

AUSDS Inc. President's Report 2018/2019

Once again, during the last 12 months, there have been some significant forward advances of the Australian Utility Stock Dog Society Inc. I am honoured and privileged to report on the 2018/2019 happenings.

Membership has grown steadily. Welcome to new Members: Mitch Bennett, Wandsworth NSW; Erolyn Blythe, Beaufort Vic; Rod Cavill, Alexandra Vic; Catherine Cheney, Bothwell Tas; Brad Clark, Pyalong Vic; Ben Coster, Yass NSW; Paul Flanagan, Moama NSW; Darren Harcoan Glenaroua Vic; Adam James, Coolac NSW; Craig Ogier, Gisborne Vic; Garry Ostini, Orange NSW; Campbell Smedley, Alexandra Vic; and Nick Walker, Bothwell Tas.

I would like to thank Melissa Harper for taking on the role of Secretary, upon Lesleigh's inability to continue. Also, to Pam Vickery the Treasurer, and the Committee for their ongoing commitment.

There will be a Committee Election at the AGM. Both Les Hall and Kevin Wilson end their 3 year term. Les has agreed to re-stand, but there will be a vacancy on the Committee due to Kevin not standing. I sincerely thank Kevin for his dedication – you have given much support to the Society as a Foundation Member.

Two new and successful 'Stock Dog Challenges' were held during the year. Thanks to David Crawford for the venue, and sheep and cattle at Reids Flat NSW, and thanks to the Manning family for the venue and cattle at Mansfield Vic., and also to Stuart Fox for the sheep, and to Shaws Transport for the cartage. Sponsorship for the two trials was excellent, and all volunteers put in a great deal of effort – non more than Robert Henderson and a couple of his mates. Nigel Brazier won the Encourage with 'Bella' at Reids Flat. At Mansfield, Campbell Smedley with 'Tundabardi Mick' won the Novice, and Ben Coster with 'Coopendale Lucy' won the Encourage – Well Done!

Hopefully, another two 'Stock Dog Challenges' will be held during this coming Spring; again at Holbrook NSW, and Reids Flat NSW. The AUSDS Inc. would be grateful to obtain other suitable venues that have both cattle and sheep available.

'Trialling – a Different Approach' featured as an article in the Australian Working Stock Dog Magazine, and a full page report with photos of Mansfield, appeared in The Land and Stock and Land rural newspapers. You Tube videos of the final of the Novice at Mansfield can also be viewed on the www.ausds.org website. The AUSDS Inc. Facebook Page has also been popular.

Other Happenings:

Score cards have been updated and have a coloured format.

Rod Cavill and Lawson Gulliver were appointed as Judges, and have officiated at trials.

AUSDS Inc. badges were designed and are available at \$10 each. Full Members receive a complimentary badge.

AUSDS Inc. car stickers were designed and are available at \$2 each.

A Registered Breeders listing is now on the www.ausds.org website, and any new registrations can be added.

Dog Registrations and payments are available on line, as an option, through the www.ausds.org website.

All scores given in any section of any aspect (a), (b), (c), and (d) at a trial, are now retained (apart from disqualifications).

For transparency, all scores given for any section of any of the 4 aspects, are displayed on a large spread sheet at trials.

In (c) Yard Work (sheep), more emphasis has been put on general work, and less on backing and barking.

*NB The Committee is working upon the dilemma of backing and barking as a necessity.

Numbered competitor vests, donated by Joeycan (Aust) P/L, add to the prestige of 'Stock Dog Challenges'.

Some Trial Rules have been updated during the year, and can be seen on www.ausds.org website.

Tully Williams has worked tirelessly on an extensive computer program that records Dog Registrations and breeding, which can also incorporate trial results and other data – thanks Tully.

*NB The overall trial results may be displayed publicly on AUSDS Inc. communications, but all assessments given at trials are retained within the data base, which are only available to all Members upon request.

AUSDS Inc. 'Try-Out' days have always been enjoyable. They are low-key days where dogs don't need to be registered, and any handler is encouraged to participate and work their stock dogs in a relaxed trial situation. It can be a cattle or sheep only day, or a mix of any aspects of stock work, providing good stockmanship is taken on board. I encourage any Member to run one, but approval from the Committee of the date and venue, to enable notification of the Society's public insurer, is essential.

The last, but possibly the most important item, is the necessity of **ANIMAL WELFARE**. Handlers are encouraged to be practical and use 'hands-on' – to intervene during trials in order to prevent any abusive, or detrimental effect to stock, especially sheep. If not, regulations and the public, not to mention radical animal activists, may well force the Society to discontinue.

Thanks for all the support I have received, and may our Society grow from strength to strength.

With Respect,

(Rod Cavanagh)

30/6/2019