

Sheepdog Trial, Trans Tasman

The Trans Tasman Sheepdog Trial is a competition which involves handler, dog, 3 sheep and 4 obstacles. Australian and New Zealand rules are incorporated into a course, designed to create a level playing field, for both countries to compete together annually. The Trans Tasman Sheepdog Trial here at Bungendore is the only other Trans Tasman Trial held in NSW apart from the Selection Trial, which is the official trial held to decide who will compete for NSW.

- Handler must stand and wait at the **Casting Peg (1)** with dog stopped, waiting for the bell.
- Sheep are let out at the far end of the field and the Judge will ring the bell.
- Dog is sent and must go out and around behind sheep, then deliver them as directly as possible to the handler, who cannot move from the Peg until the sheep have been delivered on the left-hand side, of handler.
- Handler must continuously walk from the Peg to the **Gap (2)**, once the sheep are through the gap the handler must also walk through the Gap.
- Handler as proceeding to the **Maltese-Cross (3)** may help the dog but must remain behind the sheep.
- At the Maltese Cross (3) the sheep must enter and exit from the direction of the Gap then enter and exit in the direction of the Bridge(4).
- Sheep must proceed to, and go over the **Bridge (4)** and may be helped by the handler.
- All proceed towards **Pen (5)**, sheep are to be placed in the Pen (5) and the gate closed to finish the trial.
- Each competitor starts with **100 points** and has **15 minutes** to complete the course, with points deducted along the way for imperfect work.

