NSW Working Stock Dog Association Annual General Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday the 30th of May 2026

Location: NSW Championships – Coolah

Time: 12:30pm

Present: Katie Saul, Shannon Moran, Mitch Perez, Chris Soderland, Elizabeth Bradley, Paul Roots, Annette Roots, Peter Rutherford, Dick Chapman, Christine Chapman, Shane Curtis, Margie Langham, Graham Langham, Zac Ede, Grace Halstead, Ben Grady, Riley Opalnuik, Leanne Ezzy, Ethan Davis, Liam Whalen, David Crawford, William Saul, Brendan Hoadam, Peter Crowe, Thomas Nairne, Tash Rapley, Jamie Sturrock, Craig Ervine, Sally Mitchell, Graeme Budd (minutes), Nathan Brown, Lew Molloy.

Apologies: Jade de Mezieres, Dan de Mezieres, Geoff McLennan, Janelle McLennan

Agenda Items:

No.	Description/Discussion Points
1	**Meeting opened:** 12:22pm
2	**Minutes from the previous annual general meeting – Maclean, 26th July 2025** *A motion was moved to accept the previous minutes as an accurate record of the meeting held on the 26th of July 2025 at Maclean.* Moved: Lew Molloy Seconded: Leanne Ezzy ~~Defeated~~ / Carried
3	**Matters Arising from the Minutes** **3.1 Trial of the Draw systems proposed by Gracie Halstead and Zac Ede/ Ben Gould** There was considerable discussion about the trial of these options to date. Graham Langham indicated that he had received considerable feedback regarding the Dorrigo trial. He felt that the system generally worked well. There were some teething problems, and these could be addressed in running future trials. The were conflicting views expressed as to whether stock vary through a trial, and it was stated that a dog should not win an event on the basis of one run, (referring to earlier scores not being carried through to final placings). There were also strong views expressed about the purpose and value of including 'rounds' within a draw, (irrespective of the draw system adopted). *Motion: The trial, of the two options, adopted in 2024 continue for a further 12 months, noting that the type of draw is to be notified in the advertising for any trial. The results of this further extension of the trial will contribute to the final resolution of the matter at the 2027 AGM*. Moved: Leanne Ezzy Seconded: Pauls Roots ~~Defeated~~ / Carried

	3.2 Organise NSWWSDA Rules and Motions into Categories *Motion Proposed: The Current Format of the Rules and Motions as of 30th May 2026 be accepted whilst keeping the old format running in the background. The old format being a list that is added to each year when Rules or Motions are passed.* Moved: Janelle Wooldridge Seconded: / Defeated / ~~Carried~~ The amended rules and motions document prepared by Jannelle Wooldridge was adopted and the motion she proposed was amended to also add the headings to the three-page document on the rules of cattle dog trialling and the hunter rules. It was agreed both these documents would be reinstated to the website. *Amended Motion: The current format as of 30th May 2026 be accepted whilst keeping the old format running in the background. The old format being a list that is added to each year when rules or motions are passed. The 2019 trial rules document as amended in 2024, and the Hunter rules are to have the headings added to them consistent with the new format and are to be reinstated to the website as standalone documents to support members accessing the dog trial rules.* Moved: Lew Molloy Seconded: Shane Curtis ~~Defeated~~ / Carried **3.3 Affiliating Encouragement, Junior and Juvenile with NSWWSDA** Lew Molloy confirmed that the Insurers had advised that these events were covered by our existing insurance. Further detail and consideration covered in General Business
4	**President Report** Nathan Brown (President) thanked everyone for their help throughout the year and reported that 17 trials, one training day, a NSW futurity, a judging school and NSW championship were run under the NSWWSDA banner for the year. *A motion was moved to accept the President's report*. Moved: Nathan Brown Seconded: Lew Molloy ~~Defeated~~ / Carried
5	**Treasurer's Report** Lew Molloy (Treasurer) made a verbal report to the meeting. The Working account is at $14,672.31, the Futurity account is at $1860.40 and the Investment account at $6094.13. *A motion was moved to accept the Treasurer's report*. Moved: Nathan Brown Seconded: Lew Molloy ~~Defeated~~ / Carried

6 **Correspondence In/Out**

Lew Molloy read out correspondence in/out and asked if anyone had any questions/queries. Nothing was raised. Correspondence In/Out as detailed below:

Correspondence In	Correspondence Out
• Application to Host NSW Cattle Dog Trials at Ashford Showgrounds • Application to Host NSW Cattle Dog Trial at Coolah • Request for Testimonial letter to be drawn up for Kyogle Council from Wiangaree Trial Committee • Various emails advising trial dates/entry forms etc	• Reply letter – Ashford re hosting NSW Championships • Reply letter – Coolah, re hosting NSW Championships • Email to Michelle Castillio, Bigger Impact Digital Growth Systems and phone hookup to discuss New Website. • Phone discussions with liza at Yoohoo re quote to incorporate a membership portal taking details and payment. • Testimonial Letter sent back to Wiangaree Committee. • Trial organiser packages – various emails relating to programs, entry form errors or lack of detail.

7 **Membership Fees – Review for 2026/2027 Financial Year**

A discussion was had around the current fees and future fees.

Current Fees 2025/2026 FY:

- Full membership $ 60.00
- Junior Membership (under 18 years) $ 22.00
- Associate membership (non-competing) $ 30.00
- Day membership (one trial per financial year) $ 15.00

A motion was raised to keep the membership fees the same as 2025/2026 financial year.
Moved: Leanne Ezzy Seconded: Shane Curtis

~~Defeated~~ / Carried

8 **Election Of Committee Members 2026/2027**

Committee Position	Full Name	Nominated By	Seconded By	# Votes
President	Nathan Brown	Paul Roots	Ethan Davis	Elected Unopposed
Secretary	Katie Saul	Chris Soderland	Lew Molloy	Elected Unopposed
Treasurer	Lew Molloy	Christine Chapman	Shane Curtis	Elected Unopposed
Vice President #1	Geoff McLennan	Lew Molloy	Christine Chapman	Elected
Vice President #2	Zac Ede	Grace Halstead	Peter Rutherford	Elected
Vice President #3	Shane Curtis	Ethan Davis	Christine Chapman	Elected

	Vice President #4	Graham Langham	Brendan Horadam	Nathan Brown	Elected
	Point Score Secretary	Shannon Moran	Ethan Davis	Liam Whalen	Elected
	Public Officer	Lew Molloy	Endorsed	Endorsed	Elected

9 General Business

9.1 Rule Change: Current Rule 1.20 clarified by replacing, "one month's notice", to the wording included in the motion below.

Motion: Committee's running dog trials wanting to be affiliated with the NSWWSDA must give, at least 28 days, notice from the first day of the trial being held. Rule 1.20 will be amended to reflect this.
Moved: Nathan Brown Seconded: Janelle Wooldridge

~~Defeated~~ / Carried

9.2 Affiliating Junior and Juvenile with NSWWSDA
Graham Langham reported to the meeting on progress in developing the guidelines, outlined in the agenda, for rules to affiliate Junior and Juvenile competition.

It was discussed that these classes may be run with the Maiden/ Novice event and allow unlimited crosses. The decision to include these events and relevant details would be included in the advertising for the event.

Motion: The meeting endorses the finalisation of rules for Junior and Juvenile events to be accepted under the NSWWSDA for approval by the Executive.
Moved: Graham Langham Seconded: Zac Ede

~~Defeated~~ / Carried

9.3 Encouragement/Rookie Competitors to be included into the Point Score System
Motion:

- *Encouragement/rookie competitors who are full members and trialling at any affiliated NSWWSDA event running under NSWWSDA rules be awarded points through-out the fiscal year and be inclusive as a recipient of an award at the awards presentation.*
- *The encouragement/rookie competitor may win (as in 1st place) multiple encouragement/rookie titles throughout the year but on completion of that year they are no longer entitled to classify as an encouragement or rookie competitor.*
- *If the encourage/rookie competitor wins a maiden/novice/open event in that year they are still eligible to compete the rookie/encourage year.*

Moved: Graham Langham Seconded: Zac Ede

~~Defeated~~ / Carried

9.4 State of Origin (SOO) Rules
This rule change simply clarifies the dates for start and end of the financial/fiscal year with respect to SOO/award points.

Motion: The NSWWSDA fiscal year runs from 1 July to 30 June. The end of year awards for; Dog of the year, handler of the year, maiden/novice dog of the year, open dog of the year and selection into the SOO team is calculated at the end of the NSWWSDA fiscal year.
Moved: Janelle Wooldridge Seconded: Nathan Brown

~~Defeated~~ / Carried

9.5 Reciprocal rights for Victorian and Queensland Cattle Dog Trial Handlers
Current Rule 6.6 was discussed including the need for it to be amended to include Victorian and Queensland trial handlers.

Motion: Queensland and Victorian cattle dog trial handlers are to be given reciprocal members rights with the NSWWSDA. (Points awarded will not count unless they are full members with NSWWSDA). Rule 6.6 will be amended to reflect this.
Moved: Janelle Wooldridge Seconded: Nathan Brown

~~Defeated~~ / Carried

9.6 Affiliating Victorian and Queensland Judges

Motion: Queensland and Victorian cattle dog trial association affiliated judges be given rights to judge in NSW at any NSWWSDA affiliated trial.
Moved: Janelle Wooldridge Seconded: Nathan Brown

~~Defeated~~ / Carried

9.7 *Running Dog Handling & Care Training via the Education Department*
Graham Langham has been working on this matter with Shane Randall and led a discussion regarding progress to date, as outlined in the agenda for this meeting. It was acknowledged that insurance and necessary working with children checks would be critical issues.

Motion: The meeting supports the progression of this program to promote public understanding of working dog capabilities and what the NSWWSDA provides for its members to school students. This is to be done by conducting demonstrations under the approval of educational institutions through the dog handling and care Inclusive program which is run through the NSW Education Department. Demonstrations must strictly comply with school safety policies, ensure the dog is under handler control at all times and serve as an educational, non-profit activity of the NSW Working Stock Dog Association. Demonstrations must be conducted at an approved facility accepted by the school policy and procedures. A full member may carry out this role subject to authorisation by the NSWWSDA executive with reference to points, including the criteria set out in the agenda for this meeting.
Moved: Graham Langham Seconded: Shane Randall

~~Defeated~~ / Carried

9.8 Rules for Judging Schools

There was a discussion about the value of schools to support development of new judges but general support for the concept and the proposed rule.

Motion: Judging Schools

1. *A minimum of 2 judges to instruct*
2. *Judges to be approved by the judge's panel.*
3. *Format for the clinic:*
   - 3.1. *Should have a theory section where Instructors go over all the rules;*
   - 3.2. *then walk the course*
   - 3.3. *they should judge a minimum of 10 runs and a discussion on how points were taken off.*

4. *If the approved judges deem on the day that someone is capable to judge a trial, then the 10 runs judged should count as the first judging and they be able to judge a maiden/novice at a trial (bypassing rules 4.13).*
   - 4.1. *Once they have judged a maiden/novice trial, it should count as the second time judging automatically transitioning them into being an open Judge.*

   Schools only count for first time judges. They must judge a minimum of 2 trials before becoming an open judge if the participant is not deemed capable to judge their first trial.

Moved: Nathan Brown Seconded: Janelle Wooldridge

~~Defeated~~ / Carried

9.9 Rules & Point Scoring for Futurity and Derby Events

Two proposals were presented. It was apparent that there were significantly different views between the two proponents.

Motion: Nathan Brown and Graham Langham to work together to develop a uniform position, reflected in a motion, for consideration by 31 December 2026.

Moved: Leanne Ezzy Seconded: Nathan Brown

~~Defeated~~ / Carried

9.10 Multiple Arenas

Agreement was not reached on proposed guidelines for operation of multiple arenas at trials.

9.11 AGM to be held away from Trials

The proposal contained in the agenda was not supported**.**

9.12 Trial Scheduling

The proposal to manage conflicting dates for affiliated trials was not supported.

9.13 Member concern re. moving positions on proposals for affiliation of trials

The Submission form Geoff McLennan was discussed and noted.

	9.14 Proposal to improve the current website including functionality around trial administration The work already carried out and presented in the agenda was noted and should provide valuable input into the progression of this issue. *Motion: That the executive develop a subcommittee to research and develop a new website that covers all the aspects that we require to eliminate the paper trail chase up.* Moved: Nathan Brown Seconded: Leanne Ezzy ~~Defeated~~ / Carried **9.15 Notification of Injuries Sustained at Affiliated Events** *Motion: If a competitor suffers an injury at a trial that may lead to a compensation claim it must be brought to the attention of the executive or committee at the trial to be accepted.* Moved: Lew Molloy Seconded: Geoff McLennan ~~Defeated~~ / Carried **9.16 General Housekeeping** Day Membership – It was suggested that the advice from Fair Trading should be confirmed in writing. *Motion: Day Members can fill out a membership form for the year at their first trial and then just pay membership at each trial that they go to without filling in a form each time.* Moved: Lew Molloy Seconded: Janelle McLennan Defeated / ~~Carried~~ *Motion: Current Membership Form be updated to include Parent/Guardian responsibility details for underage competitors.* Moved: Janelle Wooldridge Seconded: Nathan Brown ~~Defeated~~ / Carried
10	**General Business – Taken from the floor** **10.1 Proposal for Development of Video and Photographic content for Promotional Material** *Motion: That the executive develop a Sub Committee to research and develop a proposal for development of video and photographic content for promotional material for its consideration.* Moved: Nathan Brown Seconded: Shane Curtis ~~Defeated~~ / Carried
11	**Next Meeting** To be advised.
12	**Meeting Close** 2:44pm

Action Items:

No.	Description & Action Required	Responsible Person	Deadline
1	Trial of the Draw systems continuing for the next 12 months	Executive	Financial Year 2026/2027
2	The current format as of 30th May 2026 be accepted whilst keeping the old format running in the background. The old format being a list that is added to each year when rules or motions are passed. The 2019 trial rules document as amended in 2024, and the Hunter rules are to have the headings added to them consistent with the new format and are to be reinstated to the website as standalone documents to support members accessing the dog trial rules.	Secretary	
3	Current Rule 1.20 clarified by replacing, "one month's notice", to the wording included in the motion below: Committee's running dog trials wanting to be affiliated with the NSWWSDA must give, at least 28 days, notice from the first day of the trial being held. Rule 1.20 will be amended to reflect this	Secretary	
4	Affiliating Junior and Juvenile with NSWWSDA - finalisation of rules for Junior and Juvenile events to be accepted under the NSWWSDA for approval by the Executive	Executive	
5	Encouragement/rookie competitors to be included into the point score system	Shannon Moran	Ongoing/Immediately
6	Reciprocal rights for Victorian and Queensland cattle dog trial handlers + affiliation for judges	Secretary	
7	Running Dog Handling & Care Training via the Education Department	Graham Langham	
8	Rules & Point Scoring for Futurity and Derby Events to be determined & a motion formed	Executive	
9	Proposal to improve the current website including functionality around trial administration – Sub committee	Executive	
10	Day Membership – In writing from fair trading	Lew Molloy	

Amendments:

No.	Details

Signed:
Details Certified as a true account in terms of a motion passed at the meeting held on 30th May 2026.

X _____

President

Date:

X _____

Committee Member

Date: