

KiwiDogAgility

TRAVELS WITH MY DOG

I am Nina from Switzerland and I am on a big journey with my dog Gin. He is a 10 and a half year old (well you could think, he is still a puppy) long black-haired, funny looking fella.

Since I have discovered how cool traveling is, I cannot stop anymore. But this time, I decided to take my dog. Our journey started in December 2014 in Australia. We spent eight months there travelling around in a van on the west coast. We had an amazing time. Loved the beautiful huge and empty beaches and loved to stay in the bush. While there we did some Agility and caught up with all these dog people from the other side of the world.

After eight months, I decided to go on another adventure to New Zealand after so many Australians told me, how gorgeous it is over there. So, we flew in the middle of August to Christchurch. There, I bought our new home, a station wagon, to start the Kiwi adventure.

We started in Timaru. We went for beautiful mountain hikes and bush walks. Then we went ahead to Catlins. It's such a nice place down there, and I am pretty sure, it would have been even nicer without snow and rain. On the way to Queenstown, we visited the Mavora Lakes. It is one of my favourite places, you can walk with your dog for hours. After Queenstown, we went on to Wanaka and visited Lake Ohau (another favourite spot), Lake Pukaki and Lake Tekapo. Then over the Lewis Pass, with a stop in Hamner Springs, on our way to the West Coast.

It is such a different landscape there and so beautiful as well. Our travels led us to Nelson, where we finally found the sun. We stayed there quite a while enjoying the sun. We did a trip over to Collingwood and surrounds. The places up there are stunning. Before we caught the ferry over to the North Island, we got the chance to do a multiple day tramping track. That was fun.

After a couple days exploring the Sounds we headed to the North Island.

Our North Island adventure started on the ferry with a bunch of Agility people. Everyone was on the way to the NZDAC as well as us. After two weeks spending time in a great

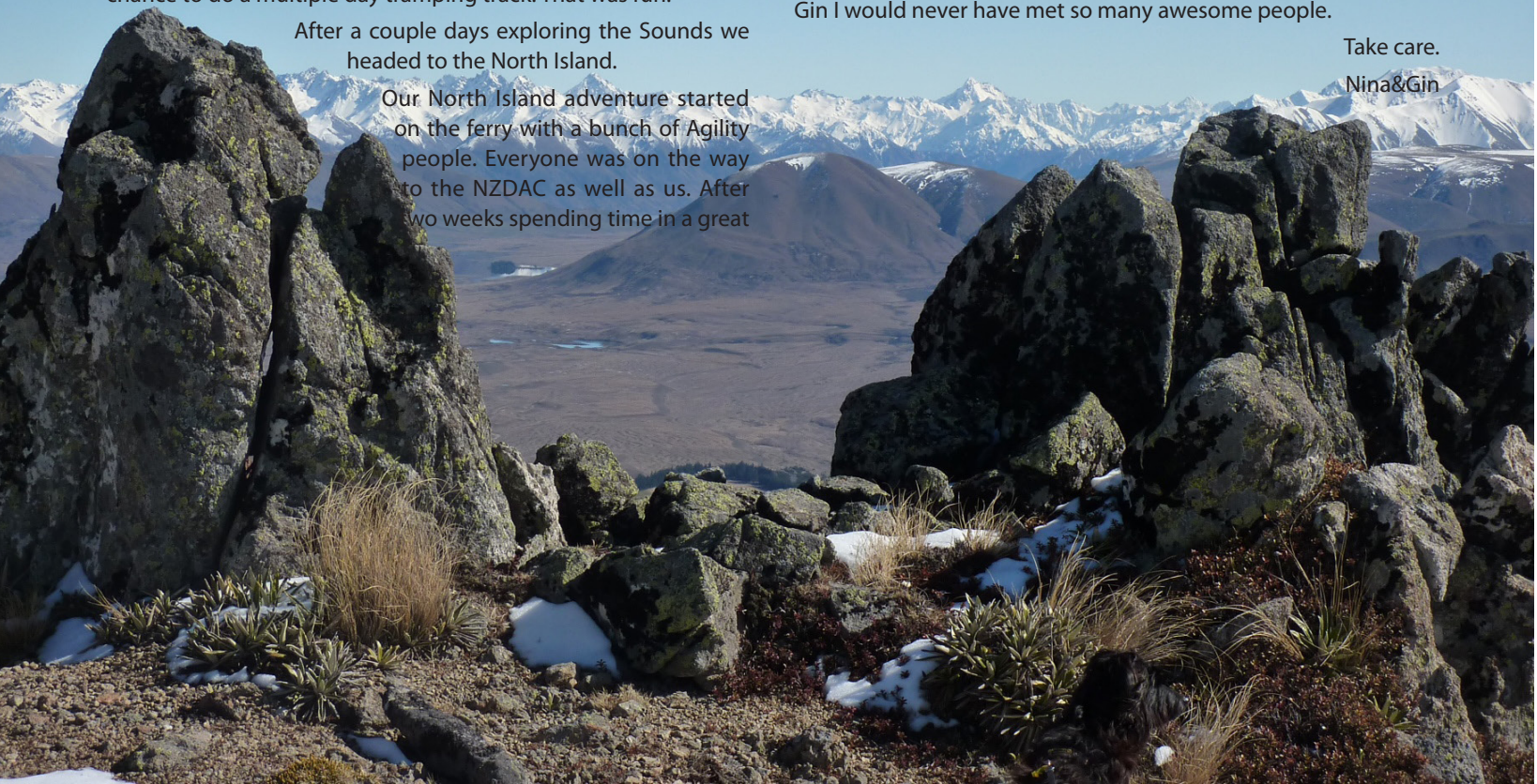
company the NZDAC event started, and I must say, that was an awesome. The organisation was just great, the camping area was really nice and we had so much fun during these four days even though we sucked;-). I think, it was the biggest event I have ever been. We loved to meeting all these lovely people and watching their runs. I am so glad, we got a chance to compete in Tokoroa. The courses were so much fun to run and the level is pretty similar to those at home. You guys would rock in Europe as well:-).

A big, big thank you, to all the people who organized this awesome event and to all the people who were involved in letting us run in the same level we ran at home and entering us at trials. Also a big thank you to the trials and organisation in Dunedin, Nelson and Waipukurau, where we could compete as well. And of course, thanks to all the great judges. I really loved to run your courses. They were great and so much fun! We also enjoyed to learn the cross over which is unknown in Europe:-).

Last but not least, thank you to all who we could spent time with, who came over on trials and talk to us, who took care of us without even really knowing us before, who showed us places, who picked us up from the airport, who you let us stay at their homes (sometimes for a little longer than intended), who entered us on trials and made it even possible be a part of NZ Agility, for giving us dinner in a such great company. You Kiwis are awesome, made our journey perfect and you live in such a beautiful country. We made so many new friends and there was so much laughter.

We have now three weeks left before catching the plane home. We are going to discover the north part of the North Island in this time. I am looking forward to visit some new places again. It was the best decision ever to travel with my dog and go to New Zealand. Without Gin I would never have met so many awesome people.

Take care.
Nina&Gin





MATE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This is Christine Nielsen's three year old NZ Heading Dog Mate . Check out his trophies.



1. The NDOA RO Top Team Winners Trophy. Northern Region again got this trophy and Mate and Christine were the Excellence Dog for this Team.
2. The Zone 1 Top Working Dog Excellence Trophy donated in 1996 by K.Matenga.
3. The All Breeds Obedience Novice Winner Trophy donated by Alexis Banas in 1998.
4. NDOA D H Brown and Son Ltd Trophy for highest points for tracking donated in 1973 by DH Brown and Son Ltd.

- From left they are:
1. Peter Matenga Memorial Shield for Top Working Dog Excellence donated in 1980.
 2. The Shogun Memorial Trophy for Northern Trials Dog of the Year.
 3. The NDOA Top Tracking Team, which the winners were the Northern Region. Mate and Christine were the UD (Utility Dog) part of this Team and this is the Sarelle cup which was donated in 1998.