

The Royal Agricultural Society  
of Victoria

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ANNUAL REPORT

1958

(Circular)



## The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria

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Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of members of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria will be held in the Council Room, Administrative Building, Plummer Avenue, Royal Showgrounds, Epsom Road, Ascot Vale, on Monday, the 2nd March, 1959, at 12 noon.

### BUSINESS

1. To receive the Annual Report and Balance Sheet.
2. To elect members to fill the vacancies on the Council.
3. To appoint two Auditors.

Dated the 16th day of February, 1959.

H. T. C. WOODFULL,  
Secretary.

For list of nominations see back.

## LIST OF NOMINATIONS

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### MEMBERS OF COUNCIL (Eleven to be elected)

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BOTT, John, "Naranghi," Yarrawonga.

CRESWICK, A. R., "Kent Park," Lower Ferntree Gully.

CUNNINGHAM, L. S. K., 5 Hollinsworth Ave., Hawthorn.

DAHLENBURG, A. E., Brougham St., Nhill.

GREAVES, S. A., "The Landing," Bass.

HUNTER, Robert, "Northwood Park," Seymour.

JOHNSON, C. C., "The Camp," Whorouly South.

MOORE, C. Owen, "Chechingurk," Mornington.

McGARVIE, Keith, "Greenwood," Pomborneit.

NICHOLAS, Lindsay G. C., "Cooring Yering," Lilydale.

SMITH, D. Sutherland, All Saints Vineyard, Wahgunyah.

NOTE:—The nominations not being in excess of the vacancies, there will be no poll.

# Annual Report of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria

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To the Members—

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my duty and pleasure, on behalf of the Council of the Society, to report to you the Society's activities for the year ending 31st December, 1958. These can be divided into two sections — those activities which culminate in the Annual Exhibition, and those devoted to stimulating scientific agricultural and animal husbandry and a sympathetic approach to the problems of the primary industry.

## ANNUAL EXHIBITION

The Council continued and extended its policy of enlisting in support of this enterprise and interest and co-operation of as many sections of the community as possible.

In the stock entries, classes were provided for Poll Dorsets and Landrace Pigs for the first time. The exhibition of British breeds of sheep for numbers and quality was authoritatively considered to be the best ever seen in Australia and not surpassed in the world. The interest in the Landrace Pigs was evidenced at the sales in the high prices which were bid thereat.

The appointment of Colonel Weldon as judge of saddle horses and equestrian events added zest to the horse section by his competent and courteous judging. The judging of Mrs. M. Pacey, from England, in the dog section, made this section one of the most satisfactory for both exhibitors and spectators.

Many new classes and competitions were included this year, prominent amongst them being the inter-breed competition for the maintenance of cattle, the classes for New Australians in the homecrafts section and the scone baking competition. The Council gave careful consideration to any suggestions received from Breed Societies when compiling the Schedule of Prizes.

The Show has long been recognised by the Education Department as an educational excursion for school children, and the Society has charged half admission fees for school parties. This year, in co-operation with the Breed Societies and Country Agricultural Societies, guided tours were organized also for senior students from secondary schools. They were given competent instruction in the importance and points of various breeds of animals and other aspects of the Show, from experienced guides. Each student received as a gift an illustrated brochure which explained the activities of the Society and gave brief descriptions of animal breeds exhibited at the Show.

The family ticket proved increasingly popular with the public, which showed its appreciation by substantially increased demand.

## NEW BUILDINGS

On the building side, G. J. Coles Ltd. erected a dignified building for their stand, which attracted great patronage, and Dennys Lascelles Ltd. reconstructed their stand which is now a most attractive building, while the Society built a new beef cattle sale ring in original design, named after our late Vice-President, Mr. L. M. Dugdale. The fact that Mr. Dugdale, who took a part in preparing the design, was himself a cattle breeder of long experience, ensured stud breeders a sale ring enabling them to sell their cattle under the best possible conditions, and auctioneers that they would henceforth operate with maximum convenience. The Honourable G. L. Chandler, C.M.G., M.L.C., Minister of Agriculture, officially opened the L. M. Dugdale Cattle Sale Ring, which was the subject of much favourable comment.

By demolishing the old casualty facilities, it was possible to provide a larger area for the marshalling of horses coming into the arena. In lieu of the old casualty room, new facilities were provided for this purpose.

A new theatrette was constructed in the Dairy Industry Display, in which the Milk Board showed films promoting the dairy industry.

Other new works included new showers for dairy exhibitors, increased fodder accommodation, considerably increased electrical installations and facilities, new accommodation for the aquarium, additional sheep accommodation and several other important facilities in various parts of the grounds.

The Council realizes that much work has to be done to provide adequate facilities for both exhibitors and public. The Council's ability to provide such facilities is limited by the capital moneys available, and further projects will be undertaken as and when capital moneys become available.

A new room for daily press conferences with judges was provided, and with some minor adjustments this should prove a great asset.

## RADIO WEEK

The Australian Federation of Commercial Broadcasting Stations decided to hold Radio Week during the Royal Show, and occupied a stand on the Showgrounds. Great interest was displayed by the public, as their stand was surrounded by crowds during the Show, and much useful publicity was provided through the many Victorian broadcasting stations in the Federation.

## CHURCH SERVICE

For the first time, a Church Service was held on the Sunday during the Show, and approximately 4,000 people attended. The Service was arranged by Mr. H. A. G. Clark, Secretary of the Victorian State Committee of the Australian Council for the World Council of Churches. It was conducted by Dr. Alan Watson and the address was given by Dr. Frank Woods, Archbishop of Melbourne.

## "SUN" SHOW GIRL 1958

This was competed for by those who had won the title at their country agricultural show, and attracted 74 finalists. The winner, Miss Gwenda Marsh, of Hamilton, was presented with the sash by Mrs. H. E. Bolte, C.B.E., wife of the Premier of Victoria. The Society gave a complimentary dinner to the finalists, each of whom was attended by the President of the Society which sponsored her entry to the Show. It was felt that this was a forward step in further developing a cordial relationship between Country Agricultural Societies and this Society. The event was so strongly contested and created so much interest that the sponsors have offered the following prizes for the finalists at the next Show. First, £250; Second, £100; Third, £50; each prize to include a silver trophy.

## VISITORS

His Excellency Sir Dallas Brooks, Governor of Victoria, graciously accepted the Society's invitation to officially open the Show, and he was accompanied by Lady Brooks.

A pleasing feature of the Show was the number of prominent citizens who attended, and amongst these were The Honourable the Premier of Victoria and all members of State Cabinet. The leader of the opposition, the Honourable C. P. Stoneham, M.L.A., the leader of the Country Party, the Honourable Sir Herbert Hyland, M.L.A., Mr. P. W. C. Stokes, M.H.R., and Mr. A. A. Buchanan, M.H.R., also attended. Others included the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Cr. F. W. Thomas, together with Councillors from the City of Melbourne; the Mayor of Essendon, Councillor A. G. Pennell and members of his Council. We were also pleased to have as our guests His Excellency Mr. T. W. L. MacDermot, the High Commissioner for Canada and His Excellency Dr. A. Y. Helmi, the Indonesian Ambassador, and his wife.

Several members of Parliament forming the State Development Committee also viewed our Show with interest.

## ATTENDANCE

The result was that, despite the fact that rain fell on all but two days, there was a record all time aggregate day attendance, and for the first time, an attendance in excess of 100,000 on three days. The night attendances with Melbourne weather and the impact of night television brought the aggregate Show attendance into second place behind the fine weather Show of 1954, total attendance being 664,709.

Therefore, the result was a source of some gratification to your Council and staff who have worked so hard in the interests of the Society.

## FINANCE

Your Council has watched the financial position of the Society carefully and adopted a policy of consolidation, as predicted in the last annual report. The result has been satisfactory, and the financial position substantially improved. This is due to the fact that, despite general rising costs, the expenditure has been less, both on the grounds side and the administrative side. This is, of course, due to careful supervision, which, I believe, has been made easier by the move of the office to the Showgrounds and to the revenue received between Shows for the use of the grounds. This source of revenue is one that must, I believe, be explored to the utmost. The Society's capital asset in land and buildings is so great that it is imperative for it to return the maximum revenue between Shows.

## BREED SOCIETIES

The administrative work for several Breed Societies has again been carried out by the Society at a cost in wages alone of £30,454 without any allowance for the use of premises, services such as electricity and telephone, furniture and other numerous office items. Great advantage is derived by Breed Societies in their association with this Society, and the establishment of a permanent office and officers assists them in continuity of their work. A reduction in the costs of their work could take place if the various Societies were prepared to streamline their work, but this is a matter for the Breed Societies themselves to determine. This Society is at all times willing to co-operate and assist and has given deep consideration to any requests made by Breed Societies from time to time.

## YOUNG FARMERS

Since the affairs of the Senior Section of the Young Farmers of Victoria have been administered by this Society, the movement has grown considerably, and the number of clubs has now increased to 129 with a membership of 3,500. The Society is pleased to assist this movement, and is gratified to learn of its great progress in this State.

The Society was also pleased to assist financially and otherwise the Young Farmers' organization in connection with the National Ploughing Championship of Australia, which took place at Wangaratta in the month of May. This Championship was most successful and will be again conducted during 1959.

## EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Society's £1,000 Travelling Scholarship to England was awarded to Mr. J. M. Fyfe, of Berwick, who has already left to tour England. The sponsorship of this scholarship, we are again pleased to say, was undertaken by the H. V. McKay Charitable Trust, to whom we are indebted.

Mr. L. E. Murdoch, of Numurkah, was awarded the Travelling Scholarship to New Zealand. He has already returned from that country after making a close study of agricultural activities, particularly in relation to the dairying and pig industries. The Society again wishes to record its grateful appreciation for the generosity of the Commonwealth Bank in providing the sum of £500 for this scholarship.

At the suggestion of this Society, the Commonwealth Bank has also agreed to donate £500 towards the cost of a film covering the various phases of the beef cattle industry in Victoria. Preparation of this film is at present proceeding.

The Fodder Conservation Competition and the Wheat Crop Championships were again conducted by the Society, with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture. Both these competitions proved to be beneficial to the promotion of primary industry in the State.

## TROTTING CONTROL

The Society's thanks are due to Messrs. A. J. L. James, L. Nicholas and H. E. Yuncken, who are our nominees on the Trotting Control Board and devote a substantial amount of their time for the benefit of the Trotting Control Board.

## CHANGES IN COUNCIL

During the year the Society had the misfortune to lose two Honorary Councillors, Messrs. J. F. Guthrie and H. McClelland. Mr. Guthrie had been a member of the Society's Council since 1916 and Mr. McClelland since 1922.

Unfortunately, the death also occurred of Sir Clive McPherson, one of the Trustees of this Society, and Council, at its November meeting, placed on record a minute of appreciation of his outstanding services to the Society during his long term of office, as a member of the Council, a Trustee and a Vice-President.

Council records its regret at the death of Mr. A. C. Bryce, who was an officer of the Society from 1925 until the time of his death in August.

## FILM "ON THE BEACH"

For the first time in the history of the Society the Showgrounds is being used for the production of a film. The Society was pleased during the latter part of the year 1958 to make arrangements with The Stanley Kramer Pictures Corporation of U.S.A. to enable that organization to produce the film "On The Beach", based on the novel written by Nevil Shute, who as Mr. Nevil Norway is now a Victorian agriculturist.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

It is with considerable pleasure that I place on record the Society's appreciation of the willing co-operation given during the year 1958 by the Honourable the Premier and members of the Victorian Cabinet, particularly the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable G. L. Chandler, C.M.G., M.L.C.

The officers of the Department of Agriculture, headed by Mr. P. Ryan, have at all times shown great readiness to assist, not only in our Show activities, but in many other ways during the year.

Valued assistance was given in connection with the Dairy Industry Display by the Chairman of the Milk Board, Mr. M. Rankin, and his colleagues; also by the Dairy Industry Bureau.

The Director of Education, Major-General A. H. Ramsay, the Chief Commissioner of Police, Major-General S. H. Porter, the Chairman of the Victorian Railways, Mr. E. H. Brownbill, the Chairman of the Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways Board, Major-General R. J. H. Risson, and their staffs, were at all times willing to co-operate.

The Australian Meat Board and several other Government Departments and instrumentalities assisted.

Many commercial firms were generous in their sponsorships of events for the Show, and great assistance was derived in this manner. Commercial firms, vendors of sample bags and caterers all combined in their assistance to make the Show attractive and of popular appeal.

The Army, Navy, National Fitness Council and the Country Fire Authority provided interesting items for our arena.

The Shell Company of Australia Ltd. and the Shell Chemical (Aust.) Pty. Ltd. again considerably assisted by sponsoring the pre-show tour of journalists and cameramen from press, radio and television. This year the tour covered the north-eastern areas of Victoria and provided much pre-show publicity as well as establishing public relations for the areas visited.

To all judges, stewards, stewardesses and other officials we tender our warmest thanks for their efficiency and enthusiasm. The Society relies tremendously on the voluntary assistance given by these people, and I cannot express too strongly our thanks to them.

Members of the press, radio and television staffs assisted considerably and were at all times very helpful, and provided important assistance in the publicity work of the Society.

I wish also to record appreciation of the efficient work done by the members of the administrative staff and to the ground staff, headed by the Grounds Manager, Mr. Drew. All have loyally supported the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. H. T. C. Woodfull in the wonderful work he has done in carrying out the policy of the Council and thus ending another successful year of the Society's activities.

On behalf of the Council,

NORMAN MITCHELL, President.



**THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA**  
**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**  
**FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958.**

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# THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1958.

LIABILITIES	ASSETS
Bank Overdraft, Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd. . . . .	Secretary's Advance Account . . . . .
£433,893	£200
T. H. Payne Memorial Trust . . . . .	Cash on Hand . . . . .
250	56
W. J. Dawkins Trophy Trust . . . . .	Showgrounds Stock on Hand, at cost . . . . .
100	2,219
Australian Pig Society Trust . . . . .	Sundry Debtors . . . . .
1,500	22,173
Capt. A. E. T. Payne Trust . . . . .	Trotting Control Board Grandstand Liability . . . . .
£10,000	211,782
Income Account—Balance . . . . .	Prepayments . . . . .
412	1,633
10,412	State Electricity Commission Extension Deposit . . . . .
Short Call Deposits . . . . .	1,648
88,039	T. H. Payne Memorial Bonds . . . . .
Sundry Creditors and Accruals . . . . .	250
3,265	Capt. A. E. T. Payne Trust, Inscribed Stock, etc. . . . .
Deferred Liability—Dairy Machinery, Fodder Conservation Campaign, Scholarship and New Works Deposit . . . . .	9,935
3,899	Australian Pig Society Bonds . . . . .
Grandstand Reserve Account . . . . .	1,500
232,123	A. F. McNaughton Ayrshire Trophy Bond . . . . .
Assets, Revaluation Reserve . . . . .	120
1,042,003	W. J. Dawkins Inscribed Stock . . . . .
Provision for Deferred Maintenance Accumulated Fund—	100
5,000	Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd.—Short Call Account . . . . .
Balance, 1/1/58 . . . . .	88,039
£373,063	Land, at cost . . . . .
Profit on Sale of Assets . . . . .	56,921
169	Building and Improvements, at valuation £1,530,405
Surplus for Year . . . . .	26,580
6,346	1,503,825
379,578	Showgrounds Services and Utilities . . . . .
£2,200,062	228,133
	Showgrounds Plant and Furniture, at cost . . . . .
	£45,365
	Less Depreciation . . . . .
	4,910
	40,455
	Office Furniture, at cost . . . . .
	£5,021
	Less Depreciation . . . . .
	425
	4,596
	Trotting Control Board . . . . .
	£28,400
	Less Repayments During Year . . . . .
	1,933
	26,467
	£2,200,062

### AUDITORS' REPORT

We wish to report to the members that we have audited the books and accounts of the ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA for the year ended 31st December, 1958. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required, and, in our opinion, the above Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Society's affairs and that the accompanying statement of Income and Expenditure is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the results of the operations of the Society for the year, according to the best of our information, the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books of the Society.

Dated at Melbourne this 29th day of January, 1959.

A. J. COURT, F.C.A. (Aust.).

L. R. GILLAM, A.C.A. (Aust.).

Chartered Accountants (Aust.).

H. T. C. WOODFULL, Secretary.

## COMPARATIVE LIST OF ENTRIES

Section	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Clydesdales .. .. .	122	135	101	110	85	122	129	130
Farm and Lorry .. .. .	38	15	14	44	31	16	24	8
Arabs .. .. .	17	10	16	34	16	24	22	27
Trotters .. .. .	84	91	97	68	35	52	52	44
Galloways .. .. .	43	47	50	66	56	66	72	68
Ponies .. .. .	173	200	223	202	220	201	245	256
Saddle Horses, etc. .. .. .	1,082	1,146	1,363	1,416	1,368	1,469	1,711	1,828
Harness Horses, etc. .. .. .	144	190	184	186	186	156	180	165
*Riding Competitions .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	1,046	1,120	1,108
*Novelty Horse Events .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	355	246	274
*Jumping Competitions .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	1,226	1,175	898
*Wood Chopping and Sawing .. .. .	—	444	890	866	1,027	1,002	982	916
Shorthorns .. .. .	117	134	134	157	113	140	144	137
Poll Shorthorns .. .. .	9	11	16	21	41	25	14	20
Herefords .. .. .	75	63	70	56	82	98	85	104
Poll Herefords .. .. .	69	74	92	97	133	117	128	116
Aberdeen Angus .. .. .	132	102	123	130	111	199	179	226
Devons .. .. .	4	10	9	13	19	16	18	19
Red Polls .. .. .	127	110	117	116	111	63	59	44
Dairy Shorthorns .. .. .	132	162	161	156	166	164	187	133
Fat Cattle .. .. .	53	56	61	53	68	40	62	55
Illawarra Shorthorns .. .. .	187	177	201	220	170	200	176	101
Ayrshires .. .. .	249	205	256	248	279	221	205	187
Jerseys .. .. .	483	477	496	499	621	549	588	555
Guernseys .. .. .	183	189	176	207	254	163	159	240
Friesians .. .. .	209	172	246	245	212	246	213	195
Lincolns .. .. .	16	11	10	14	10	8	8	6
Border Leicesters .. .. .	105	124	171	158	147	144	149	198
English Leicesters .. .. .	19	13	14	30	29	28	39	39
Romney Marsh .. .. .	102	113	114	133	94	93	50	104
Cheviots .. .. .	30	34	34	53	50	81	130	132
Dorset Horns .. .. .	123	153	168	194	231	225	229	254
Shropshires .. .. .	19	21	8	15	7	7	5	12
Southdowns .. .. .	66	82	119	161	133	145	145	133
Suffolks .. .. .	31	20	32	28	13	24	30	28
Ryelands .. .. .	76	99	96	100	123	143	160	118
Dorset Downs .. .. .	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
Hampshire Downs .. .. .	—	8	2	—	—	—	5	3
Poll Dorsets .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36
Corriedales .. .. .	54	77	70	93	66	69	56	40
Fat Sheep .. .. .	15	35	22	15	14	53	34	—
Fleeces .. .. .	69	48	210	341	382	350	162	195
*Sheep Dog Trials .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	78	117	99
Sheep Shearing Competitions .. .. .	—	—	92	67	66	40	16	16
Goats .. .. .	90	84	98	135	167	147	166	170
Pigs .. .. .	560	600	700	801	659	561	590	541
Poultry .. .. .	1,900	2,170	2,034	2,167	2,195	2,058	1,691	1,917
Pigeons .. .. .	1,049	1,205	1,170	890	843	626	997	1,161
Budgerigars, etc. .. .. .	589	446	423	241	344	443	630	773
Wines, etc. .. .. .	429	441	472	497	486	637	663	657
Dairy Produce .. .. .	142	165	178	170	266	308	264	315
Farm Produce .. .. .	188	193	169	173	173	213	198	192
*Fruit Packing Competitions .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	114	96	108
Apiculture .. .. .	102	41	76	57	75	69	85	61
Arena Contests .. .. .	4,036	3,984	5,758	5,470	4,879	—	—	—
Home Crafts .. .. .	2,491	2,414	2,558	2,377	2,618	2,509	2,412	2,573
Dogs .. .. .	2,853	3,051	3,178	3,112	3,265	3,545	3,549	3,200
†Young Farmers' Competitions .. .. .	—	—	—	—	278	349	229	59
*Trotting Races .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	542	717	546
*Rodeo Events .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	70	—	—
<b>Total Competitive Entries ..</b>	<b>19,130</b>	<b>19,642</b>	<b>22,329</b>	<b>22,531</b>	<b>22,457</b>	<b>21,655</b>	<b>21,797</b>	<b>21,540</b>

\* Previously shown as Arena Contests.

† Competitive Classes in Young Farmers' Pavilion discontinued after 1957 Show.