

## 1. Judge's Workshop - 24 October 2014

### 3pm to 5pm, Stadium Southland, Invercargill

- 20 judges attended the workshop that was held before Senior Nationals in Invercargill. These notes are provided to all judges as a summary of the matters discussed.
- For judges who were not able to attend the workshop: please feel free to email the Head Judge any thoughts/comments.
  
- Feedback from judges about the workshop:
  - o A great idea.
  - o Very worthwhile.
  - o A great warm up for Nationals.
  - o It took the nerves away for me as an official judge.
  - o It's a great opportunity for South Island judges to mix with other judges and hear their views.
  - o We're here. We might as well meet.
  - o It was noted that some judges who were competing at the nationals chose to not attend.
- Judges agreed that these workshops should be held before all Nationals.
- Topics of discussion included:
  - o **Social Media:** How should judges react, or should they, to comments about judges or judging made on social media platforms like Facebook?
  - o As judges, we should encourage and promote constructive discussion about **judging** in all forums including social media.
  - o Keep it civil and respectful. Differences of opinion are okay; personal attacks are not.
  - o We cannot restrict or prohibit public discussion. Freedom of speech is the political right to communicate one's opinions and ideas.
  - o Be mindful that whatever you publish will be public for a long time.
  - o If there's any question in your mind, err on the side of keeping silent.
  - o Do your best to add value by providing worthwhile information and perspective rather than mere opinion and bluster.
  - o You may be giving your opinion in your private capacity, but remember that you will always be looked upon as a judge, and your view could reflect on all judges
  - o **Rules for Judges:** Currently National Association Judges must attend at least one workshop per year and provide some judging to the Head Judge every year. Given the changes to workshops i.e. no regional workshops in Feb/March, workshops before Nationals, combined workshop after AGM and before Senior Nationals or regional workshops in August/September, judges have asked for some flexibility with these rules. The workshop agreed that it should be either/or i.e. judges should attend at least one workshop per year **or** provide some judging to the Head Judge. Judges said that it is always their preference to do both, and where possible they will. The Head Judge agreed to report this feedback to the Executive, and look at possible changes to the rule book.

## 2. New National Association Judges

- I would like to congratulate Murray Dillon and Stephen Blasé for recently attaining the status of National Association Judge. Congratulations and well done on your great achievement.
- Welcome on board to Linda Knight from River City, Hamilton who has started training as a trainee judge. All the very best Linda.

### **3. 2015 Junior Nationals**

- Thank you to those judges who responded to my request for availability to judge the 2015 Junior Nationals in Christchurch. The panel has now been confirmed. Please accept my sincere and personal thanks if you have not heard back from me. This means that your services are not required at this time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued dedication to judging and wish you all a very Happy Christmas. All the very best for the weeks ahead, and 2015!

Shane