

# ***ADVANCED SCENTWORK***

*with Sonja Needs*

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

GSD Building, Bill Spilstead Complex for Canine Affairs,  
44 Luddenham Road, Orchard Hills NSW

Commencing 10am

Theory with demo dogs. No working spots

Open to any Dogs Australia controlling body member.

**On-line Admission booking & payment to:**



# ADVANCED SCENTWORK

## with Sonja Needs

***Please do not bring your dog unless invited to do so as you will get more out of this workshop if you are able to concentrate on the information and not on whether your dog needs to be walked.***

This workshop is for people competing at Excellent and Masters level Scentwork.  
We will be doing theory in the morning and practical in the afternoon using 5-6 demo dogs.

*Topics covered include:*

### SCENT DYNAMICS

- How dogs recognise and work scent
- How scent moves and is affected by environmental conditions

### TACICAL SEARCHING

- Reading and understanding the search area
- Helping your dog cover the area effectively

### SETTING HIDES

- Setting up hides to both help and extend your dog
- Understanding your dog's behaviour

*Bring:*

- Comfy, weather appropriate clothing (we will be doing some demonstrations outside weather permitting)
- A pen and notebook if you would like to take notes

**Sonja Needs** was an Australian certified and operational Search and Rescue dog handler with her GSD Luther, specialising in urban search and rescue. She has 30 yrs experience training dogs in obedience, tracking, agility and now scentwork. Sonja has expertise in sensory science and human and canine olfactory systems and lectures Animal Science (behaviour and training) as well as winemaking, brewing and agricultural adaptation to climate change at the University of Melbourne, Faculty of Science.

Her research with the University of Melbourne involves using dogs for detection in conservation and for agricultural pest and diseases. Determining firstly the ability of the dogs to detect the target odour and secondly to assess the reliability and thresholds for detection of that target odour. She has extensive knowledge on scent and how it is effected by environmental and atmospheric conditions.

An Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC) Scent Work committee member and Victorian representative for Scent Work as well as a Foundation Judge. Sonja is also a committee member for Scent Work with Dogs NZ. She is a founding and executive committee member of the Australasian Conservation Dog Network (ACDN) which is an association of Universities, government and private organisations who use dogs in the field of conservation.

She is the author and instructor for Scent Dogs Australia's online courses Training Your Dog in Scent Work which has 5 modules including 2 specialist module in tracking and Scent Work. Sonja is a published author with her first book "Tracking for companion and sports dogs" being very well received by the tracking community. She is now turning her attention to writing her second book on Scent Work in Australia.

Sonja lives with her detection dogs, Keely the Border Terrier and Quinn the GSDx.

