

AUSDS Inc. President's Report 2023/2024

The Australian Utility Stock Dog Society Inc. has certainly gone through a grey period. Two years have passed without a single 'Stock Dog Challenge' being held. However, the Society has great expectations, and the Committee is striving to hold a couple of events as soon as possible.

We have found that it is no easy task to organise and to seek suitable and willing properties that have both sheep and cattle available. The cost of transporting stock to public venues is prohibitive, and contacts across various states of the country can be difficult to obtain. It is important and far better to 'hold-fire' and only run events that do not compromise the Society's aim and purpose and past standards.

Thankfully, the AUSDS Inc. will hold the next 'Stock Dog Challenge' very soon – Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September at Glenaroua Vic. hosted by Burgess Rural. Prize monies for the event have been increased to \$4,000. Sashes, trophies, medallions, and stockmanship awards will be up for grabs as usual.

Lawson Gulliver has also offered to host a 'Stock Dog Challenge' at Eurimbla NSW during May 2025.

Other positive happenings:

- (i) A new tandem trailer 8ft x 5ft with a cage has recently been purchased, helped by the contribution of many people towards the 'trailer fundraiser', including Burgess Rural, M. Coonan, H. Homewood, Terra Australis Advisory, D. Beatty, P. Vickery, and A. & J. Cavanagh. The trailer will contain and transport Society equipment and will also be an important obstacle in the sheep yard component at 'Stock Dog Challenges'. Les Hall is converting the back swing gate to a sliding gate so that sheep can be loaded and unloaded.
- (ii) Laura Tuffin has designed a great new coloured 'flyer', and it is being professionally printed. Its distribution will promote the ideals of the Society.

Adrian Carpenter, Cressy Tas. was welcomed as a new Full Member. Thanks to all those who have renewed their memberships during the year, and the Society look forward to your continued support into the future.

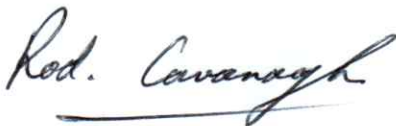
The Australian Federation for Livestock Working Dogs (AFLWD), of which the Society is a member, endorsed our second submission of concern re the Victorian New Animal Care and Protection Laws. This governmental procedure is still in obedience and could drag on for another year or so.

Also, the Society has lodged a submission re Australian Animal Welfare Strategy changes. We emphasised that the requirements for **livestock working dogs** is different to that of companion dogs and other dog breeds.

The support and help that each and everyone has been able to give over the last 12 months is much appreciated
– thanks –

The Society is for the betterment of the working stock dog

With Respect,



Rod Cavanagh 30/6/2024