## Kelpie Legacy: Uniting a Nation's Heritage 29<sup>th</sup> Australian Kelpie Muster and Premier Working Dog Auction!

The Casterton Kelpie Association is delighted to announce the 29th Australian Kelpie Muster, slated for the June long weekend (7 to 9), 2025. This year's theme, "Kelpie Legacy: Uniting a Nation's Heritage," spotlights the profound significance of the Australian Kelpie in our nation's history and the muster's growing national appeal.

The Australian Kelpie Muster has been a cherished tradition in our community for nearly thirty years. The theme for 2025 underscores the commitment to honouring the invaluable contributions of the Kelpie breed. Known for their intelligence, agility, and loyalty, these remarkable dogs have been instrumental in shaping Australia's agricultural heritage. This year's muster serves as a heartfelt tribute to the enduring legacy of Kelpies and their pivotal role in our farming communities.

The Australian Kelpie Muster continues to gain prominence, attracting attendees from across Australia and beyond. This free entry event has evolved into a national celebration, drawing visitors from all corners of the country to witness the extraordinary talents of the Kelpie breed. From the thrilling Kelpie Dash to the awe-inspiring Kelpie High Jump, the muster promises a weekend brimming with excitement and camaraderie.

A highlight of the event is Australia's Premier Working Dog Auction, taking place on Sunday at Island Park. This auction fosters connections across the land, with dogs heading in all directions thanks to the incorporation of the online sale platform AuctionsPlus. Entries are now open for the 29th year, with submissions expected to contribute to yet another record-breaking event.

## **Event Highlights**

- Kelpie Dash: Watch as Kelpies showcase their speed and agility in a 50-meter dash.
- Kelpie High Jump: Witness the incredible jumping abilities of Kelpies as they attempt to break records.
- Kelpie Hill Climb: Cheer on Kelpies as they race up Blueberry Hill, demonstrating their endurance and determination.
- Kelpie Triathlon: A combination of dash, high jump, and hill climb for the ultimate top dog.
- Working Dog Auction: Australia's premier working dog auction, featuring top-performing Kelpies. Entries are open and close on May 2nd at 5 pm.
- **Kelpie Street Parade**: Enjoy the vibrant parade featuring local schools, community groups and emergency service personnel.
- **Kelpie Art and Photography Competition**: For the creative souls, the Annual Casterton Rotary Art Show and Fox and Lillie Photography Competition provide an opportunity for attendees to capture the artistic expression of the breed.

We invite everyone to join us for the 29th Australian Kelpie Muster and be part of this extraordinary celebration of our nation's heritage. Whether you're a long-time Kelpie enthusiast or a first-time visitor, there's something for everyone at this year's muster. For more information, please visit our website at <a href="www.castertonkelpieassociation.com.au">www.castertonkelpieassociation.com.au</a> or follow us on social media.

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## **Photo Captions:**

<u>HENTY STREET CROWD</u>: Casterton's main street becomes an array of colour on Saturday with people travelling across Australia to participate in this event. *Photo: Nichole Cleary.* 

<u>AUCTION DEMOS</u>: Showcasing this iconic breed at work, Sunday's Auction demos provide an in-depth view of the breed's agility, work ethic and connection between owner and dog. *Photo: Nichole Cleary.* 

<u>ENTRIES OPEN:</u> Participants in the 29<sup>th</sup> Australian Kelpie Muster are invited to submit their entries for the Dash, High Jump, Hill Climb and Triathlon. *Photo: Nichole Cleary.* 

<u>FREE FAMILY EVENT:</u> A weekend away in Casterton is just what the family needs. This free entry event has something for everyone from the Art Show Thursday evening to Monday's Dog School and so much more in between, so lock in the dates and plan the long weekend road trip to Casterton. *Photo: Nichole Cleary.*