

20 June 2007

Letters to the Editor

Casterton Kelpie Muster

Over the Queen's Birthday long weekend, the Casterton Community embraced its local hero with the Australian Kelpie Muster.

This celebration of the working Kelpie saw many visitors flock to Casterton from all over Australia, New Zealand and internationally for the annual event. Commencing with the Kelpie Festival, a wide range of family and novelty activities entertained the crowd - from the poet's breakfast, Kelpie high jump, Kelpie hill climb, stockman's challenge, kids club, animal nursery to the return of Australian Kelpie Idol.

Patrons let their hair down at the Kelpie Black Tie Ball on Saturday night with the Casterton Polo-cross Club hosting a fabulous night of entertainment for over 200 guests.

I was delighted to attend the highlight of the weekend, Sunday's Kelpie auction, recognised as Australia's premier working dog auction. Prior to the auction, I along with buyers and spectators, had the opportunity to see over 50 dogs offered in the sale catalogue demonstrate their mustering skills in the yard, paddock and in transport loading.

Hamilton Breeder, Joe Spicer topped the auction with his 18 month old dog Go-Getta Hunch selling for \$5200, close to last year's world record of \$5400.

My congratulations to the Casterton Kelpie Association ably lead by President Rod James, his committee, the many local volunteers, the sponsors and the Casterton community for making this such a successful celebration of the Australian Kelpie.

Yours sincerely



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