



The
Royal Agricultural
Society of Victoria

ANNUAL
REPORT

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Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria

To the Members —

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Council of this Society, it is my pleasure to submit to you a report of the Society's activities for the year ending 31st December, 1965.

ROYAL SHOW

I am happy to again record the fact that the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency Major General Sir Rohan Delacombe, K.C.M.G., K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., K.St.J., officially opened our 1965 Royal Show.

We were also honoured to have with us on this occasion Lady Delacombe; The Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Menzies, K.T., C.H., Q.C., M.P., Prime Minister of Australia and Dame Pattie Menzies; The Hon. C. F. Adermann, Minister for Primary Industry; The Rt. Hon. T. F. Peart, British Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and Mrs. Peart; Mr. F. M. Kearns, M.C., Permanent Under Secretary, British Department of Agriculture; Mr. R. Elphick, First Secretary (Agriculture and Food) to the British High Commissioner; Mr. E. V. C. Smith, Private Secretary to the Minister; The Hon. Sir Henry Bolte, K.C.M.G., Premier of Victoria and Lady Bolte, C.B.E., together with The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Councillor I. T. Beaurepaire, and the Lady Mayoress; Major General T. S. Taylor, M.V.O., M.C., and Mrs. Taylor.

No less than thirteen records in entries were broken in classes for the 1965 Royal Show but total entries were slightly below the all time record set in 1964. In some sections, such as horses and dairy cattle, entries were so heavy that we were obliged to apply restrictions because of an excess number over available accommodation. Particulars of all entries will be found appended to this report.

BUILDINGS, IMPROVEMENTS AND ALTERATIONS

Over \$200,000 (£100,000) was expended in new buildings, improvements and alterations for the Royal Show.

The biggest single new building is that of the British Tobacco Company which cost approximately \$120,000 (£60,000). The new Showgrounds Post Office has been established in the British Tobacco Company Centre and this service, one of the most up to date in Victoria, was established by this Society for approximately \$10,000 (£5,000).

Another most modern building was erected by the Forestry Commission. This very fine building was well patronised during the Show and the Forestry Commission is to be commended on placing such a building on our Showgrounds.

The Commercial Bank of Australia also built a new stand in Plummer Avenue and this building was also well patronised during the Show.

R.A.S.V. Buildings.

Three new buildings were constructed by the R.A.S.V. for the 1965 Royal Show. The new brick Fresh Fruit Hall, built between the Meat Hall and the British Tobacco Centre, and adjacent to the Dairy Industry Display and Wool Court, has now made this area one of the most important on the Showgrounds.

The new Commercial Ewe and Lamb Pavilion, with the display of lambs' carcasses, created widespread interest, and the Society was commended by industry interests for creating this exhibit.

A new Strain-Steel building was erected in the eastern part of the Showgrounds to house the new Farm Gadgets exhibits.

Masonry veneer walls were added to the Dairy Industry Pavilion. This improvement enabled the building to blend in with the new industry halls close at hand. A new brick front was erected at the Pig Pavilion.

Extensive alterations were made to the Meat Hall to make provision for the new refrigerated meat display section. This new area is considered to be one of the largest refrigerated display areas in the world.

Besides the new meat display section, a barbecue annexe was constructed to cater for the growing demand for barbecued meats.

The Annual Nursery, one of the big attractions at the Show last year, was moved to a much larger building in Lennon Avenue. The move justified the Society's action, for this free display was one of the main attractions at our Show this year.

Notable among the alterations and additions made for the Show were those effecting the exhibitor and the stock. These included the extension to the Sheep Club; new lockers, toilets, showers and ramps in pavilions; new measuring stands, renovations to stalls, and extended marshalling area in the Eastern area; a new safety fence in the Western area as protection against horses travelling to and from the arena. Additional housing for sheep shearing close to Centenary Hall, new hospital pens and stalls were also constructed.

ATTENDANCES

The attendance at this year's Show totalled 717,055, and was the highest aggregate on record.

There was a slight decrease in the number of children attending the Show but this could have been caused by the school holidays concluding just prior to the commencement of the Show.

ARENA ATTRACTIONS

The presence of the Pacific Islands Regiment Band supported by Army bands from Southern Command (Victoria), Central Command (South Australia), Northern Command (Queensland) and the Royal Australian Engineers from Kapooka (N.S.W.), could be classified as the main arena attraction.

These performances were well supported by trick rider Faye Grainger; the Australian Tent Pegging Gold Cup series; the outstanding rodeo; the ever popular Victoria Mounted Police and Mobile Police; the Army's mechanised musical drive and Commando Unit; together with massed displays of up to 1,000 marching girls; sheep dog trials; Olympic and time jumping competitions; novelty horse events; woodchopping and sheaf tossing; made the arena programme again one of the most popular sections of the Show.

OTHER SHOW FEATURES

Mention must be made of the displays, exhibits and demonstrations organised and presented by the primary industries. Those of the Wool Board, the Meat Board, and the Dairy Industry were particularly well received and caused much favourable comment.

Again this year, the jewellery and flower fashions displays and demonstrations conducted in Centenary Hall supplemented the excellent fleeces display and shearing competitions.

The horticulture display in Centenary Hall this year was highlighted by the return of the floral clock, the first appearance since the last war, and the excellent Melbourne City Council exhibit.

Maybe the most popular and most publicised feature at the Show this year was the Animal Nursery. In its new location and extended form it was considered an outstanding attraction. The murals painted on the walls added much to this excellent presentation.

The "Sun" Country Show Girl Competition was conducted again in Wool Court and due to good stage management by officers of the Wool Board was said to be the best competition ever conducted. Just on 70 representatives from Victorian and interstate agricultural societies faced the panel of three judges.

The winner Miss Joy Wheelhouse, of Fentons Creek, represented the Bendigo Agricultural Society. Miss Wheelhouse assisted this Society during the Show in a most generous manner.

It is fitting to make mention of the excellent display in the Government Pavilion this year, and I compliment the Department of Agriculture on the presentation of this display.

The farm equipment and machinery exhibitors were again responsible for excellent stands, and drew big crowds of farmers and townspeople, as did the motor vehicle exhibitors.

The outside showmen (side-shows) and amusement ride proprietors all assisted with true Royal Show "atmosphere".

VISITORS

Besides the distinguished guests present at the official opening it was our pleasure to entertain members of State Cabinet and their wives, besides Parliamentarians representing all parties; Sir Henry Winneke, Kt., O.B.E., LL.M., Q.C., and Lady Winneke; Air Vice-Marshal C. D. Candy, C.B.E., and Mrs. Candy; Commodore J. P. Stevenson and Mrs. Stevenson; Mr. R. H. Arnold, Chief Commissioner of Police and Miss Helen Arnold; Sir Richard Graham and Lady Graham; Miss Margaret Smith; members of the State Development Committee, and business executives.

It was also our pleasure to welcome His Excellency Major General R. A. Kosasih, Ambassador of Indonesia who was accompanied by his wife, and again on Peoples' Day, over 100 Asian and African students.

It was especially pleasing to meet the Presidents and Councillors of other Royal Societies, and to entertain many presidents and secretaries from our own Country Agricultural Societies.

JUDGES AND STEWARDS

This Society is greatly indebted to all judges, stewards, stewardesses, and other officials for the service they rendered again this year. So many of these people devote considerable time and energy to the Show and no praise is great enough for their valuable support.

Judges from overseas included Messrs. Robert Waters, Canada, and Arthur Zane, Hawaii, who judged the record dog entry; Mr. George R. Maundrell of Wiltshire, England, Dairy Shorthorns; Mrs. E. Adeline Parker of South Africa, Red Polls; Mr. J. A. Lindsay, of New Zealand, Clydesdales; Mr. J. W. Risi, New Zealand, Large White Pigs; Miss Hetty M. Wickens, Yorkshire, England, Weaving.

Besides the international judges we were again most fortunate in securing the services of many skilled Australian judges.

OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Farm Management and Improvement Competition: The 1965 Competition was run on the lines of that of the previous year and was again well supported.

Once again we express our thanks to the Commonwealth Banking Corporation for the continued interest shown in sponsoring this excellent competition and also thanks to the hard-working judges.

Progeny Testing: A change was made in the application of this competition this year in that entries were retained on the farm rather than being housed at the Showgrounds. The judging alive and on the hooks was followed with much interest and the highlight again was the relation between economy, rate of grain and carcase quality, to respective sires.

As this competition, like the Farm Management and Improvement Competition, is one of our main extension projects, we are most grateful to all those who supported and assisted in its application, and indebted to the Reserve Bank as sponsors.

The Wheat Crop Championship: Prime Lamb Competition: Fodder Conservation Competition: District Fleeces and Lambs Wool Competitions:

Each of these competitions were again conducted during the year and received support from entrants and respective sections of Primary Industry.

The Victorian Department of Agriculture assists the Society in most of these competitions and we again offer to those concerned our sincere thanks for their generous attitude in this respect.

Journalists' Tour: The pre-Show Journalists' tour sponsored by the Shell Company of Australia Limited and Shell Chemical (Aust.) Pty. Ltd., this year covered the North-East area of the State.

This Society was assisted by many property owners and country agricultural societies in this project which again proved outstandingly successful in publicising the Show through press, radio and television personnel who were present on the Tour.

Thoroughbred Horse Show: The Fifth Annual Thoroughbred Horse Show was conducted at the Royal Showgrounds, in March under ideal conditions and attracted good entries and a good crowd. The Society is grateful to the Racing Clubs and other donors for sponsoring this function which is gaining in popularity each year.

Australian Beef and Lamb Symposium: The first Australian Beef and Lamb Symposium arranged by the Australian Meat Board in conjunction with this Society was held at the V.R.C. Lawn Restaurant at Flemington Racecourse on Show Eve, Wednesday, September 15.

The theme of the Symposium was "The Production of Livestock Most Suited to Australia's Domestic and Overseas Markets for Beef and Lamb".

Eleven papers were presented by prominent representatives from all sections of the meat industry, and proved an unqualified success.

BREED SOCIETIES

Over the past twelve months the Society has again carried out secretarial and administrative work for 30 Breed Societies and associated organisations.

The importance of this aspect of our activities is not fully appreciated by many people.

Having been custodian of breed records, in most cases since societies were formed nearly 100 years ago, this Society jealously guards the privilege of being of service to stud breeders in all fields of animal breeding, and although with continued cost increases, most of which are beyond the control of this Society, the R.A.S.V. still continues to bear the cost of secretarial work to the extent of many thousands of dollars each year on behalf of Breed Societies and associated organisations.

SENIOR YOUNG FARMERS OF VICTORIA

It is with pleasure that I report continued progress in the growth and activities of the Senior Young Farmers of Victoria.

Steady progress over the year has resulted in an all time record of 151 clubs with a membership of 4,500.

VICTORIAN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION

This fast growing, vigorous organisation, formed only twelve months ago, is providing country agricultural societies with the necessary services and incentive to further improve their activities.

The R.A.S.V. welcomes and appreciates the activities of V.A.S.A. and is happy to be a member, and of assistance to such an organisation.

CHANGES IN COUNCIL

The sudden and untimely deaths of Mr. E. A. Doyle, O.B.E., and Dr. F. G. Stephens has robbed this Council of two of its most valued members.

The late Mr. Doyle was appointed to Council in September 1949. He was Chairman of the Press, Public Relations and Advertising Committee for ten years, and was the originator of the Royal Show Press Conferences.

His lifetime association with the press had made him an invaluable member of our Council.

Doctor F. G. Stephens commenced his association with the Council in 1950, and was elected a Vice-President of the R.A.S.V. in 1957.

He was associated with the Guernsey cattle breed for over 30 years, and was President of the Victorian Branch of the Guernsey Cattle Society for 25 years and Federal President for eight years.

In recognition of his services the R.A.S.V. named the Guernsey cattle pavilion after him.

FINANCE

The cost involved in improving and maintaining our grounds was very high and this was one of the main causes in our expenditure rising to \$620,062. We feel however that it is most important for us to keep our grounds in a good and attractive condition. Our receipts were good although slightly less than the expenditure. On the whole however, the Council considers our financial position to be quite sound.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is with pride and pleasure that I place on record the acceptance by His Excellency The Rt. Hon. Lord Casey, P.C., G.C.M.G., C.H., D.S.O., M.C., K.St.J., as Patron-in-Chief of this Society.

I feel that His Excellency's acceptance is indeed a great honour for this Society and such acceptance will be received with enthusiasm by all associated with the R.A.S.V.

I am sure you will agree that we owe much to the continued assistance afforded us by the Premier of Victoria and members of his Cabinet, particularly the Minister of Agriculture, The Hon. G. L. Chandler, C.M.G., M.L.C.

I would especially like to thank the Director of Agriculture, Mr. F. M. Read, and the officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, who are always most helpful and ready to assist this Society at any time throughout the year.

To Mr. O. R. Browne, the Milk Board Chairman, and members of the Board we express thanks for the assistance during the year. And the Milk Industry Publicity Committee for its assistance also.

The Society again places on record sincere appreciation to the Australian Wool Board and Australian Meat Board for staging such fine displays and demonstrations.

Special thanks is due to Mr. Ivan Wade, President of the Meat and Allied Trades Federation for his work in the Meat Hall, and Mr. Les Batten, Industry Relations Officer with the Australian Wool Board, for Wool Court.

Of the many Government Departments and Boards, represented in various ways, besides those already referred to, I would like to thank the Railways Department, the Tramways Board, the State Electricity Commission, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, the Police Department and the Department of the Army, all of whom rendered us considerable assistance.

Thanks is also due to the Victorian Racing Club for co-operation and assistance during the year, particularly in connection with vehicle parking matters; this friendly assistance is very much appreciated.

Many commercial firms were most generous in sponsoring the competitions or other activities conducted by this Society during the year, and to these firms I wish to express the thanks of the Society. Their numbers are too great to mention in detail but I would nevertheless like them to know just how much we appreciate their valuable support.

During the year two members of this Society were honored by Her Majesty The Queen. Colonel Malcolm H. McArthur received the O.B.E., and Mr. Harold J. Keys, J.P., received the M.B.E.

To Colonel McArthur, a Member of the Council, and Mr. Keys, a Life Member of the R.A.S.V. since 1923 and a member of the Staff, we offer our sincere congratulations.

I wish to record grateful thanks to the Members of the Council who serve the Society in such an efficient and enthusiastic manner and spend so many hours working in the interests of the Society. They have given me loyal and solid support during the year and all have been most generous in expending their time and energy to further the interests of the Society.

I should like to make special mention of the valuable assistance given to me during the year by the Vice-Presidents, Messrs. F. E. Selwyn Scott, M.B.E., J. M. Gardner and L. S. K. Cunningham.

During the year our Director, Mr. H. T. C. Woodfull undertook a world tour on the Society's behalf and I am most confident that accruing benefits to this Society will be the result to his trip.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my warmest appreciation to the staff, who under the direction of Mr. Woodfull, and in his absence, proved most efficient in their respective duties, and so considerably assisted the Society during the past year.

G. P. H. WILSON, President.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE,

FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1965

EXPENDITURE	INCOME
ANNUAL EXHIBITION	ANNUAL EXHIBITION
To Wages \$90,358	By Admission—
„ Prize Money, Cups, Trophies 48,552	Turnstiles \$207,124
„ Printing 27,538	Railways 66,996
„ Attractions 26,934	Grandstands 13,924
„ Catering 19,698	Motor Parks and Cloak Rooms 932
„ Advertising and Publicity 17,524	Sales Rings 322
„ Judge's Expenses 7,688	„ Ground Rents 130,234
„ Police and Fire Services 8,034	„ Entry Fees 32,724
„ Cleaning 3,636	„ Premiums—Refreshments and Catering 16,500
„ Public Address Equipment 3,592	„ Catalogue and Programme Sales 4,150
„ Wood Chopping 1,864	„ Commission Stock Sales 2,540
„ Medical and Veterinary Officers' Fees 1,622	„ Sundries 578
„ Cartage 1,360	<u>\$476,024</u>
„ Fodder 846	
„ Sundries 15,148	
<u>\$274,394</u>	
	GENERAL INCOME
	By Rent of Showgrounds and Buildings \$55,864
	„ Donations 23,352
	„ Advertising 4,100
	„ Motor Parks 1,420
	„ Sundries 5,348
	<u>90,084</u>
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	SUBSCRIPTIONS
To Wages, Salaries, Superannuation \$101,540	By Members \$35,286
„ Repairs and Maintenance 72,080	„ Associate Members 6,672
„ Interest & Bank Charges 14,446	„ Ladies' Badges 1,360
„ Insurance Premiums 21,288	„ Junior Members 1,342
„ Secretarial Services to Herd Societies 7,808	<u>44,660</u>
„ Rates and Taxes 18,142	<u>\$610,768</u>
„ Motor Vehicle Maintenance 5,712	
„ Office Cleaning 2,978	
„ Telephone 3,596	
„ Postage 3,386	
„ Office Supplies 5,928	
„ Catering 1,924	
„ Audit and Legal Fees 800	
„ Travelling Expenses 10,288	
„ Sundry Competitions 1,674	
„ Loose Tools 508	
„ Advertising 366	
„ Sundries 7,904	
„ Members' News Letter 1,162	
„ Depreciation 64,140	
<u>\$345,668</u>	
	Balance transferred to Accumulated Fund 9,294
<u>\$620,062</u>	<u>\$620,062</u>

COMPARATIVE LIST OF ENTRIES

Section	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	Previous	Best
Clydesdales	120	124	139	142	106	125	271	1924
Farm and Lorry	22	16	24	20	34	24	75	1934
Arabs	31	54	36	40	46	64	54	1961
Trotters	42	44	32	24	28	41	112	1947
Galloways	57	85	78	83	94	89	94	1964
Ponies	290	289	335	317	332	315	335	1962
Horses (Led)	—	—	47	47	53	52	53	1964
Saddle Horses, etc.	1,577	2,196	2,157	2,011	2,123	2,362	2,196	1961
Stallions	—	—	—	—	—	86	—	—
Harness Horses, etc.	190	204	220	205	212	271	271	1947
*Riding Competitions	945	1,259	1,279	1,225	1,237	1,145	1,279	1962
*Novelty Horse Events	517	575	593	455	520	642	593	1962
*Jumping Competitions	694	980	696	1,233	1,229	651	1,233	1963
*Wood Chopping and Sawing	944	957	853	936	922	878	1,027	1955
Sheaf Tossing	17	46	53	59	42	44	59	1963
Tug-O'-War	—	—	16	21	16	14	21	1963
Beef Shorthorns	180	165	167	153	137	122	180	1960
Poll Shorthorns	31	38	46	48	73	91	73	1964
Herefords	117	91	102	108	101	86	117	1960
Poll Herefords	113	143	151	148	167	147	151	1962
Angus	208	259	278	237	231	234	278	1962
Devons	17	15	15	7	7	—	19	1955
Santa Gertrudis	10	—	2	4	2	2	10	1960
Galloways	—	—	—	5	10	5	10	1964
Murray Greys	—	—	—	14	28	30	28	1964
Brahmans	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Herdmen's Competition	—	—	—	—	19	18	19	1964
Red Polls	39	52	71	76	79	96	159	1934
Dairy Shorthorns	181	204	173	184	167	199	204	1961
Fat Cattle	41	87	64	86	118	145	118	1964
Aust. Illawarra Shorthorns	163	140	169	150	134	165	235	1948
Ayrshires	211	225	167	188	204	206	503	1922
Jerseys	595	702	699	751	795	826	795	1964
Guernseys	268	332	277	231	280	301	332	1961
Friesians	289	339	318	369	368	379	369	1963
Lincolns	—	5	6	4	6	12	219	1918
English Leicesters	46	46	40	36	31	27	114	1947
Border Leicesters	189	187	230	215	169	182	230	1962
Romney Marsh	92	81	107	91	82	79	159	1949
Cheviots	207	208	137	144	104	105	208	1961
Southdowns	178	183	162	156	117	136	196	1938
Shropshires	9	7	5	6	6	5	92	1934
Suffolks	22	20	17	21	25	30	60	1937
Dorset Horns	236	241	237	239	209	216	254	1958
Ryelands	120	98	149	108	119	120	160	1957
Hampshire Downs	—	—	—	—	6	9	8	1952
Dorset Downs	—	—	2	—	—	—	4	1950
Poll Dorsets	101	157	221	250	267	286	267	1964
Corriedales	42	52	42	42	38	33	124	1934
Fleeces	394	347	398	514	591	389	591	1964
*Sheep Dog Trials	104	87	84	83	87	82	117	1957
Sheep Shearing Competitions	25	28	70	78	78	62	92	1953
Goats	154	109	131	135	155	140	170	1958
Pigs	784	739	702	664	743	751	801	1954
Poultry	1,984	2,059	1,934	2,050	1,930	1,943	2,195	1955
Eggs (Commercial)	—	—	—	—	185	182	185	1964
Pigeons	1,047	949	1,292	1,225	1,260	1,257	1,312	1959
Budgerigars, etc.	971	886	894	973	777	1,054	973	1963
Wines, etc.	696	685	764	867	808	917	867	1963
Dairy Produce	338	357	336	337	301	326	357	1961
Farm Produce	151	196	227	233	208	228	431	1930
*Fruit Packing Competitions	90	102	126	120	108	114	126	1962
Apiculture	148	96	135	76	114	106	148	1960
Home Crafts	3,248	3,846	3,723	3,578	3,370	3,133	3,846	1961
Dogs	3,060	3,633	3,933	4,011	4,133	4,312	4,133	1964
†Young Farmers' Competitions	64	103	124	149	192	149	349	1953
*Trotting Races	342	432	337	288	319	262	717	1956
*Rodeo Events	—	—	—	—	23	40	70	1957
Farm Gadgets	—	—	—	—	—	41	—	—6
Cats	427	375	473	671	583	656	671	196
Total Competitive Entries	23,178	25,955	26,295	26,941	27,058	27,243		

