

AUSDS Inc. President's Report 2017/2018

Undoubtedly, the most significant happening over the last 12 months was the running of the AUSDS Inc. 'Stock Dog Challenge' at Holbrook NSW on 8th April 2018. Apart from being successful, it was a consolidation of what the Society is about. A special thanks to Hamish and Abby Paton for the venue and stock used. Congratulations to Adam James from Coolac NSW in coming 1st and 3rd working 'Myamba Moss' and 'Yarrabee Scout' respectively, and to Jake Nowlan from Bigga NSW in coming 2nd working 'RM'. Thanks to all competitors for their support, to the volunteers and sponsorship. Without the help and the contributions made, the event would not have been the success it was. Due to there being no stock cartage costs, a small profit of \$17.34 was made.

The AUSDS Inc. Facebook page and the website www.ausds.org have contributed greatly to the Society's wider coverage and acknowledgements – the majority being positive 'likes'.

Welcome to new Members: Melissa Harper, Tooborac Vic; Robert Henderson, Cowra NSW; Deborah Maxwell, Guyra NSW; Hamish Paton, Morven NSW; and Greg Walton, Mulgoa NSW.

Thanks for the continuing support from: Secretary Miss Lesleigh Wright; Treasurer Pam Vickery; and the Committee Members – Lawson Gulliver, Les Hall, Andrew Newell, Tully Williams and Kevin Wilson. It is through these dedicated people that so much has been achieved throughout the year.

Other

Achievements:

Secretary's email address

secretary@ausds.org; Registrar's email address registrar@ausds.org; 'One Drive' cloud back-up for computer documents; *AUSDS Inc. Certificate of Stud Prefix Registration*; Differentiate between *verified* and *unverified* in the *AUSDS Inc. Dog Registration Application Form*; *AUSDS Inc. Rules (Constitution)* changes and approved by the Department of Justice and Regulations (CAV) for: i) Replace Rule No **15. Disciplinary Action**; and ii) Rule No **26**. delete the word *Senior*, only retain **Vice President**; Delete *evaluations* from all documents as it is considered too subjective (*assessments* are more definitive and accepting); Establishment of documents for *AUSDS Inc. Office Bearers Roles*; Added description of: i) 'Green Group' with *Force and Hold* Obstacles (sheep); ii) 'Red Group' with *Heading* Obstacles (sheep); and iii) 'Blue Group' with *Force and Hold with Pen* Obstacles (sheep); Descriptive document *AUSDS Inc. Judging System* for Facebook and website; Descriptive document *AUSDS Inc. Trials – Summary* for Facebook and website.

Being a member of the Australian Federation for Livestock Working Dogs, I as a delegate of the Society, attended a meeting that discussed the national concern of LWDs being connected to the 'Puppy Farms Pet Shops' regulations. Towards the end of 2017, the Vic. State Government released a statement of reprieve that; 'Farm Dogs' are exempt – hoping this outcome will spread nation-wide?

'Try-Out' days have not eventuated during the last 12 months. I consider they can be beneficial in various ways by giving inexperienced dogs and handlers 'a-go' during an enjoyable and social day, and for recruiting and obtaining experience for Judges. There is a newly proposed format for Score Cards on the agenda which, hopefully, will ease the concept

of giving a score out of a maximum allocation. It should also help in educating and recruiting Judges – which is critical.

Committee Meetings held during the last year have involved Committee Members being present with phone hook-ups at times. Amongst many of the discussions and decisions made, some Trial Rules have been added and others upgraded. I encourage everyone to look at the website www.ausds.org from time to time to keep abreast of Society documents and issues.

*NB Foundation issues can only be changed by an ‘absolute majority’ of the Committee Members, but any Member input is welcomed.

Animal Welfare and Biosecurity continue to escalate as major threats to running trials, so the Society must remain vigilant. It is important to run another ‘Stock Dog Challenge’ in the near future in order that enthusiasm remains high. A venue with stock, and major sponsorship is required. The Society needs your help and positive suggestions.

I have been privileged in being the President for the AUSDS Inc. over the last 12 months – thanks.

Once again: The Society is for the *betterment of the working stock dog*.

With Respect,

(Rod Cavanagh)

30 /6/2018