

Rare honour for stalwart sheep dog triallist

THE ANNUAL farmer and sheep dog triallist Murray Lott has earned rare high honours for his contribution to the sport.

And he has just received another with the New Zealand Sheep Dog Trials Association electing him a life member at its last annual meeting.

Mr Lott's induction makes him only the fourth South Islander to be given the sport's top honour, and the second Southland triallist behind the legendary W E (Bill) Haddell. He is the only surviving induction.

His latest honour gives Mr Lott, 89, a new trifecta as he is also a life member of the Southland Centre and Garston Sheep Dog Trials Club.

He has been linked to the Garston club for 55 years and still has his three dogs moving to Manapouri Downs three years ago.

A dog triallist since the age of 11, Mr Lott has competed successfully at club, provincial, island and national level. At all levels he and his dogs achieved numerous successes over a long period of time, one of the most precious being his selection for New Zealand in the 1993 test series in Townsville, Australia.

Standout memories include his successful stints in the televised Tux series when audience ratings reached heights not anticipated.

Despite all that, another Southland Centre life member, John Shand, now of Clyde, said it was in admin-

istration that Mr Lott really excelled.

Every dog centre gained as a result of his administrative works, he said.

In addition, Mr Lott was one of New Zealand's top trial judges, Mr Shand said.

He also built an impressive record in administration, including a 29-year stint as Southland Centre delegate, a further three as vice-president and 30 years on the executive.

At national level, he served on the judges' panel from 1986 to 1999, 19 years on the New Zealand stud book register committee, 17 years as councillor, and 10 years on the emergency committee.

Not a man to readily talk about himself, Mr Lott enthused when he relived memories of his outstanding dogs — two of the best being Clan and Pauline.

He has retained their bloodlines by careful breeding.

A rare one to offer advice, Mr Lott believed dogs could not be forced. "They have to want to do it (compete). Pups have to be pleased to see you," he said.

This comes in contrast with the harsh treatment formerly given to trialling dogs, treatment no longer acceptable.

Although he has won everything the sport can offer, and given much more, Mr Lott refuses to sit idle. His next crusade is his bid to qualify for another national championships.

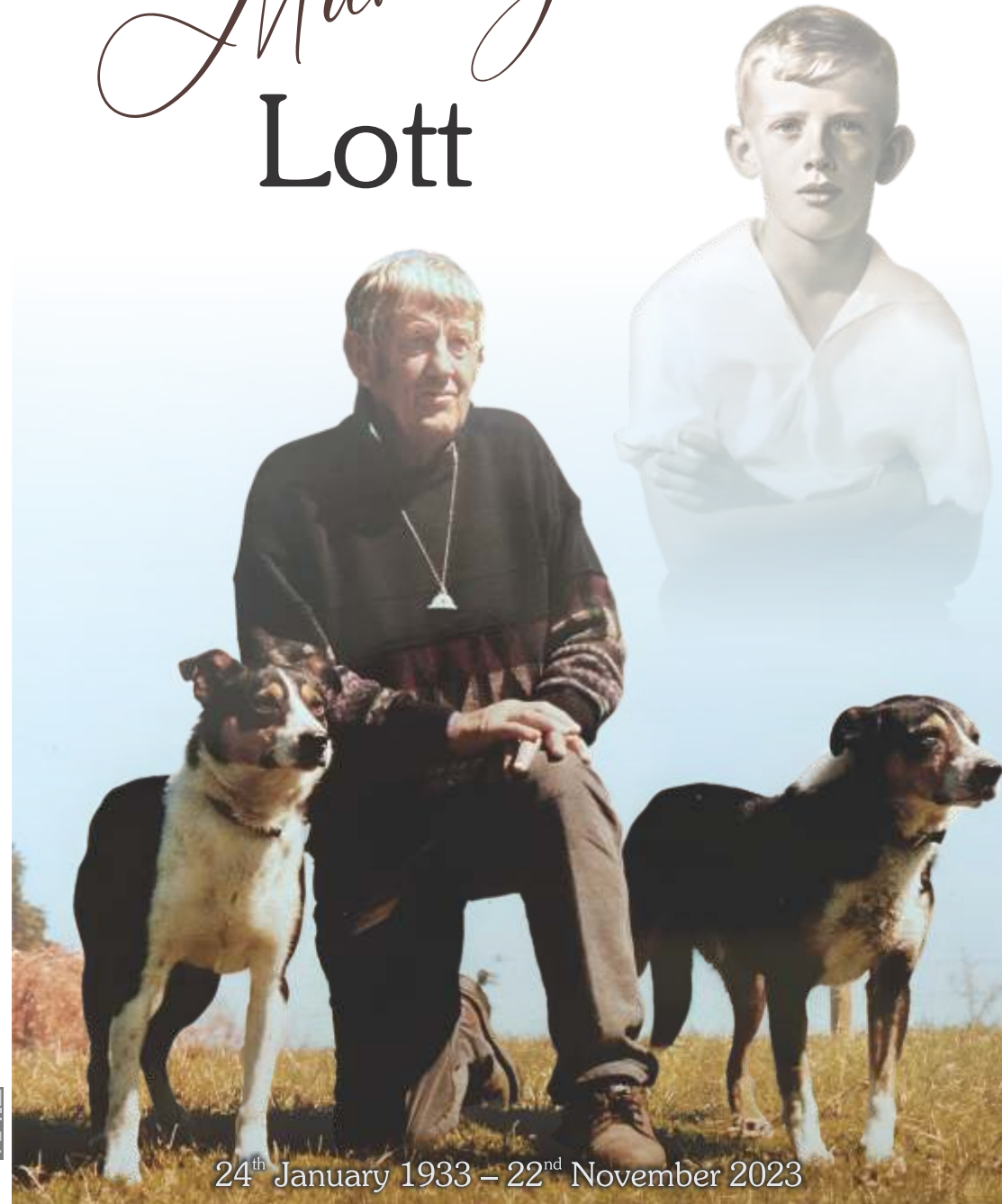


Picture: WWOZ 303VL

Murray Lott, who was elected a life member of the New Zealand Sheep Dog Trials Association displays a photograph of his two dogs Clan and Spy after the final of the televised Tux show in 1990.

With Love We Remember

Murray
Lott



INVITATION

Decima and her family thank you for your attendance, love and support today.

You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments and a yarn while you share further memories of Murray over a beer.



A service to celebrate Murray's life was held at the Te Anau Club on Thursday 30th November 2023 at 2.00pm

Led by: Carmen Hope

Speaking: Geoff Allison
Campbell Lott
Kent Ebbet
Southland Centre President
Jackie Sarginson
Garston Sheep Dog Club

Pall Bearers: Trevor Lott
Campbell Lott
Stephen Lott
Bill Lott
George Lott
Fraser Lott

