

Trans Tasman Sheepdog Trial

Free Entry, Canteen Available, come and enjoy this heritage sport

Bungendore 2019, Thursday 4th – Sunday 7th July

The NSW Selection Trial 2019, Bungendore Tuesday 2nd- Wednesday 3rd July

Competition daylight hours, Tuesday – Sunday with finals Sunday

First light on a freezing winter morning on the long flat at Bungendore takes dedication to the sport of sheepdog trialling, and an excess of warm layers for handler to set out with their dog, to navigate three wily sheep through a complex set of obstacles. Each competitor effectively has a support team, the let-out; people who manage and release three sheep for each competitor, the box; people who keep time, the canteen; that sustains the workers and spectators with hearty food, and the judge; who must watch intently and score every misstep for each 15minute trial. All of this is done throughout the daylight hours, each day of the trial. Mr Will Goggin will judge the Open, for both Trials. Mr Brett Smith will be Judging the Novice and Encourage for The Trans Tasman.

This year **NSW Selection Trial** will be held at Bungendore Showground and be run in the days before the annual **Bungendore Trans Tasman Sheepdog Trial**. The competition is run on the Trans Tasman course. This Trial is held to determine who will be the top two workers and their dogs, that will represent NSW, at The Supreme, held at Dalby QLD, later this year. At The Supreme two workers and their dogs, from each state will vie for a position on the Test Team. From all of the states in Australia, four workers and their dogs are selected to represent Australia against New Zealand.

Competition at Bungendore, for places in the NSW team will be intense. Some of the best in Australia will be present and competing throughout the week. One of those competitors, local businessman Paul Darmody, who also supplies the sheep for both competitions, has competed for Australia in the past and will be contesting for a position this year.

The Trans Tasman Sheepdog Trial was established to provide a level playing field for competition between Australia and New Zealand, a combination of Australian and New Zealand rules, with the aim that the best in Australia and the best in New Zealand can compete annually. The course is run with three fresh sheep for each competitor. Four obstacles must be negotiated and the course completed in 15 minutes. Expert stock handling, a well-educated dog and good knowledge of the course and rules is required to successfully complete the course. Competitors start with 100 points which are deducted throughout the competition for imperfect work.

Bungendore & District Sheepdog Association will be providing delicious morning and afternoon teas as well as lunches, a number of care groups will be visiting to enjoy the dog's, and competition as well as good food and atmosphere. Entry is free, we welcome spectators, and their dogs on a lead. Come along and enjoy the experience. Each day competition starts around 7:30am through to 4:30pm with finals on Sunday.

Linda Denning

For more information: <http://www.workingdogschool.com>