



# 2021

# NEW ZEALAND DOG AGILITY CHAMPS

HASTINGS | 22-25 OCTOBER 2021 | MITRE 10 PARK, HAWKE'S BAY

## 2021 NZDAC Judges

**Dave Cook**



I'm from random places throughout New Zealand but born and raised in Dunedin, New Zealand's sunniest city.

Thanks to the organising committee for inviting me to judge.

It's always an honour to officiate at our national event. And thanks to all that have undertaken to run the show. It's a massive job involving huge hours of planning.

I've been involved in agility for over 20 years, but my knees make it feel more like 40. I currently have six hairy dogs and a less hairy girlfriend. When I'm not working as a builder, I'm training my dogs. I live for training. It's not uncommon for me to be up at 6:00am hitting those contacts or tricky weave entries. I enjoy healthy eating, competitive cat breed showing and romantic comedies.

Good luck to all and safe travels.

**Allan Rohde**



I have been involved in dog sports for almost 30 years now starting with the Wairarapa Dog Obedience Club and later moving to Counties Dog Training Club. It was my love for the sport

that got me into judging, which I have been doing for 22 years.

Judging at national events is always a privilege and my few judging assignments in Australia were also highlights of my judging career. However, my biggest highlight by far was judging at the IFCS World Champs in Italy a few years back. That was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will always remember. Although I am getting older and not judging as much as I used to, I still do enjoy my judging particular when dogs run my courses the way I designed them to be run.

I am fortunate that my family also shares my enjoyment of dog sports which means there is always someone available to run my dogs when I am judging. It also means the long drives to and from competitions are not lonely ones although some may debate that is a benefit.

I hope my courses will provide the appropriate challenges and that competitors find them enjoyable to run. Here's hoping you all have an enjoyable event.

**Sallie Remon**



I'd like to thank Zone 2 for inviting me to judge: it is always an honour to judge at a national competition. Over 35 years ago I competed in my first Agility event and here I am, many years later, still involved in this fantastic sport. We emigrated here from the UK 17 years ago with three young children and over the years have made some awesome friends in this sport. My whole family is

still competing today, which is testament to the greater Agility family we are all part of. I've competed with many different dogs over the years and competed in all height groups with a variety of breeds including a Rough Coat Collie, Golden Retriever, Patterdale Terrier, Several Border Collies, Shih Tzu x Poodle and now a Malinois.

I love watching a dog and handler successfully negotiate a course that I have designed, seeing dogs and handlers enjoying their agility no matter what happens in the ring. I hate watching handlers blame their dogs for their own lack of training or poor handling.

Judging at NZDAC gives me the opportunity to judge the best dogs in the country at all levels and I'm really looking forward to it. I hope you all have fun and enjoy my courses.

Remember you all take home the best dog at the end of the day and that dog loves you unconditionally, win or lose!



[www.dogagility.org.nz](http://www.dogagility.org.nz)

**Paul Taylor**



It is certainly great to have the opportunity to judge at this year's NZDAC and I am thrilled to be heading back to the Bay. This will be my fourth consecutive Zone 2 event and my thanks go to the organising committee for allowing me to be involved. It feels very much like take two following the loss of 2020 to COVID-19.

I have been involved in agility since 1992 and judging for 19 years. I have also served on the Agility committee, organised the Agility for several NZDACs, NDTAs, national dogs shows, and supported my local club. I am Queenstown bred and a life member of the Upper Hutt Dog Training School. With the exception of my first dog, I have always competed with Border Collies. They seem to be getting progressively faster or perhaps I am getting progressively older!

I am looking forward to seeing all the Agility community's great folks that can make the trek this year and I will enjoy judging the efforts put in by each handler and their dog. As always, I gain a lot of confidence in how the sport has developed in both safety and training aspects. I will be doing my best to ensure that the courses set up give plenty of options to get around them while being able to test out your favourite moves. Best of luck to everyone.

**Keri Neilson**



It is a privilege to be invited to judge at the 2021 NZDAC in the Hawkes Bay, after the cancellation of last year's event, and I would like to thank the Zone 2 organising committee for the opportunity.

I have been involved in Agility for around

20 years having competed with a Ridgeback cross, a Border Terrier, a Heading Dog and three Border Collies over the years. One of the big highlights of my time in the sport was winning the A Jumpers final at the 2010 NZDAC with my Border Collie Rain. I know how special those moments are at our national event and it's awesome to be part of that through judging. I currently compete with my Border Collie Winter and have a young Border Collie x Papillon puppy (Dance) coming on. I'm looking forward to running a small dog again.

I first became a judge around 2007 and was lucky enough to judge at the 2010 NZDAC in Taupo and the 2013 Bulls event. After taking a break from judging in 2016, I returned to the Agility panel in 2020 and to the Senior panel this year. I love setting fast and flowing courses with subtle challenges and watching handlers and dogs opening up and enjoying themselves. I dislike seeing handlers getting angry with their dogs on a course, and am not shy at calling people up on it. You have been warned! If you feel frustrated at an event, just remember that you taught your dog everything they know.

I can't wait to see you all out there having fun with your dogs and being part of some amazing memories.

**Sharon Wagener**



I'm a senior Agility judge. I've been judging since 2009 and I love it. My aim is to design fun courses that flow nicely, and are challenging but achievable for the given level. Ideally about 10-30% of the competitors will go clear on each course, 1/3 will have faults and the rest will be thinking about how they could've done better! I only run mini

dogs so I need to think carefully about how all sizes will run the courses as they take different lines, as do the handlers. Then it's fascinating to watch how all of the partnerships handle the course — or sometimes how they don't. I have seen runs from the sublime to the ridiculous and that's what keeps it interesting.

I live in Waikanae, an hour north of Wellington. I moved there two years ago and down-sized to a quarter acre section which is still enough for an Agility training area, although the training has gone by the wayside a bit as work has gotten more hectic since lockdown. I live with four Miniature Poodles, all of them breed champions that I bred in conjunction with my mother Noeline, a retired senior Agility judge. I now only compete with Byron and Skytte. I have been competing since 2001 and Molly, my first Agility dog, was the Zone 3 Team Novice dog at 2006 NDTA in Christchurch. Molly also holds the dubious record of being the oldest dog to win into senior. She also had over 700 clear rounds (second only to Lou Baker and Tess), a great achievement for a 'steady' dog. I have dabbled in Flygility, Obedience and tracking, and I'm a life member of the North Taranaki Dog Training Club after being on their committee for so long I can't remember the years.

I now focus on Agility since I don't have time to do everything. This is my second time judging at an NZDAC. It is a tremendous honour to be asked again, and I am looking forward to it immensely. I hope you enjoy my courses and achieve whatever goals you have set for yourself. Not everyone can win, but everyone can be a winner in some way on the day. Go for it!

**Wayne Grant**



It's a privilege to be asked to judge at NZDAC.

Judging is something I really enjoy and, while there are some not so great aspects — like standing out in the rain — the good far outweighs the bad. Judging

gives me the opportunity to meet lots of new people, catch up with friends and visit clubs all around the country, but most of all and I enjoy just watching people running my courses.

I can't believe it's been two years since our last national event, which will make this year's NZDAC even more special. To the organising committee, thanks for all your hard work, and to all the competitors, good luck!

## Meredith Evans



I'm delighted and excited to be judging at NZDAC 2021! I come from Dunsandel, a small town on the South Island. I work in IT, and I do other stuff, but I have a huge passion for Agility and have done for over 15 years. To me, nothing compares to the fun and excitement of running Agility with my dog, or watching someone else get the same joy from this great sport.

I'm a member and Agility instructor at Selwyn Dog Training Club, and have done many jobs over the years, but show secretary is my usual position. I can't remember when I started judging, but I went onto the Senior Panel in 2016 and have been lucky enough to judge at many clubs in the South and North Islands.

I'm pretty sure you won't care how many or what kind of dogs I have or, even less, how many children! But I will mention that I like working Kelpies and am currently onto my third and best one. I like Border Collies too, but not as much, and we are onto our third of those now, taking the dog total to four. I like cats but they make poor Agility partners, so we only have two of those. Children are even harder to control but for some reason I have two of them. They are just starting to get interested in Agility, which means our dog total is likely going to rise in the next few years. Either that or I will retire and take up drinking gin and tonic on the sideline (hmm, that sounds ok).

When I design courses, I try and meet the following criteria:

Safe: To reduce the risk of dogs and handlers getting injured.

Suitable: For the class level.

Judgable: So that I can give you the best chance of a clear round.

Enjoyable: For the dog and handlers too.

Challenging: To encourage you to test your training or add some more tools to your Agility toolbox.

I hope you like my courses this year. Know that I will have put many hours and many adult beverages into the making of them, but if you think they suck, or if you like them, feel free to politely let me know.

Good luck and try your best at NZDAC! I look forward to seeing you there.

## Graeme Lawson



It's really nice to be back at an NZDAC after the events of the last 18 months and it is an honour and privilege to be part of the judging team for this Zone Two 2021 NZDAC. I would like to acknowledge the time, hard work and energy the organising team has put into preparing this year's event, so thank you Karen and

your team.

I was introduced to Agility in 1986 with my first dog, a German Shepherd called Sam and have been hooked on it ever since.

NZDAC (NDTAs as they were once called) is where I have cashed in a fair chunk of annual leave over the years and always had fun attending. I have been on each of the Zone 4 NZDAC/NTA organising committees since the Z4 Nelson NDTA in the 1990s and have previously been an Agility Show Manager and held many other roles at Zone 4 NZDAC/NDTAs so it's fair to say it's generally what I do in late October each year.

Agility remains a sport and hobby I have so much passion for and I believe there is something in it for everybody, regardless of the level of competition, age, fitness level or type, size and breed of dog you choose to own and compete with.

I live in Rangiora and own Storm, my six-year-old Border Collie. We are back competing after overcoming a few hiccups, including a horrific leg injury, COVID-19, judging commitments and shift work. Storm and I train at the Waimakariri Dog Training Club at the Mandeville Sports Centre, North Canterbury, where I have been a long serving Committee member. I have previously competed in Obedience, Fly and Trialling and have also showed German Shepherd Dogs in the Specialist Breed Ring and have even worked sheep dogs on the farms I grew up on and started my working life at.

I came onto the Agility Judges panel in 1995 and have enjoyed every minute of that side of the sport and have had the opportunity to meet some wonderful people, see some fantastic handler/dog combo's both at the very top of the sport and equally many that just enjoy running their dogs and are just as happy to go home with a clear round. I have made some fantastic friendships along the way from all over the country.

Away from Agility I work as a Policeman in a specialist squad attached to Police National HQ in Wellington, working out of Christchurch. Agility has given me the opportunity to be around good and 'normal' people away from my work.

My other non- Agility and away from work hobbies involve Motorsports, and stem back to my life before dogs. I have a dirt bike that I enjoy getting out on riding trails and adventure rides when I can. I am also involved with the organising and running of Car Rallies in Canterbury and other parts of the South Island, and really love getting out into the Forests and the gravel roads of the back blocks during the winter months and late nights in workshops with mates getting Rally Cars ready to race.

So, all the best for the long weekend, and I look forward to seeing you on the start line.

