

Meet Your Breeders!

Doreen Duffin ~ Makuba Basenjis, Australia

1. How did you get started in Basenjis?

In 1969, when we'd been married a year, my husband Ron wanted a dog. I'd always had dogs, in fact still owned a Welsh Corgi, which I left with my parents when we got married, as he was too old to uproot from his familiar surroundings. As I'd always been fascinated with Basenjis, after seeing the first ever to be exhibited at the Royal Melbourne Show, I suggested one of those, not even knowing if there were any in Victoria. As luck had it, the following weekend after discussing it, there was an 7-month-old dog, Azande The Egyptian, (Ra) advertised in the newspaper, so we went to see him and bought him.

2. Why did you start breeding? When?

The Wednesday after we got Ra, I was home ill from work, and could hear Ra howling from loneliness, so decided to get him a mate for company - definitely not for breeding, as we had absolutely no intention of breeding dogs. Again, as luck had it, on that Friday night, we had a phone call from his breeder asking if we'd like to have an 18-month old bitch, as some other breeders were cleaning out their kennels, as they had too many dogs. We said we'd love her but couldn't afford to pay much, as we'd just bought a new house and, with the cost of Ra, our finances were about nil. But after speaking to the breeders of "Pharaoh Amber" we decided to take her, as they said we could have her for nothing provided, we bred a litter from her and they got pick of litter. Now, I was terrified at that idea as I'd never even seen anything born, and thought I wouldn't be able to cope, but they said they'd help, so we ended up taking her. Thus "Makuba" Basenji Kennels was born. As she'd been entered in the Basenji Club of Victoria's Open Parade, they asked if we'd come along and show her, which we did. She ended up winning Best Intermediate in Parade (in spite of my extremely inept handling as a complete novice the first time in the ring), so that spurred us on to greater things. Those two Basenjis ended up as Australian Champions.

3. What persons influenced you most strongly?

In Australia, I'd say that Nance and Frank Anderson, of Abadan Basenjis in Sydney, had the greatest influence, as Nance was very well versed in dog knowledge and Basenjis, and gave me lots of good advice. Both she and Frank died far too early. Overseas it was Bunty Bowers of Domewood Basenji fame, and also Elspet Ford of Taysenji fame.

4. What have you seen improve in Basenjis over the years.

Overall breed type and temperament. In the early days here they were longer in back, shorter in leg, and heavier boned. That beautiful far reaching, swift, tireless gait was rarely seen. And temperament was a bit "dicey".

5. What do you think today's Basenji breeders need to pay special attention to?

In today's Australian Basenjis I feel we have extremely good breed type, with the occasional one heavier than one would like, and also

gait could be improved on some, with some attention to be paid to fronts. But, overall, they are good. In the American ones I have seen, I feel that heads could improve, especially to get rid of the round, light eyes. Fortunately, one doesn't see the very long muzzle that used to be seen 20 years ago. Also, feet are a problem, with many large, flat, and open feet. I've found temperament on the US Basenjis to be excellent, and coats and gait on the older stock, is good too. May I just mention how disappointed I was with the young stock at the 2003 National, where I found so many bad fronts, and the front movement was rather atrocious, with legs swinging everywhere. I sincerely hope that has improved now.

6. What advice do you have to a new breeder getting started?

Read as much as you can. Talk to good breeders - not only Basenji breeders. You will get lots of different opinions, but then it is up to you to sort things out for yourself. Watch plenty of dogs at shows, once again, not only Basenjis. Differentiate between the good ones and the not so good ones, and try to develop an eye for a good dog. Some people are lucky and are born with a good eye, but I feel that if one studies enough, one can develop it too.

7. What dogs you've seen or owned stand out as outstanding examples of the breed, and why?

I think the best Basenji I have ever seen in the world was Sydney breeder Kylie Delacourt's "Gr Ch Wazazi Perfect Dazzler" (Borasus Sun Over Morocco x Ch Wazazi Silver Jubilee) (Bobby). He was the epitome of the breed Standard, but, according to Kylie, he was a "bugger" to handle and show. But when he showed well, he looked superb and moved beautifully. I was the first person to use him at stud when I flew up to Sydney with my bitch, Ch Makuba Kat Kalani (Lani), to mate her to Bobby. I'd seen him win Best Baby Puppy in Show at the New South Wales Specialty the previous October, and just fell in love with him then. Lani was mated a bit early (couldn't change my prebooked flights) but she had three puppies, two of which were shown. The tri boy, Ch Makuba Maaya Mindani, won the Baby Puppy Dog class at that year's NSW Specialty, and his sister, Ch Makuba Maaya Mkylee, came second in the Baby Puppy Bitch class. Be mindful that each Baby Puppy class at the NSW Specialty has about 30 to 40 entries, as it's held just at the right time for babies. Bobby went on to sire many litters, and each litter was true to the sire's type, and some beautiful Basenjis now go back to Bobby. Another of Kylie Delacourt's beautiful Basenjis was Bobby's dam, "Gr Ch Wazazi Trybal Image" (Ch Baagne Hustler x Ch Baagna Justa Honey). She was a lovely girl who became the top winning bitch ever in Australia. Another great Australian bitch was Denise Doyle's "Ch Helios Lady Of The Nile" (Ch Afrika Art Nouveau x Helios Rane Royale) who did some wonderful winning which included Basenji Specialties, plus All Breed Shows. And a dog bred and owned by John Forbes, "Ch Baagna Justa Fella" (Ch Makuba Al Simba x Ch Baagna Golden Style) was a beautiful dog who did a lot of winning, and his movement was just outstanding.

Of the ones I've owned, I'd say that the most outstanding one was "**Ch Makuba Al Amba**" (Ch Afrika Ambassador x Ch Makala Gizelle). She was beautiful type and a great show girl. She won several Basenji Specialty Challenges, including the bitch Challenge at the NSW Specialty under Damara Bolte, and the week before that won the Bitch Challenge and Best of Breed at the NSW Spring Fair under Robert Cole of Canada, who put her photo in his second Basenji book, saying she was one of the best bitches he had ever seen. She never "cracked" it for a Best in Show, but she did win four Best Opposite Sex in Show (in those days we didn't have Runner Up in Show, only Opposite Sex in Show), and one of those Opposite Sex wins was at a very large Melbourne city show with over 2000 entries. That was in the days when All Breeds shows were never under 1500 entries, and usually greatly in excess of that number. In those days we didn't have an award for "Grand Champion", but if we had, she would have attained sufficient points to be called Gr Ch. several times over. Her daughter, "**Ch Makuba Am Mbindi**" (Ch Makuba Al Simba x. Ch Makuba Al Amba) was also a super bitch. She was bred by us, but owned by Mick Lindsay (Tengku Basenjjs) and she was one of the best movers one could ever see. She won Best Opposite Sex in the Hound Group at the Royal Melbourne Show one year when there were over 1000 Hounds entered. The judge was Denny Kodner of the USA, and in her critique she wrote about Bindi being out of coat "but oh, that movement"! The Royal Melbourne Show is the largest show in the Southern Hemisphere and is always held in September, just after our winter. "Bindi" went on to win four Royal Show Challenges and Best of Breed at three of them, which was a tremendous achievement, especially for a bitch. Another gorgeous moving bitch was Amba's dam, **Ch Makala Gizelle**, (Ch Makuba Yamba Samaana x Ch Makala Bahr El Ghazal) (Kala) bred by Dorothy Oestreich in Queensland and owned by us, and one of Kala's Specialty Challenges was when she won Best in Show at the NSW Specialty under one of the greatest judges in the world, the late Mr Bobby James of England. Our last show Basenji is our now six-year-old **Ch Makuba Ky Tania** (Ch Bkela Harlequin x Ch Makuba Maaya Mkylee), who is retired from showing, but she did a lot of winning; and among her wins was a Specialty Challenge, and also a Royal Melbourne Show Best of Breed. At that Show she was also awarded Hound Group 4 under Mr Jon Cole of the USA. All these above mentioned Basenjjs go back to our "Artie" (**Ch Domewood The Artful Dodger - Imp UK**), who was himself a super moving dog, a Specialty Best in Show winner, and an All Breed Best in Show winner.

8. What do you feel are your most significant achievements with the breed?

I consider my most significant achievement with the breed is to import a dog from England back in the 1970's. I went to England in 1973 and visited different kennels and finally imported **Ch Domewood The Artful Dodger** (Domewood Piskey x Domewood Black Gold) (Artie) from Bunty Bower's Domewood Kennels. He duly arrived here in Australia and had to spend three months in quarantine in those days. Four days out of quarantine, he was in his first show and won Best Exhibit in the Hound Group. He had the most superb movement and handed it on to his progeny, which, if I may be so bold as to say, is why the Basenji breed in this country has improved immensely in movement, as most the top winning dogs to this day have at least one line back to Artie, even though he was used very sparingly at stud. Unfortunately, he passed away due to cancer - well before his time. He was the first Basenji in Victoria to win a Best in Show (All Breeds), and a few years later one of his great-grand daughters, our **Ch Tengku Naini** (Ch Jebelmarra Nickita x Ch Makuba Am Mbindi), also won a Best in

Show (All Breeds). Her movement, too, was "out of this world," as she just floated around the ring. Even when she was 12, I had her in a Veteran Class at an All Breeds show, and many people, including Basenji people, came up to me and commented on her gorgeous gait.

9. Anything else you would like to say?

I have never been a "win-at-all-costs" person, as our dogs and showing have been a hobby with us and not a business. We bred a litter only when we planned to keep a puppy - in 37 years we've only bred 25 litters, and I was more concerned in getting good homes for the puppies rather than seeing them in the show ring. The dog world has been so good to us as we've made friends all over the world and have seen parts of the world that I never thought possible. Due to age and a hip replacement, I am not showing or breeding any more, but my interest in the dog world is kept alive by my judging commitments, as I am licensed to judge five of the seven Groups, and am currently studying for the remaining two Groups, Toys and Non Sporting. I have been very fortunate to have judged in England, Finland, South Africa, USA, New Zealand and every State and Territory in Australia. As I say to my husband at times, "the dog world has kept us together"! He became very involved in ring stewarding at shows and also in the administrative side of dog shows, being show manager of several All Breed Clubs, while I showed the dogs and took up judging. It has been a wonderful time.

10. Your chosen Kennel Name is MAKUBA. How did you choose this name? Why? Does it have a meaning? Other information?

I was reading a book on the Serengeti desert at the time and there was a phrase in it "Bwana Makuba" and that was translated as Great Master. I knew that Bwana meant Master or Gentleman, so realized that "Makuba" meant "Great" in that particular dialect. I thought "Basenjjs are great dogs", so "Makuba" it became. It is also easy to pronounce and didn't use up many letters. I was fortunate that when I sent in the list of names (we have to list at least six) Makuba was my first choice and I was lucky that no one else had it.

At that time - in 1969 - we were allowed no more than 24 letters in a dog's registered name, with no more than three words (now we can use more words, but still only 24 letters), so Makuba only took up 6 letters, which allowed another 18 for the rest of the name. As you may know, every Australian breeder MUST have a registered Prefix and that MUST be the first word in the dog's name, thus we know immediately that any dog with Makuba as the first word is bred by me. No one else in Australia can use that name. I can apply to the ANKC to pass it on to some one nominated by me if I wish to, now that I have stopped breeding, and it would then be their registered prefix.

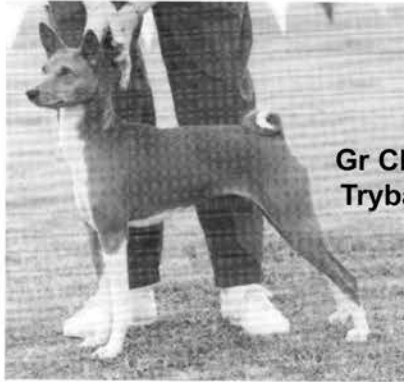
Makuba

Basenjjs

Victoria, Australia



Gr CH Wazazi Perfect Dazzler



Gr CH Wazazi Trybal Image



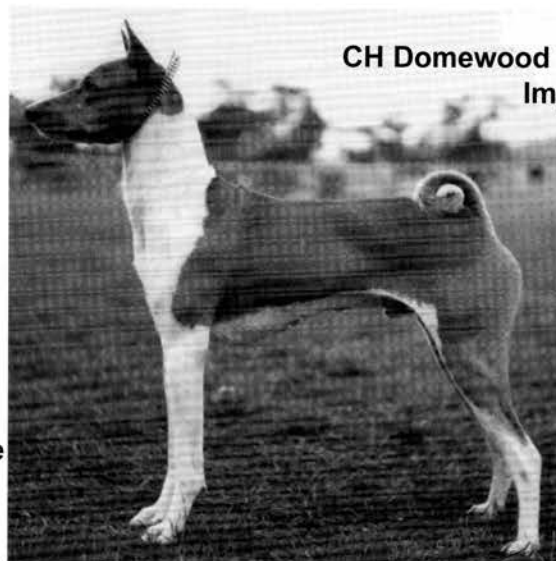
CH Baagna Justa Fella



CH Makuba Al Amba

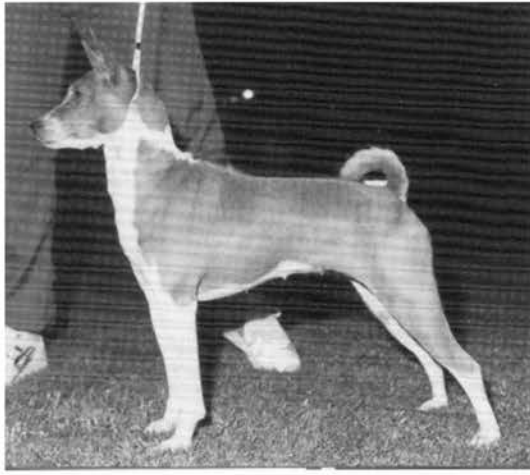


CH Makala Gizelle



CH Domewood The Artful Dodger
Imp UK





**CH Tengku Naini
and Doreen**

