

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 28/05/2025

Experience the Kelpie Muster First Hand

Read an attendee review, Kelpie weekend is worth the distance

The Casterton Muster Weekend is like watching a live jigsaw become complete.

The whole Casterton community of organisers, volunteers, breeders, owners and onlookers pull together to create a fantastic event in one action-packed weekend. And then, there's the KELPIES.

The intelligent "let's get to work now" dogs, the cute little pups that are not sure what to do, the high jumpers, the sprinters, the obedient dogs, and the "I'm just here to have fun" dogs that want to race up THAT HILL.

We came to Casterton, Victoria, from Busselton, WA (3775 km, and worth every bump in the road along the way). We are admirers of kelpies. Our Milo had energy to burn for most of her 17 years, and we hankered to experience the Casterton Kelpie Muster.

The long weekend in June 2024 finally arrived, and we were ready to embrace the BIG EVENT!

Thursday saw us settle into the campground thanks to Bettina. Then, we ventured off to the Kelpie Visitors Centre, where we enjoyed the interactive display of Jack Gleeson's Kelpie and the folklore story surrounding Warrock Station. After gathering information about the weekend (and our purchases), we were amazed to understand that the population of Casterton swells from 1,800 to 10,000 for this memorable weekend.

Downtown we met more locals with country hospitality as we replenished our food supplies at the butchers, bakery and grocery shops. The Rotary Art Show was an interesting display championing once again 'The Kelpies'.

The weekend started out being a bit chilly, but the community spirit was warm and inviting as the Kelpie and town parade got underway. Visitors and locals alike joined in the fun and banter of watching the kelpies and their owners race, dash and jump. Excited kelpies having fun!

The main street echoed with joyful celebration at their antics.

Watching the stockmen and their obedient stock horses work with the dogs to get the sheep in the yards was an eye opener for us, as we are from the southwest of WA where sea sand surf and sport are the general topics and pastimes. Saturday ended with a delicious meal at the Footy Club (and Annie tuning the TV to the AFL for us) and meeting with more locals and volunteers who were endeavouring to make the weekend terrific for everyone.

Sunday at the Dog Bowl was an event all on its own as we met up again with local acquaintances who gave us cheek and banter about coming from WA to the Casterton Kelpie Muster. (breakfast at the dog bowl was lip-smacking too) Like everyone else we watched in awe as the working dogs were put through their paces rounding up the sheep into the pens. The agility of the dogs obeying the

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commands of the trainers with the slightest of hand movements and a whistle (and the occasional mutter of 'silly sheep') was thrilling.

The slight grin on the face of Joe Spicer indicated a job well done as he closed the gates on yet another yarding. The image of onlookers perched on the hay bales catching up with mates or giving high-spirited advice to the commentator, is one that no camera can capture completely. You just must be there at the Muster to feel the vibe!

At the auction, it was down to the serious business of choosing the best Kelpie for the right new owner. We positioned ourselves for a good view in the stands and were lucky enough to sit next to a breeder/trainer who kept us informed of what a good working dog's attributes were. Booklet in hand and armed with advice we watched the dogs be auctioned, we made sure to keep our hands in pockets as Radar's eyes were forever watchful for a bidder. Sunday evening, we decided to farewell our new friends at the Footy Club and were privileged to meet Karen and more of the volunteers and organisers of the muster who made the weekend such a success.

Monday morning, we became tourists and purchased our book about Warrock Station and spent the day exploring the local area and Warrock Station mindful of the story of Jack Gleeson and his pup called Kelpie. An evening at The Glenelg Inn completed our visit to Casterton where we heard stories of past Musters and old times and personalities around the surrounding area.

Our 'once in a lifetime' journey to the Casterton Kelpie Muster has given us incredible memories which we will recall each long weekend in June.

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