



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2026

Australian Kelpie Muster named National Nominee in four Australian Event Award categories

Casterton's iconic Australian Kelpie Muster has earned national recognition, securing an extraordinary four National Nominee positions in the 2026 Australian Event Awards.

The 30th Australian Kelpie Muster and Australia's Premier Working Dog Auction, held in Casterton in June 2026, has been named a National Nominee in:

- Oztix Best Small Regional Event
- Oztix Best Tourism Event
- Best Community Event
- Best Association Event

The recognition follows the Muster being named Glenelg Shire Tourism Event of the Year in 2025 and marks another significant achievement for an event built by the Casterton community over three decades.

National Nominee status is awarded to the entries receiving the top five moderated scores nationally in each category, subject to meeting the Australian Event Awards nominee threshold.

Casterton Kelpie Association President, Karen Stephens said receiving four National Nominee positions was an acknowledgement not only of the event itself, but of the community, volunteers, sponsors, competitors, working dog breeders and visitors who have helped build the Muster across its 30-year history.

"To see Casterton and the Australian Kelpie Muster recognised nationally across four very different categories is something our whole community can be proud of."

"The Muster has always been about more than an event. It celebrates the Australian Kelpie, our agricultural heritage and the people of our region, while bringing visitors from across Australia to Casterton."

"Reaching our 30th year was already a significant milestone. To now have that year recognised at a national level is a wonderful acknowledgement of everyone who has contributed to the Muster over the past three decades."

The four nominations highlight the breadth of the Australian Kelpie Muster – from its role as a major regional tourism drawcard and nationally recognised working dog event, to the extensive community involvement required to deliver the annual celebration.

The Australian Event Awards recognise excellence across Australia's events industry. National Nominee entries are reviewed by the Lead Judge, with National Winners selected ahead of the official Awards Ceremony.

Winners will be announced at the 2026 Australian Event Awards Ceremony in Coffs Harbour, NSW, on Wednesday 21 October.

The Casterton Kelpie Association is a volunteer-led organisation dedicated to celebrating and preserving the legacy of the Australian Kelpie, proudly hosting the annual Australian Kelpie Muster and Australia's Premier Working Dog Auction in the breed's birthplace.

Media Contact:

Should you require further information please contact the Casterton Kelpie Association at 0417 527 200 or email: president@castertonkelpieassociation.com.au

Regardless of the final outcome, the Casterton Kelpie Association says securing four places among Australia's leading events is already an achievement worth celebrating.

"This recognition belongs to Casterton. It belongs to every volunteer who puts their hand up, every sponsor and supporter who backs the event, every business that welcomes our visitors and every person who has helped make the Australian Kelpie Muster what it is today.

"From a community celebration of the Kelpie to an event now recognised among the best in Australia, it is an incredible story for our small regional town."

The Australian Kelpie Muster and Australia's Premier Working Dog Auction will return to Casterton in 2027 from June 12 to 14.

About the Australian Event Awards

The Australian Event Awards recognise achievement and innovation across Australia's events industry. National Nominees represent the top-ranked eligible entries in their respective categories, with National and State/Territory Winners announced at the annual Awards Ceremony.

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Photo Captions:

- **2025 Glenelg Shire Tourism Event of the Year Winners**