

# The BBN/A Baraa

*Basenji Breed Network Australia Limited*

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***Kibushi Poppy of Yamboka (Imp USA) Owned by Ethel Blair***



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Editor Carol Benson



Welcome to the first issue of our magazine.

This is an exciting time for us all here at BBNA.

We have been working very hard over the past several months to bring a concept to fruition and the result is BBNA and it's affiliate club BBNQ.

Our aim is to provide a National forum for Australian Exhibitors/Breeders and Companion owners of this remarkable breed.



We have Queensland, Interstate and Overseas members who will now have access to information and articles on all things Basenji in one place on our Website <http://basenjibreednetwork.org.au>

Through our Playgroup Network we will offer a fun time with other Basenjies and their owners and invaluable information on Basenji behaviour and caring for your basenji through our Mentor Program.

We hope that our Magazine will keep you informed and amused over the years to come.

To submit articles, show results, photos etc. please email to The Editor [basenjibreednetworkaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:basenjibreednetworkaustralia@gmail.com)

See you next issue.....

Cheers,

Carol

*Ethel Blair and Carol Benson*

*signing the papers to register BBNA*



*Founding Directors*

*Ethel Blair*

*Carol Benson*

*Len Reddie*

*Jenny Richmond*

*Founding Members*

*Robyn Thompson*

*Katrina Harper*

**BBNA** Limited.....*Our Beginnings*

BBNA is the brainchild of Founding Directors Ethel Blair and Carol Benson.

Ethel saw the need for an organised Club dedicated to the Promotion of the Basenji through Exhibition and Breeding when she imported a full African male “Avongara Akua” from DR Congo and a half African female Kibushi Poppy of Yamboka from the US in 2012. She began exhibiting and found there were not many Basenjjs being exhibited in SE Qld. Her answer to this was to encourage and mentor new Basenji owners into the Show Ring. How to do this? The idea of a new Club was born.

Carol had formed the SE Qld Basenji Playgroup to bring together Companion Basenji owners in a safe and fun way to socialise their Basenjjs. She wanted to expand this idea to include all areas where, often, Basenji owners never meet each other.

Ethel and Carol started brainstorming and the decision to bring the two areas of Basenji ownership together was made. The idea at first was to form a State Club which quickly gave way to the more ambitious idea of a National Club with a Qld State Affiliate.

BBNA Limited is a Registered Company and the Constitution and By-Laws are available to members via <http://basenjibreednetwork.org.au> and email.

We invite you all to be active participants in the running of our Club by nominating to be a Director of the BBNA Board or starting a Basenji Playgroup in your area.

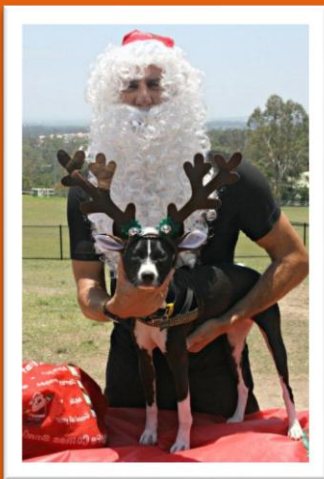




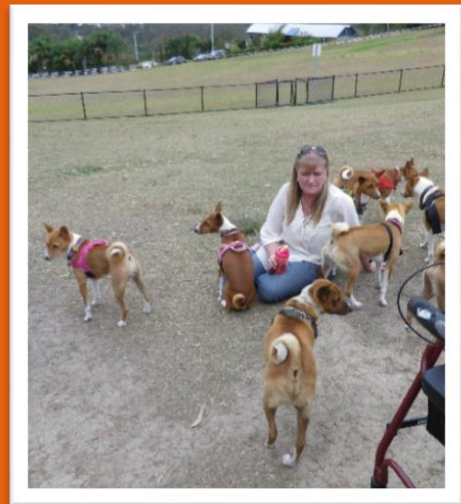
# BBNA Basenji Playgroups

Play dates are a great way to socialise your Basenji with other Basenji lovers and their dogs. The first Basenji Playgroup was formed in April 2012 and is now known as BBNA Gold Coast Basenji Playgroup held and mentored by Carol Benson, we now have others in Far North Qld (located at Townsville) held by Alysha Cuddy and mentored by Louise Marsden, Brisbane held by Katrina Harper and mentored by Ethel Blair, Tasmania held and mentored by Chantel and Chris Ames.

The other States are in our sights and hopefully by the end of this year we'll have groups all over Australia!



*Santa Comes To Playgroup at Ormeau, Qld.*



*A Happy Group at Ormeau, Qld*



*Sunset Beach Walk at Townsville, Qld*



*A Beach Play Date In Tasmania*

# The Ames Family Move To Tasmania

By Chantel Qualischefski Ames.

Our move from Queensland to Tasmania was a huge step in our lives. Leaving our family and friends for a life that seemed simpler, slower and idyllic was a leap of faith that we would have some great adventures with our Rune (4) and our Bichon Frise pup Isabella was packing the car and trailer to the brim, with tearful rear-view mirror, we set off on the long drive to the



but knowing dogs, Levis (6), exciting. So family in the island state.

There wasn't a lot of room in the back of the car for boys but we made plenty of stops along the way; in now say they have peed in half the states in Australia! at Toowoomba's first off-leash dog park to say

the Basenji fact they can After stopping goodbye to

Chris's dad, we were really off...and already counting the kilometres (all 2,256 of them!). We made rest stops at most of the bigger towns along the way - first a re-fuel at Goondiwindi then south through Boggabilla, Moree, stopping for dog dinner by a wonderful creek in Narrabri. Travelling through the night we passed Coonabarabran, Gilgandra and Dubbo before finding a lonesome truck stop outside of Parkes for a couple hours sleep. It wasn't comfortable but we had each other (to use as pillows). In the morning we continued through West Wyalong, Narrandera and Jerilderie with a big walk along the Murray River at Tocumwal (home of the Big Murray Cod) under the biggest and noisiest pack of Major Mitchell Cockatoos we had ever seen.

Now we were in Victoria and the nerves were starting to kick in. I wasn't exactly looking forward to the ten hour ferry ride because the dogs would be crated in the cargo area and would almost certainly freak out. We passed through Numurkah, Shepparton and Broadford without stopping. I had read online about a wonderful fenced beach at St Kilda that we were looking forward to taking the dogs to after a quick recon of the ferry port. Arriving in the city after a massive trip, we were all a little stressed out so the walk along the sand with the marina in view was lovely. The fencing wasn't good enough to let our naughty Basenjis off-lead but Isabella looked like a swamp monster after running through the water! At 4:30pm we lined our car and trailer up with all the others eagerly waiting to board the Spirit of Tasmania. She was much bigger than we expected and the wait to board was a long



one. Eventually we parked and found an area to secure the dogs. I had planned ahead and made sure they each had a long-lasting dog treat for the journey, but Levis was having nothing of it as we started to walk away. Amidst the hustle and bustle (and even in the stairwell one floor up) you could hear a loud, displeased Basenji yodel. Needless to say I was concerned about them for the entire 10 hour trip...add to that the scary storm we passed through on Bass Strait that had even the staff saying it was unusually rough. I think I managed half an hour sleep and was champing at the bit to be reunited with the dogs in Devonport. I guess Chris was too because when our parking area was announced, he was up and (almost) running to the animal crates. There was a lot of joy and hugging (and a little excited peeing from Isabella) at that moment and it finally dawned on us that

we were IN Tasmania!



Driving to the Fingal Valley, our new hometown, I was in awe of the beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> century stone houses and endless postcard landscapes...and to be honest, that hasn't stopped; it's gorgeous everywhere you go! The new house was just as we had seen it online and still had many pieces of its 100+ year old history intact. Now that we have settled in for five weeks, everyone is loving life in Tasmania. The dogs have a good sized yard and garden to explore and a patio that overlooks horse paddocks, trees, nature, etc. We even get the occasional muster of wild peacocks and Tasmanian Rosellas picking seed along our fence line.



The adventures have been few so far but truly great. Levis, Rune and Isabella were fascinated by the sights and sounds on their first ever rainforest walk. The running stream was mesmerising to Levis who normally hates water but just had to get right down to the water's edge for a look. We learnt not to go the morning after a night of rain however – leeches everywhere!

We had only been in Tasmania a few days before we saw an ad on local TV for the “Paws at Mole Creek” doggy event. This would be a good opportunity to meet some new dog people, maybe even some Basenjis, and get a present for our BBF (Best Basenji Friend), Taz back in Queensland. It was a two hour drive but the weather and scenery were lovely along the way. We met lots of people and saw some very interesting costumes in the dress-up competitions that day. There were a couple of yummy dog treat stalls and at two of them, the owners came out and asked if our dogs were Basenjis. Unfortunately there were no others there but Levis and Rune got many compliments and pats; one stallholder even took a picture of them for her Facebook page!



On the way home we couldn't help but stop to have our picture taken outside the Trowunna Wildlife Park with their “Big Tasmanian Devil”!!

Our favourite place so far is a gorgeous (and often deserted) stretch of beach along the east coast at Falmouth. For dogs who have never liked the beach, they have a wonderful time! We are now equipped with a couple of



long ropes as makeshift leads and everyone has enough length to trot along, explore and be happy. Isabella likes to run along off-lead and tease the boys with her freedom but recently we have been able to let Rune walk on his own (rope still attached as security of course). Being a mummy's boy he never strays far and will wait for us to catch up if we start dawdling behind. The big drawcard for all three dogs is the fresh kelp that washes up on the beach. They just love to munch and chew on the long, thick seaweed and it is hard to coax them away. Apparently it is really good for mulching your garden with but could you imagine the mess the dogs would make of that!

I know there are many adventures to share with the dogs to come and we are keen to meet other Basenjis and owners here in Tasmania. If you have a Tas-enji (as I like to call them) and would like to meet up for a chat or local walk, please email me – [channieq@gmail.com](mailto:channieq@gmail.com)



## Basenji Health

There are several disorders and diseases that can affect Basenjis. Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA) a genetic disorder causing blindness, Persistent Pupillary Membrane (PPM) a puppy's foetal pupillary membrane fails to dissolve as he matures, Fanconi Syndrome, a genetic kidney disorder, Malabsorption, an inherited intestinal disease that leads to anorexia, chronic diarrhoea and death. Basenjis also seem to be susceptible to Coloboma (gap or hole in the eye structure), Hip Dysplasia, a malformation of the hip joint, Thyroid Disease and Umbilical Hernias. Next issue will feature in depth information on Thyroid conditions in the Basenji.

### DNA Testing...Direct Gene Tests are available for:



## PRA

Progressive Retinal Atrophy is an inherited disease in Basenjis where the eyes are genetically programmed to go blind.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Johnson is now offering a DNA test for PRA in Basenjis through the [Orthopedic Foundation for Animals \(OFA\)](#). This test will identify individual dogs as Clear, Carrier, or Affected for one form of PRA in Basenjis, being referred to as PRA-BJ1. Dr. Johnson's research shows that there are more than one form of PRA in Basenjis. *Because of this, testing clear for this particular form of PRA does not indicate that any individual dog is clear for all PRA types.*

Dr. Johnson found this mutation to be responsible for approximately 50% of the PRA in affected Basenjis that he sampled.





# Fanconi Syndrome

Much has been written about the importance of testing our Basenjis for this genetic disease and still many Basenjis in Australia go untested.

Fanconi Syndrome is a genetic disorder of Basenjis in which the proximal renal tubules of the kidney do not properly reabsorb electrolytes and nutrients into the body, but "spill" them instead into the urine. Symptoms include excessive drinking, excessive urination, and glucose in the urine. Untreated Fanconi Syndrome will result in muscle wasting, acidosis, poor condition and death. An inexpensive treatment protocol is available for those dogs who test "Affected." Most dogs in Australia that have been tested are "Clear/Normal" or "Carrier" which require no treatment. A few "Affected" dogs have been found in Australia so testing is important. Several have died, some of which were never tested. You can view dogs tested in Australia here:

<https://secure.offa.org/breedstats/AustralianFAC.pdf>

The onset of Fanconi Syndrome is typically between four and eight years of age, although onset has occurred as early as two years and as late as eleven years, and can be misdiagnosed as Diabetes if your vet is not familiar with Genetic Fanconi Syndrome. The earlier the disease is detected, the less damage is done to tissues and organs.

Testing for both PRA and FS is by the simple process of a cheek swab and at the time of printing the fee for each test is US\$65 and includes the test kit, laboratory processing, and subsequent registration in the OFA databases, kits are available from:

The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals <https://secure.offa.org/cart.html>



So don't delay, order your test today!



# Out of Africa



By Ethel Blair Photos by Ethel Blair and Michael Work.

I left Brisbane, Queensland on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011 at 8:30pm, the temperature was 32C (89.6F) I arrived at Entebbe, Uganda on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at around 2:30pm, the temperature was the same as I had left. Outside the Airport I was greeted by Bourgainvillia, Umbrella and Paw Paw trees, which left me with a strong feeling of familiarity with home.

I quickly found my driver and we headed into Kampala, which was around 50k from Entebbe. It did not take long to realise that beyond the similarity in temperature and flora this country is very different from home. Within five minutes we were stopped at our first security point manned by guards with machine guns. We passed through with no difficulty. As we drove through the villages the presence of soldiers was pervasive and many people were out and about because it was election day.

I met up with the rest of our party and the next day returned to Entebbe Airport to fly by light plane to Bunia on the border and then on to Dungen, DR Congo. The Dungen airstrip was very small and, as we touched down, there were two 4 wheel drives waiting to take us to the Catholic Mission where we were to stay.

My room had a single bed, a small bedside shelf and the most important thing of all – a mosquito net. The toilet was a squatting down affair and ablutions were done out of a bucket.

When we came home from our daily sojourns we would gather on the verandah. There was a lot of talk about our favourite topic – Basenjis. Dinner was served in the common dining room and it varied among chicken, buffalo, pork, vegetables, fish, beans, rice, pineapples and bananas.

The first Basenji I saw belonged to a person who visited or worked at the Mission compound. This Basenji treated us with caution and growled a lot when we were near.

On the second day of the trip we found two puppies in a village. These puppies were later named Akua and Lobi. Akua is the Zande word for the Borasus Palm tree and Lobi means tomorrow. When the locals brought puppies to us they were carried in a wicker basket. The going price for a Basenji puppy was the price of a chicken, or gifts were also accepted. The group generally agreed that Akua had potential and therefore he could go to the US and Lobi would go to a pet home in Europe. I made the decision on

the spot to take Akua, but little did I know that this decision would have a major impact on my plans to return home. I had the two puppies we acquired in my room with me, there was a lot of pooping and peeing and playing all through the night.



Each day we would split into two groups and drive in convoy into the surrounding area, around 50 to 80ks. A network of awful roads criss-crossed the jungle. We would stop when we came across any Basenjis.



The Basenjis I saw were skinny, injured and were full of ticks and fleas, puppies tended to have bloated stomachs from carrying a worm burden. I also noted it was quite common for Basenjis to be injured by camp fires.

To me many of the Basenjis looked plain, the amount of wrinkle varied, their tails were often not very curly and some had colour miss-marks. However, to give this view some balance, we saw some very nice

Basenjis as well. Resources for both people and Basenjis are not plentiful so it was easy to see why many of the Basenji mothers were very skinny and could easily die trying to take care of their puppies. Life is really tough for Basenjis here in DRC and I suspect they would not see the ages of sixteen and eighteen years of age that our Basenjis back home can reach.

Akua and Lobi were around 3 weeks old. The regimen for new puppy arrivals was to wash and dry each puppy, use spot on treatment for ticks, fleas and worms, feed them some biscuits and water and leave them to sleep in their kennels. Each day, if puppies were brought back to the Mission, this was their introduction to their new life.

We stayed at the Mission for eight days and, as time progressed, our mornings and evenings were spent feeding, walking, playing, nursing and cleaning puppies. One thing that became evident very quickly was that their

temperaments were very relaxed and loving. They seemed to be very attentive to us and were very easy to train and manage.



Toward the end of our stay we went to a village where the locals were dressed for hunting, they had also readied their nets and their dogs were wearing Borasus



hunting bells. We were fortunate to be in the right place at the right time and took lots of photos.

The time was approaching fast to leave Dungen and return to Uganda, the light aircraft was loaded with all our luggage and our six Basenjis and we flew to Bunia to get our passports and export papers for the Basenjis checked. We flew through a storm on the flight to Entebbe, I recall everyone was very quiet as we were buffeted around, a round of applause broke out when we landed safely and there were many sighs of relief.

That night our Vet came to visit the puppies to give them Rabies injections and a general health check.

The plan was for all the puppies to fly back with the Americans but Akua was too young to fly in a crate. I had to organise for him to fly with me in the cabin of the plane a week later. Ethiopian Air flew non stop from Addis Ababa to Washington DC so we finally made it to America, Akua travelled like an angel.

He is now living with me in Brisbane and is soon to add his African genes to the Australian Basenji gene pool.



# BBNA Gallery



Rosie



Zulu, Ginny, Taz, Hunter and Rosie



Ginny



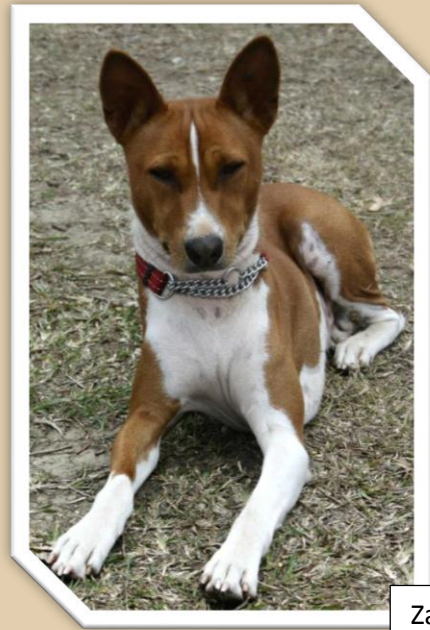
Jet



Lily and William



PopStar



Zac



Taz, Jet and Hunter





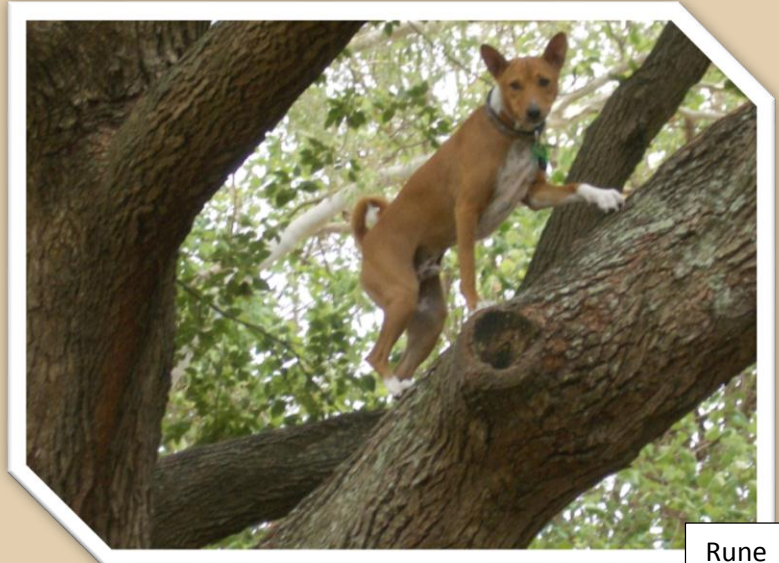
Levis and Rune



Hunter



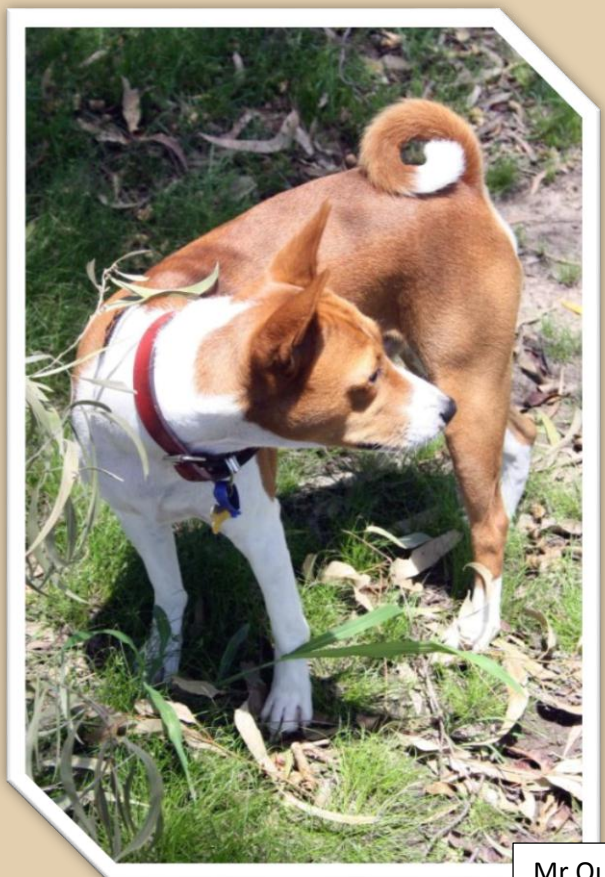
Lily



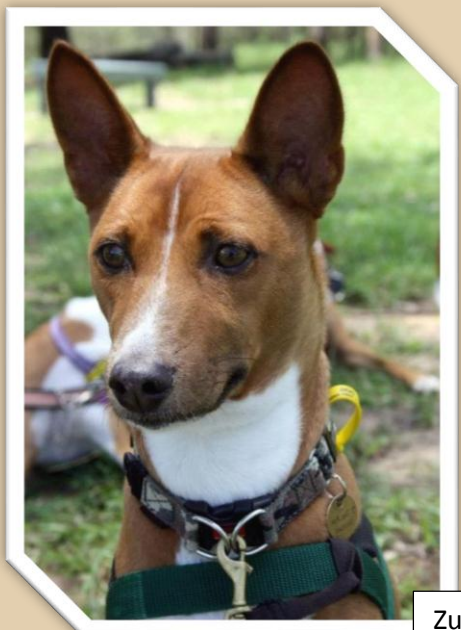
Rune



Taz



Mr Que



Zulu

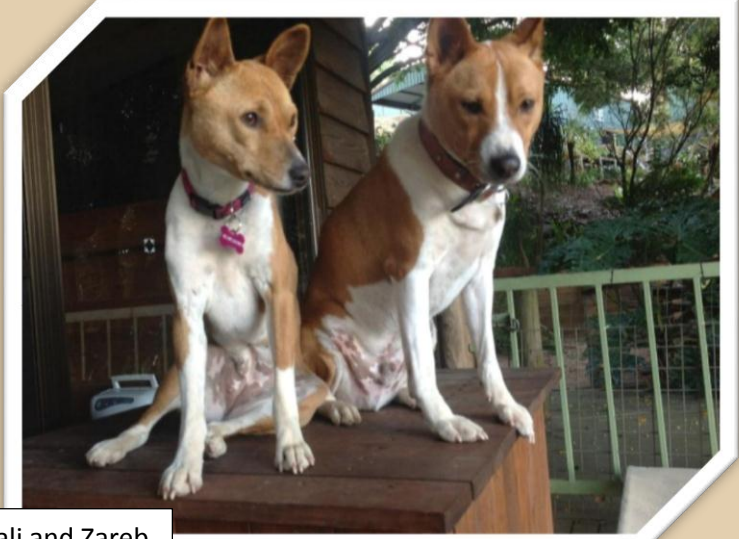




Levis



Hope



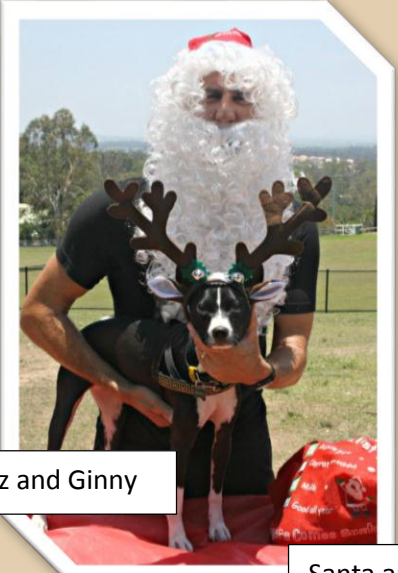
Amali and Zareb



Hope and Ebony



Bindi



JJ, Jewel, Taz and Ginny

Santa and Hunter



Bob

BBNA Baroo is a Bi Monthly Magazine.

The BBNA Baroo welcomes your contributions. Articles covering all facets of the Basenji are welcome for our Editors consideration.

We accept Show and Trial reports and appreciate photos that accompany these events.

Please note the name of the photographer of pictures you send so that proper credit is given.

Please contact us at: [basenjibreednetworkaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:basenjibreednetworkaustralia@gmail.com)

The deadline for material submitted for consideration in the next BBNA Baroo Issue:

5th of the month preceeding the next Issue

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