

# Working Stock Dog Gazette

January-March 2018



## Tip Dog and Jade share Dog of the Year Award

*North Coast Working Stock Dog Association Life Member Ray Smith, left, presents Athol Essery with the association's Dog of the Year Award for his dog Tip Dog. Athol shared the award with long-time trialler Stephen Flatley and his bitch Jade. They both ended the year with 26.5 points. Athol also won the award for the handler with the most points won in maiden events. Turn to page 2 for the full story.*

## Postal vote will decide future of revised rules

The future of the NSW Working Stock Dog Association's revised rules will be decided by a postal vote.

NSWWSDA president Lew Molloy said a postal ballot allowed all members, not just those able to attend the next meeting, the chance to vote on the proposed rules.

The revised rules were put together by the association's executive committee after all members were given the chance, in a mail-out last year, to tell the committee what they believed should be changed.

They were trialled at the Australian Cow Dog Challenge at Tamworth in November, with all members given until 31 December last year, to provide feedback

"The rules affect everyone who

trials, so everyone should have the chance to decide what they should be," NSWWSDA president Lew Molloy said.

"A postal vote gives everyone that opportunity."

The postal vote, which was sent out with the newsletter, asks members to vote on the following motion:

*"That the NSW Working Stock Dog Association undertake a 12 month trial of the proposed NSW rules starting 1 July, 2018. If at the end of the period the members are not happy with the rules, changes can be made or a return to the current rules will take place."*

Members will have until Friday 16 March to return the ballot papers to the returning officer, with the results

of the vote to be announced at the association's meeting at Glencoe on Saturday 24 March.

Only votes on ballot papers that have been formally notarized by the returning officer will be accepted as eligible votes.

Eligible members who, for whatever reason, are not on the newsletter mailing list and have not received a ballot paper should contact the returning officer Janelle McLennan (phone 02 6664 1215) directly to request a ballot paper be sent to them. Such requests will only be accepted up until 1 March 2018.

The proposed new rules can be viewed on the association's website at <http://nswworkingstockdogs.org.au/course-rules.html>

## President's report

Hi everyone, by the time you receive this newsletter a submission for the proposed legislation for companion animals, breeding cats and dogs will have been sent to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

A group made up of representatives from all the livestock working dog groups in NSW has been working together since 2015 to have livestock working dogs taken out of the companion animals act and given a separate code of practise.

We attended a meeting in Sydney in December with the DPI and we were able to put a strong case to them for this to happen.

The group has been seeking support from

the Farmers' Federation and members of parliament. It is the NSW Minister for Agriculture who will make the final decision as to how the legislation will be structured.

Hopefully, he will realise that livestock working dogs are not companion animals.

If anyone wants information to pass onto their local State Member to lobby for support let me know and I can get some paperwork to you.

See you at the trials.

**PS: THE ASSOCIATION IS STILL LOOKING FOR A NEW SECRETARY.** Lew Molloy, President NSW Working Stock Dog Association.

## Robert Johnston to lead North Coast Assoc



*Above left: Life member of the North Coast Working Dog Association Ray Smith, right, presents the Maiden/Novice Dog of the Year Award to Robert Johnston for his dog Sam. Above right: Long-time secretary-treasurer of the North Coast Working Dog Association Joy Kirby congratulates Robbie Sutherland on his award.*



Mullumbimby dog trialler Athol Essery and Tatham's Robert Johnston almost scooped the pool at the North Coast Working Dog Association 2017 awards night.

Between them, the two triallers took out all but one of the awards presented on the night.

Robert, who is the current Australian Dog of the Year title holder, won the Open Dog of the Year Award with Tanya, the Maiden/Novice Dog of the Year with Sam, and the Handler Winning Most Points Outside the North Coast Zone.

Not to be outdone, Athol won the Dog of the Year Award with Top Dog, the Handler with the Most Points in Maiden Events, and the Dick and Christine Chapman Encouragement Award.

However, they weren't able to pull off a clean sheet,

with long-time Casino trialler Stephen Flatley and his bitch Jade sharing the Dog of the Year Award with Athol.

Both ended the year with 26.5 points.

Tullymorgan dog trialler Robbie Sutherland also took home a prize on the night, winning the award for the Handler With the Most Points Without Winning a Trial.

The awards night was held at the Casino RSM Club on Saturday 9 December and attended by about 30 people.

Prior to the presentation, the North Coast Association held its annual general meeting and elected Robert Johnston as president.

Robert replaces Ben Clark in the role. Also elected were: vice presidents Ben Clark, Lew Molloy and Dick Chapman. Long-time secretary/treasurer Joy Kirby was returned unopposed for another year in the job.

# Ethan takes pride in trialling dogs he bred, trained himself

At 16 years of age, Ethan Davis has been dog trialling for almost a third of his life.

The Brushgrove lad, who won the NSW Novice Championship at just 14 years of age, took up the sport at the ripe old age of 11 after serving his apprenticeship under the watchful eye of his Dad Mitch and grandfather Happy.

By that stage Ethan had been "strapping" for Mitch and "Happy" for a couple of years and got sick of just watching from the sidelines.

So, he started working the sheep at home with his father's dogs.

"I think it was then that I thought that I'd like to give it (dog trialling) a go," Ethan recalled.

"My first trial was a bush dog trial at Glencoe. I think Dad went out with me and we ended up coming fourth," Ethan recalled.

"My first proper trial was at Alstonville, I'm pretty sure I was 11."

When Ethan first started out in the trial arena, he used one of his dad's old bush dogs called Brandy.

However, it wasn't too long before he was heading out into the ring with his own dogs which he trained himself.

And more than anything, it's the accomplishment of training pups you have bred yourself and seeing them perform well, that Ethan enjoys most about dog trialling.

"Dad has started breeding from his dog Jack and we've got quite a few pups coming on," he said.

"I train all my own dogs now and Dad has been trying to get me to train his too, but I've got too many of my own to do."

For Ethan, a good dog is strong dog that will go to the head rather



than sit at the beast's shoulder, has a "fair bit of brains" and a bit of style about it.

The Year 10 Maclean High School student currently has about 11 dogs and spends most afternoons after school training his pups and working with his older dogs.

Weekends are spent at dog trials or helping his father with cattle work.

And with his novice dog Jess performing well in the NSWWSA annual point score (she is currently running fourth in the Novice Dog of the Year), he obviously knows what he's doing.

Ethan says he learned most of what he knows from Mitch and Happy and by listening to and watching other triallers such as Robbie Sutherland and Kevin Bell.

When asked for the highlight of his

dog trialling career to date, Ethan's first choice was not what you'd think a NSW champion might choose.

He nominated coming equal first in the North Coast Working Dog Association's annual point score awards for Novice Dog of the Year with Trudy in 2016 as his greatest achievement to date.

"I was fairly lucky and got two really good pens of cattle at the NSW Championships," Ethan explained.

"Not everyone was as lucky as me.

"The point score awards prove the consistency of your dog – it's not just about luck on one day."

Ethan is equally as pleased with his young bitch Jess which has placed consistently at recent trials.

"It feels pretty good to see a dog you've trained since it was a pup getting good results," he said.

# Geurie to host NSW Championships

The central west town of Geurie will host the 2018 NSW Working Stock Dog Association Championship.

The championships will be held over three days from Friday 19 October to Sunday 21 October.

Organisers have put together a full program of eight trials for the championship event and will run two separate arenas.

The program will feature maiden, novice, open, open-for-open, junior (under 17 years), encourage, nursery (dogs must be under three years old), and State v State trials as well as finals. Some trials will also be held under lights.

For further information, contact Kevin Bell phone 0428 861 345.

Meanwhile, organisers of last year's Australian Cow Dog Challenge, buoyed by the success of the first event, have expanded the program to include sheep dog events.

In keeping with the expanded program, the name of

the event has been changed to the Australian Stock Dog Spectacular.

It will be held at Tamworth's AELEC stadium from 29 October - 4 November and will feature:

- the Australian Cow Dog Futurity (\$20,000 + 15 trophy buckles);
- the Australian Cow Dog Open Challenge (\$10,000 minimum payout + 15 trophy buckles);
- the Australian Three Sheep Challenge (\$5,000 minimum payout + 10 trophy buckles);
- the Australian Yard Dog Challenge (\$5,000 payout + 10 trophy buckles);
- Ladies Final Cow Dog Challenge (10 trophy buckles).

There will also be a stock dog auction, with a full day devoted to the sale. Nominations will open in late June.

For further information see the Australian Cow Dog Challenge Facebook page.

## Upcoming events



### March

#### Upper Hunter Show Dog Trial

Muswellbrook Showground, Friday 16 March 2018. Maiden, novice and open events run in conjunction – separate finals.

Phone Will Harvey 0417 272 249.

#### Glencoe Dog Trial

Saturday 24 March and Sunday 25 March. Maiden, novice and open events. Nominations/further information phone Greg Wright 6732 1148.

A meeting of the NSW Working Stock Dog Association will be held at the dog trial on the evening of Saturday 24 March.

### April

#### Stroud Show Dog Trial

Friday 6 April. Maiden, novice and open events. Entries to Brett Thompson 0408 688 482.

#### Bonalbo Show Dog Trial

Friday 13 April. Maiden, novice and open events. Maiden and novice run in conjunction. Separate finals. 6.30am start. Entries to Michelle Malt phone 6665 3324.

#### Delungra Dog Trial

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 April. Further details to be advised.

### June

#### Primex Casino Dog Trial

Friday 15 and Saturday 16 June at the Primex Field Day site, Casino.

Further details to be advised.

### August

#### Muwillumbah

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 August. Encourage, maiden, novice, open and bush dog trial events. Further details to be advised.

### September

#### Australian Cattle Dog Trial Championships and State of Origin, Grafton

Friday 28 September-Sunday 30 September; event to be held at the Grafton Agricultural Research Station.

Maiden, novice and open events. NSW rules. Camping and canteen available at the grounds. Further details to follow.

### October

#### NSW Championships Geurie

Friday 19 October - Sunday 21 October at Geurie.

Maiden, novice, open, open-for-open, junior (17 years and under), encourage and nursery (dogs must be three years old and under) events.

Two arenas will be operating throughout the weekend and some trials will be held under lights.

Further details to be advised. For information, contact Kevin Bell phone 0428 861 345.

#### Australian Stock Dog Spectacular

29 October - 4 November at AELEC stadium Tamworth.

Featuring the Australian Cow Dog Futurity (\$20,000 + 15 trophy buckles), the Australian Cow Dog Open Challenge (\$10,000 minimum payout + 15 trophy buckles), the Australian Three Sheep Challenge (\$5,000 minimum payout + 10 trophy buckles), the Australian Yard Dog Challenge (\$5,000 payout + 10 trophy buckles), Ladies Final Cow Dog Challenge (10 trophy buckles).

There will also be a stock dog auction, with a full day devoted to the sale.

Nominations to open late June. For further information see the Australian Cow Dog Challenge Facebook page.

Dog trial organisers with dates for 2018 are asked to email event details to [nswwsda.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:nswwsda.secretary@gmail.com) or phone 02 6664 1215.