representatives among them who have been touted by Breeders both here and overseas. This litter was so impressive we repeated it giving us "The Beyond" litter. This was Genna's last planned litter. Unfortunately a genetic problem popped up in this litter which meant we had to revise our breeding program. As a result of this and lots of painstaking research and consultation with specialist vets and long time Breeders around the world our next planned litter became two planned litters. Sera was mated to our young gun Argos (Ch Chimo the Midas Touch who we also co own with Tonya Syme) and Seven was mated to Daytona (Alaskamal Daytona Knight). These two matings produced some outstanding dogs that have excelled in both the show ring and on the race track. With Holly, Bane, Comet and Portia all having successful show and racing careers. Holly, Bane and Portia all ran in teams at both the Falls Creek Classic and the Dinner Plain Sled Dog Challenge and Holly and Comet have already gained their Australian Championship's with Portia and Bane not far behind them.

In 2012 we leased our beautiful girl Seven to our friend and mentor Tonya Syme of Chimo Kennels for a very special mating between Seven and Deago "Multi BISS, Multi BIS Koolrunnings Ice Age HOF ROA" Deago is in our opinion the best dog currently in Australia with an impressive show record to back that claim up. This combination produced some stunning babies; Pearl and Kudos who were retained by Tonya and Aliy who got to stay at Snowsteeds with her mother and I. All three of these pups have excelled in the show ring and Pearl is the current National Rising Star in the Dogzone point score.

Early in 2013 while harvesting at work I noticed Argos paying a little more attention to Eden than normal and thinking she was coming into season I separated her from him. She didn't come into season and so as a precaution I had her blood tested. The results were inconclusive so as she wasn't showing any obvious signs of being in whelp and continued to not show anything obvious we assumed nothing had happened. That was until she went for a run early in May but was uncharacteristically not very interested in her favourite sport. That made me re look at the dates and wonder if indeed she did have a secret tryst with Argos. Sure enough two weeks later she whelped 5 beautiful babies. The reason why this hadn't been a planned mating was because Eden's mother Genna carried the genetic heart issue "Tricuspid Valve Dysplasia" so there was also a 25% chance that Eden carried it. For this reason the pup's hearts were checked constantly and by experienced Vets at both 4 and 6 weeks of age. We were very relieved that they were given the all clear and none of them suffer from this debilitating condition. Perhaps Argos and Eden knew this and were prepared to do what we were not in secret under that harvest moon. There are some truly stunning babies in this litter and with their awesome showing/racing superstar parents we look forward to seeing and hearing all about their wonderful future successes. The grey vixen of this litter who we are calling 'Seeka' will stay here with us at Snowsteeds to hopefully run with her parents in future teams.

We did have some very special plans for a 2013 litter despite Argos and Eden getting in first. We arranged through Tonya Syme of Chimo Kennels and Maureen Anderson of Keikewabic Kennels in Canada to purchase frozen semen from "US Can Champion Keikewabics Ice Breaker" to put to our girl Seven. Breaker was a substantial and hard working boy from well regarded lines the world over. He is also Seven's great grandfather so this is a very nice linebreeding to him. The mating was performed by surgical AI and 61 days later 6 very special babies were born. We will retain several of these glorious babies for our racing and show teams.

Which leads us to our 2014 litter which was between our lovely girl Misty "Snowsteeds Heart of Gold" and Argos "Ch Chimo The Midas Touch". Misty was our pick girl from our Sweetheart litter and went to Sydney to be a show dog. Unfortunately her family went through some hard times and she never did get to any shows. She came home to us in 2013 and fit right back in like she had never left, she is also showing a real love for harness work which isn't surprising considering her family tree. She is an absolute darling temperament wise and loves everyone. With Misty and Argos as their parents the litter could only ever be "The Golden Ones". There are 3 boys and 5 girls and Aura "Snowsteeds All that Glitters" will hopefully be in the show ring in the near future.

