

AUSDS Inc. President's Report 2022/2023

Over the last 12 months the Society has been relatively dormant. Unfortunately, not one 'Stock Dog Challenge' has been held, but I am hopeful that enthusiasm prevails and that the Australian Utility Stock Dog Society Inc. becomes the vibrant body that it should be. My expectations are high.

I wish to reflect upon a few of the Society's achievements since its 2015 inception:

- Became an incorporated 'not for profit' body with a sound constitution
- Created a unique logo and banner
- Established a substantial public liability insurance cover
- Developed a transparent judging system, where dogs have to earn a score on merit
- 7 successful 'Stock Dog Challenges' have been held
- 206 dogs are AUSDS registered
- 150 dogs are listed on the AUSDS's Database with assessments
- Created an ethical Animal Welfare Policy and a practical Biosecurity Plan
- 2 Life Memberships have been awarded
- Has a creditable total of over \$9,000

It was an honour to award Robert Henderson, COWRA NSW, a Life Membership. His outstanding voluntary contribution and his continual compassion and support towards the Society's ideals has been much appreciated.

Thanks to Brenton Allport, ARMIDALE NSW, for fulfilling the vacancy of Les Hall's retirement from the Committee. Les's help and advice over the years has been much appreciated. Thanks also to Kylie Lewis for taking on the Registrar role, and to Andrew Newell for his role as Treasurer. These 2 positions were previously held by Pam Vickery – thanks Pam. Welcome to Brian Allen, WOODSTOCK NSW, as a Full Member.

Both Mitch Bennett, Guyra NSW event, and Andrew Crawford, Reida Flat NSW event, have indicated that they are keen to hold future 'Stock Dog Challenges', but they are unable to at present, due to circumstances. I drove to COBBITTY near Sydney to inspect a possibility, but unfortunately the venue for the paddock component wasn't suitable. Andrew Newell and I inspected a venue at HEXHAM Vic. which seems ideal, but we are struggling to obtain sheep and cattle.

I attended the Supreme Stock Dog (SSD) trial at Mansfield Vic. and the Ultimate Stock Dog (USD) trial at Cowra NSW. At both events sheep and cattle were worked and they had large entries with great success. I consider that the potential for the AUSDS Inc. 'Stock Dog Challenges' to expand is very much alive – we must promote ourselves.

A promotional/request package about the AUSDS Inc.'s activities is currently being circulated. The Society is seeking help to find suitable venues with both sheep and cattle to hold 'Stock Dog Challenges'. Also, a request for major sponsorship is included. It is envisaged that a substantial increase in prize monies would attract greater participation of competitors, especially for Level 2, but it is important to retain financial viability.

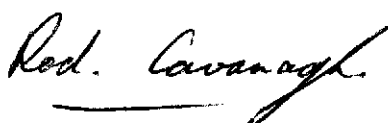
An 8ft. x 5ft. tandem trailer having a stock crate and separate cargo box has been considered ideal for the Society to contain equipment and for use at 'Stock Dog Challenges'. The Committee has allocated \$2,000 towards such a purchase.

The Australian Federation for Livestock Working Dogs (AFLWD), of which the Society is a member, endorsed our concern about the Victorian New Animal Care and Protection Laws. This governmental procedure is still in obedience.

Thanks for the confidence in me as your Australian Utility Stock Dog Society president over the year.

The Society is for the betterment of the working stock dog

With Respect,



Rod Cavanagh 30/6/2023