

## AUSDS Inc. President's Report 2015/2016

Out of serious concern for the future of the 'all-round utility stock dog', came the inception of a national body – the *Australian Utility Stock Dog Society Inc.* The inaugural meeting was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at Creswick, Victoria.

*Foundation Members, Committee and Office Bearers* could not be a more appropriate and finer group of people. Thank you for working so cohesively together – it has created much good will and enjoyment.

A great deal has been achieved during the Society's first year:

*Incorporation* was granted with the backing of a solid and sound *Constitution Essential Natural Traits for High Quality Practical Working Stock Dogs* was adopted for its comprehensiveness, as the premise and bench mark for stock dogs working cattle and sheep – *Aiming at Excellence – Strategies* were sorted out as a base to launch achievements from *Code of Conduct*

has been implemented

The *Logo* was designed and adopted and the *Slogan "Fostering Excellence in Breeding Practical 'Utility' Stock Dogs"* is so applicable

*Information Leaflets* are available and are being distributed

The *Letter Head/Cover Sheet*, along with *Membership Application* forms, *Membership Renewal* forms and the *Register of Members*, have all been established

'*Utility*' sheep trials and '*cattle handling*' trials are under experimentation with optional designs to suit various degrees of difficulty for different categories of dog and handler ability A couple of '*Try-Out*' days at Kevin and Kaye Wilson's and Pam and Dennis Vickery's properties have been much appreciated

At present, Tully Williams is near to getting the *Website* [www.ausds.org](http://www.ausds.org) up and running *Dog Register, Trial Rules and Assessments and Evaluations for Practical 'Utility' Stock Dogs* are close to being adopted along with *Judging Guidelines for Trials*.

Although being hectic at times, these achievements are very gratifying.

There are still many hurdles to cross including public liability insurance, fundraising through sponsorship and donations, promoting the cause of the Society etc. The actual assessment of dogs competing in trials has to eventuate sooner than later, and membership expansion must be strived at, for this will surely be the Society's future strength.

'**Encouragement**' to handlers and their dogs is the most critical commodity for the growth of the Society. The general feeling is that *enjoyment* will be created because of it, but *failure* is inevitable without it.

The Society must also have a congenial relationship with other stock and stock dog men and women and associations – it is so important. I am positive that this can be achieved, having added benefits to all involved.

The AUSDS Inc. has a definite *Aim and Purpose* and *Objectives*. It is not a 'fun' organisation. It is not set up to pacify the 'hobby farmer' or to appease people's 'sporting ideals', or promote 'professional correctness' by handlers at trials. The Society is for the ***betterment of the working stock dog***. We must always be mindful of this.

In conclusion, thanks for allowing me the privilege and honour of being the President of the AUSDS Inc. during its initial year, and I hope, with confidence, that the Society continues towards a successful and bright future.

With respect,

(Rod Cavanagh)      6/7/2016