

AUSDS Inc. President's Report 2019/2020

During the last 12 months there has been little event activity within the Australian Utility Stock Dog Society Inc. It was disappointing that the 'Stock Dog Challenge' scheduled early in October 2019, at Holbrook NSW, had to be cancelled due to the lack of entries, also other proposed and scheduled events were postponed due to the wide spread drought and Covid-19 virus. However, the Society is looking forward to a bright road ahead, holding future events when conditions improve.

The AUSDS Inc. has made some great advances nevertheless. The Committee received 'feedback' from Members and competitors, and have been pro-active to many requests:

Backing and Barking are now only assessed, and aren't counted as trial points given

More emphasis is now placed on general work (stockmanship)

Uncompleted sections/obstacles are now only assessed, and aren't counted as trial points given

More achievable obstacles are now in place

Encourage, Novice, and Open are now named Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 trials

Workers who win a Level 1 trial are now ineligible to compete in another

The loyal support given by the Committee and Office Bearers during the past year has been much appreciated. Both Tully Williams and Melissa Harper resigned from their respective positions which regrettably caused some concern. But, Mitch Bennett and Darren Harcoan have ably filled vacancies on the Committee; Lawson Gulliver took on the role as Vice President; and Naomi White is now the Secretary – thank you all.

Welcome to new Members: Kathleen Reid, Towong Vic.; Stephan Bullas, Lara Vic.; Michelle Wilkins, Winmalee NSW; and Annette Cavanagh, Camberwell Vic. However, a few membership renewals didn't eventuate. The Committee is grateful for the appointment of other Judges; Craig Ogier, Gisborne Vic.; Mitch Bennett, Wandsworth NSW; Roland Pell, Undera Vic.; and Fred Rains, Muttama NSW.

Other Happenings:

The AUSDS Inc. Facebook page continues to be popular with many 'likes' of some excellent photos of stock dogs at work, that Naomi White has been trickling through. I encourage others who may have other suitable photos, and ideas for Facebook, to contact Naomi.

The website www.ausds.org continues to be updated.

An attractive AUSDS Inc. Banner, designed by Amy Cutler, along with roadside corflute signage, will be displayed at future 'Sock Dog Challenges'. They were kindly sponsored by Alan Beckett, *Balmoral Park Angus*, and I. and G. Peterson.

The idea of having a Paypal account in order for payments to be made on line, has been disbanded.

A conflicting debate occurred for a period re holding some 'sheep only trials', but there was no conclusive outcome other than to leave things as they are.

A copy of the *AUSDS Inc. Database for Assessments of Registered Dogs* for Holbrook NSW, Reids Flat NSW, and Mansfield Vic. 'Stock Dog Challenges', is now available to Members upon request.

The Society, through the Australian Federation for Livestock Working Dogs, has helped with the portrayal and recognition of the working stock dogs' important role to the livestock industry.

The Australian Stock Dog Magazine featured an AUSDS Inc. article and advert. in the December 2019 issue.

Thanks to everyone who has supported the Society over the last 12 months. In some ways it hasn't been easy, but I am confident that if we are loyal to the slogan "***Fostering Excellence in Breeding Practical 'Utility' Stock Dogs***", along with a clear and transparent attitude to all, the Society can only gain greater heights.

With Respect,

(Rod Cavanagh) 30/6/2020