



The
Royal Agricultural Society
of Victoria

ANNUAL REPORT

1968

The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria

LIST OF OFFICE-BEARERS, 1968

Patron-in-Chief:

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON. LORD CASEY, P.C., G.C.M.G., C.H.,
D.S.O., M.C., K.St.J.**

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	H. F. YUNCKEN, Esq.

Director: H. T. C. WOODFULL, O.B.E.

Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria

President's Report to Members

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me much pleasure to present to you the report of the activities of the Society for the twelve months period ending December 31, 1968.

For the second successive year an all time attendance record was created for the Royal Melbourne Show, the grand total of 767,014 for the 1968 Royal Show exceeded the 1967 total by 28,818.

The Society also broke new ground at the 1968 Royal Show by opening to the public on Sunday, September 22. This is the first time in the history of the Society that the Show has been opened to the general public on a Sunday and the experiment proved an outstanding success in that 71,483 people attended in the restricted period from 1.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

The main improvements carried out by the Society over the past twelve months were the construction of the new amusements and picnic area at the rear of the new Mitchell Stand, additional turnstile facilities in the south western area from the V.R.C. car park, and the resealing of thousands of square yards of roadways and walkways within the Showgrounds area. General improvements were also made in practically every section of the Showgrounds.

During the period, the Society purchased a housing block in Elliott Street adjoining the car park in Langs Road and this will no doubt be used in the future as an extension to the present car park.

THE 1968 ROYAL SHOW

Although the weather was anything but ideal; five of the 10 days were marred by rain, high winds and very cold conditions; the Society still managed, with the Show on Sunday, to create a new attendance record, and this was due, in my opinion, to the established place the Royal Show holds in the lives of the Victorian community. It was found that once the weather moderated that the general public gave full patronage and created new attendance records on the last Friday and the last Saturday of the Show.

The ring programme was enhanced by the appearance of the four Indian Army Cavalry Officers who participated in the Gold Cup Tent Pegging series and three polo matches, besides giving exhibitions of horsemanship on each day of the Show. These gentlemen were very well received by the Showgoing public, and although unfortunate in losing a member of the team in an accident prior to the opening of the Show, they acquitted themselves very well and were successful in winning the Polo series of matches.

An additional arena attraction was the return appearance of world champion tree-climber, Kelly Stanley, and American champion Larry Downing.

All in all the ring programme was a most entertaining one and was appreciated by the Showgoing public.

The Official Opening was performed by His Excellency The Rt. Hon. Lord Casey, P.C., G.C.M.G., C.H., D.S.O., M.C., K.St.J., who was accompanied by Her Excellency The Lady Casey, and we were honoured to have with us on this occasion, The Premier of Victoria, Sir Henry Bolte, K.C.M.G.; the Minister for Primary Industry, The Hon. J. D. Anthony and Mrs. Anthony;

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Councillor R. Talbot; and the Acting General Officer Commanding Southern Command, Brigadier K. R. Colwill.

Excellent displays, demonstrations and exhibits were again organised and presented by such primary industry bodies as the Australian Wool Board, the Australian Meat Board, the Victorian Egg Board and the Dairy Industry Committee, and along with the display in the Government Pavilion by the Victorian Department of Agriculture, were well received by the patrons.

Government and semi-government displays and exhibits by the Victorian Railways, Department of Labour and Industry, the Bureau of Meteorology, the State Electricity Commission and Department of External Territories all added variety and carried an educational theme.

Interest was maintained in the horticultural displays, both competitive and trade, again staged in Centenary Hall. This section, although difficult for exhibitors and nurserymen because it is at the beginning of the growing season, has now built up a big following and commands thought for continuing support.

The shearing competitions—the Victorian Championship, the Australian Strongwool Contest, teams events and Young Farmers Competitions, again provided shearing enthusiasts with the action they come to expect from this long-running activity in Centenary Hall.

This year the Society was responsible for conducting the National Fleece Competition, the first time since 1964, and although the season was a bad one the entry was excellent and the quality of the fleeces outstanding. These exhibits, along with winners in the Lambs' Wool and Districts Fleeces Competitions, were exhibited in the Fleece Hall in Lennon Avenue, in new specially constructed display cases.

The Society further extended its service to commercial farmers at the Show this year by conducting five projects aimed entirely at the field of extension.

These included the demonstrations and discussions on cattle husbandry and management practices; a continuous rural film service; the farm gadgets exhibit; the comparative display of commercial ewes and lambs; and the nitrogenous fertilizer trials on cereal crops on the Flemington Racecourse.

Another service rendered this year, for the second time, was the beef cattle judging demonstrations. They were carried out by some of Australia's most prominent beef cattle judges to assist junior judges in basic judging principles and judging technique.

ENTRIES

In spite of the driest season on record the cattle and sheep entries were surprisingly good.

It was expected that most of the stock entries would have been well down on previous years, but as it turned out there was only a slight decrease in beef cattle (45), fat cattle (15), and dual purpose cattle (1). Best ever entries were recorded in Galloway and Brahman classes.

However, the dairy cattle section reflected the conditions more acutely and there was an overall decrease of 268 on last year.

There was an overall increase of 5 sheep entries on last year, with six of the eleven breeds up on the 1967 figures.

It is pleasing to announce that the farm produce section showed an increase of 106 entries on last year.

The horse section entry again reached such proportions that compulsory reductions were necessary for accommodation purposes.

The entry in the dog section was the highest ever recorded at 4,777, and wines were the best ever with 796 entries.

Besides those sections mentioned above, increases were shown in pigs, poultry, sheep dog trials, commercial eggs, pigeons, caged birds, dairy produce and cat sections, whereas decreases on last year occurred in arts and crafts, apiculture and goats.

JUDGES AND STEWARDS

The honorary stewards, stewardesses and other officials who, by their able, unselfish and valuable support are such a vital part of our annual Show, deserve our warmest appreciation, and on your behalf, I offer sincere thanks to each one of them.

The Society was pleased to have provided five international judges to head our big panel for the 1968 Royal Show.

Mr. Andrew Dunlop of Midkelton, Castle Douglas, Scotland, judged Ayrshire and Galloway cattle; Mr. Wreford Hewson of Malton, Ontario, Canada, the big Clydesdale entry; Mrs. Judy de Cassembroot of England, and Mr. Len Carey of Hawaii, the record dog entry, and the cat exhibits were judged by Miss D. E. Menzies, O.B.E., of Hamilton, New Zealand.

Besides the overseas judges, the Society was again most fortunate in gaining the services of many skilled judges from all Australian States.

DAIRY CATTLE JUDGING

After the change in judging days for last year's Show from Thursday to Monday, a questionnaire was sent to all exhibitors of dairy and dual purpose cattle to ascertain their attitude to the change.

The result of this questionnaire was that the big majority of the exhibitors, with the exception of Jersey and A.I.S., voted strongly in favour of a return to Thursday judging, and accordingly the Society scheduled all dairy judging, except Jersey and A.I.S., for the first Thursday of the Show, September 19.

The Jersey and A.I.S. exhibits were judged on Monday, September 23.

OTHER ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

JOURNALISTS' TOUR

The annual R.A.S.V./Shell Journalists' Tour was conducted through the Goulburn-Murray Valley area of the State in mid-August.

There was a full complement of 35 international, interstate and Victorian representatives from press, radio and television media in the touring party.

A number of prominent Royal Show exhibitors were visited or contacted during the tour and many interesting development schemes and local industries were inspected.

The pre-Show publicity from this year's tour was exceptionally good, not only in the rural press but also by medium of local country publications, radio and television.

R.A.S.V. Vice-President, Mr. John Gardiner, was in charge of this most successful tour.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

The Pasture Improvement and Fodder Conservation Competition; the Wheat Crop Championship, District Fleeces and Lambs' Wool Competitions, and the Victorian Farm Management, Production and Improvement Competition, were all affected by the drought conditions, but nevertheless were well patronised and gave definite indications of the improvement in management practices and scientific advancement in modern day farming.

The Victorian Agricultural Societies Association again conducted the judging of the Victorian Farm Management, Production and Improvement Competition up to and including Group level, and the Society very much appreciates this co-operation.

The Society also expresses thanks to all sponsors and judges for their support, and extends sincere appreciation to the officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture and country agricultural societies for their assistance and co-operation in conducting these competitions.

For the past twelve months the Society has again carried out the secretarial duties for 31 breed and kindred organisations, and by so doing is pleased to be of service to stud breeders and the commercial farmers of the agricultural and pastoral industries. However, administrative costs for these Societies and Associations are continually rising and it behoves the organisations to take regular steps to keep this situation in control.

During the twelve months the new Charolais Society of Australia was formed and the R.A.S.V. has undertaken the administrative work for this society, which, if early interest is any indication, should prove a vigorous organisation.

The Senior Young Farmers of Victoria continue to make progress and it is gratifying for me to report that this organisation now has 162 clubs and 24 district councils, with an overall membership of just on 5,000.

FINANCE

Due to increases in costs and wages over the year the Society incurred a small loss of \$7,173.

Although costs are high we are pressing on with improvements to the Showgrounds as we feel the high standard must be maintained; and the present-day public now require increasingly improved facilities.

We are therefore spending as much as we can reasonably afford on improvements each year.

CHANGES IN COUNCIL

During the period under review the Council has been pleased to welcome to its ranks The Hon. Sir William McDonald, M.P., Mr. J. G. W. Head, and Mr. W. McL. Greaves.

Sir William replaces Mr. Mullett, who resigned last year, as the Government nominated Trustee; Mr. Head fills the vacancy caused by the election of myself to the position of Trustee, and Mr. Greaves fills the vacancy created by the elevation of Mr. A. R. Creswick to Life Councillor.

All Society members wish Sir William, Mr. Head and Mr. Greaves a long, happy and fruitful life as members of the Council.

I thank the Council for the great honour of electing me a Trustee to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Cecil Newton McKay.

DIRECTOR HONOURED

Mr. H. T. C. Woodfull, Director of the Society, was created Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) by Her Majesty The Queen in the Honours List appearing on The Queen's Birthday (June 8, 1968).

Mr. Woodfull has done a great deal for agriculture and showing in this State besides his invaluable service to this Society, and I am sure you would regard it as remiss of me if I did not make mention of this well deserved honour in this report and record again our congratulations and appreciation to him.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the members of the Society and Council I wish to express thanks to the Premier of Victoria, Sir Henry Bolte, along with members of his Cabinet, particularly the Minister of Agriculture, The Hon. G. L. Chandler, C.M.G., M.L.C., for their continued assistance and co-operation; the Director of Agriculture, and officers of his Department; members of the Australian Wool Board, the Australian Meat Board, the Victorian Egg Board; the Chairman and members of the Milk Board; the Meat and Allied Trades Federation and the numerous Government Departments and Boards which have co-operated and worked so closely with the Society over the past year.

I would like to record sincere thanks to the Victoria Racing Club for assistance and co-operation, especially in connection with vehicle parking facilities during the Show, and the land set aside this year for our fertiliser trials on cereal crops.

To the Press, Radio and Television media, I also express thanks for the excellent reporting of our Show.

For continued support and co-operation, we are always most grateful to our many donors, sponsors, standholders and other public and private bodies. It is quite impossible to acknowledge all the assistance we receive in detail, nevertheless we do want them all to know that their help and support is greatly appreciated and is of immense value to our enterprise.

To the members of Council and its many committees, serving the Society in a very enthusiastic and efficient manner, I wish to express my thanks and gratitude. They have been most generous with their time, talents and energy in furthering the interests of the Society, and have given me loyal and solid support.

The Vice-Presidents, Messrs. F. E. Selwyn Scott, M.B.E., J. M. Gardiner, and P. B. Ronald, I would especially like to thank for the valuable assistance given to me over the past year.

This is also an opportune time to express to members of the Staff, my sincerest gratitude for their loyal and efficient service, not only during the exacting period of the Show, but throughout the year.

G. P. H. WILSON, President.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1968

EXPENDITURE	INCOME
ANNUAL EXHIBITION	ANNUAL EXHIBITION
Wages 118,362	Admission—
Prize Money, Cups, Trophies 49,857	Turnstiles 265,544
Printing 31,906	Railways 71,895
Attractions 41,068	Grandstands 217
Catering 21,081	Motor Parks and Cloak
Advertising and Publicity . 26,086	Rooms 266
Judges' Expenses 8,078	Sale Ring 236
Police and Fire Services . . 10,891	Ground Rents 143,141
Cleaning 3,525	Entry Fees 45,415
Public Address System . . . 4,570	Premiums—
Wood Chopping 2,026	Refreshments and Catering 18,492
Medical and Veterinary	Catalogues and Programme
Officer's Fees 1,780	Sales 4,038
Cartage 1,210	Commission on Stock Sales 1,503
Fodder 282	Sundries 622
Sundries 21,735	<u>551,369</u>
<u>342,457</u>	
	GENERAL INCOME
	Rent of Show Grounds and
	Buildings 68,162
	Donations 25,035
	Advertising 3,330
	Motor Parks 1,764
	Sundries 7,533
	<u>105,824</u>
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	SUBSCRIPTIONS
Wages, Salaries, Super-annuation 120,020	Members 38,946
Repairs and Maintenance . . 65,609	Associate Members 6,547
Interest and Bank Charges 29,520	Ladies' Badges 1,400
Insurance Premiums 23,596	Junior Members 1,500
Secretarial Services to Herd Societies 9,332	<u>48,393</u>
Rates and Taxes 13,311	
Motor Vehicle Maintenance 6,603	
Office Cleaning 3,496	
Telephones 4,899	
Postage 3,947	
Office Supplies 5,600	
Catering 2,938	
Audit and Legal Fees 1,026	
Travelling Expenses 1,209	
Sundry Competitions 580	
Loose Tools 192	
Sundries 8,534	
Members' News Letter 459	
Depreciation 69,330	
Bad Debts 101	
<u>370,302</u>	
<u>\$712,759</u>	Balance transferred to Accumulated Fund 7,173
	<u>\$712,759</u>

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1968

LIABILITIES	ASSETS
Current Liabilities—	Current Assets—
Bank Overdraft 603,357	Cash on Hand 40
Sundry Creditors 4,217	Secretary's Advance 400
607,574	Prepayments 10,159
	Sundry Debtors 57,564
	Showground Stock on Hand
Short Call Deposits 173,505	at cost 8,124
	76,287
Deferred Liabilities—	Short Call Deposits as per contra—
Mitchell Grandstand Loan 200,000	Commercial Banking Co. of
	Sydney Ltd. 173,505
Trust Accounts—	Deferred Assets—
T. H. Payne Memorial 500	Trotting Control Board
W. J. Dawkins Trophy 200	Grandstand Advance 260,647
Provident Fund 1,700	
Australian Pig Society 6,000	Trustee Investments as per contra 29,040
Capt. A. E. T. Payne 20,000	
C. P. Fairbairn 400	
A. F. McNaughton 240	
29,040	
Members' Funds—	Fixed Assets—
Accumulated Fund—	Showgrounds Services and
Balance at 1/1/68 835,541	Utilities 528,917
Transfer from Income and	Land at Cost 133,339
Expenditure Statement 7,173	Building and Im-
828,368	provements at
Reserves—	Valuation 3,326,622
Assets Revaluation 2,084,006	Less Depreciation 57,843
Grandstand 484,247	3,268,779
Buildings 116,991	Showgrounds Plant
Replacement of Tubular	& Motor Vehicles 100,767
Stand 50,000	Less Depreciation 10,266
2,735,244	90,501
	Office Furniture 13,709
	Less Depreciation 993
	12,716
	4,034,252
<u>\$4,573,877</u>	<u>\$4,573,877</u>

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, 1968. 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 fair view of the state of the Society's affairs and that the accompanying statement of Income and Expenditure is properly drawn up so as exhibit a true and fair 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 9th day of February, 1969.

A. J. COURT, F.C.A. }
L. R. GILLAM, F.C.A. } Chartered Accountants

H. T. C. WOODFULL, Director.

COMPARATIVE LIST OF ENTRIES

Section	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	Previous Best	
Clydesdales	142	106	125	136	112	125	271	1924
Farm and Lorry	20	34	24	24	25	21	75	1934
Arabs	40	46	64	45	83	84	83	1967
Trotters	24	28	41	41	41	48	112	1947
Galloways	83	94	89	68	91	67	94	1964
Ponies	317	332	315	296	302	253	335	1962
Horses (Led)	47	53	52	44	54	37	54	1967
Saddle Horses, etc.	2,011	2,123	2,362	2,467	2,434	1,813	2,467	1966
Stallions	—	—	86	63	73	83	86	1965
Harness Horses, etc.	205	212	271	222	215	219	271	1965
Riding Competitions	1,225	1,237	1,145	1,044	1,282	1,150	1,282	1967
Novelty Horse Events	455	520	642	648	428	383	648	1966
Jumping Competitions	1,233	1,229	651	672	668	613	1,233	1963
Wood Chopping and Sawing	936	922	878	822	918	888	1,027	1955
Sheaf Tossing	59	42	44	60	62	41	62	1967
Tug-O'-War	21	16	14	16	18	16	21	1963
Beef Shorthorns	153	137	122	124	119	114	180	1960
Poll Shorthorns	48	73	91	68	72	42	91	1965
Herefords	108	101	86	97	99	97	117	1960
Poll Herefords	148	167	147	166	158	148	166	1966
Angus	237	231	234	257	218	221	278	1962
Devons	7	7	—	—	—	—	19	1955
Santa Gertrudis	4	2	2	2	—	—	10	1960
Galloways	5	10	5	5	15	17	15	1967
Murray Greys	14	28	30	45	59	53	59	1967
Brahmans	—	—	4	5	3	6	5	1966
Herdmen's Competition	—	19	18	10	11	12	19	1964
Red Polls	76	79	96	55	52	74	159	1934
Dairy Shorthorns	184	167	199	199	198	175	204	1961
Fat Cattle	86	118	145	229	116	101	229	1966
Aust. Illawarra Shorthorns	150	134	165	163	165	96	235	1948
Ayrshires	188	204	206	218	216	188	503	1922
Jerseys	751	795	826	673	777	711	826	1965
Guernseys	231	280	301	291	333	240	333	1967
Friesians	369	368	379	423	395	384	423	1966
Lincolns	4	6	12	6	—	—	219	1918
English Leicesters	36	31	27	30	14	—	114	1947
Border Leicesters	215	169	182	161	160	178	230	1962
Romney Marsh	91	82	79	72	62	66	159	1949
Cheviots	144	104	105	111	70	73	208	1961
Southdowns	156	117	136	148	87	77	196	1938
Shropshires	6	6	5	6	—	5	92	1934
Suffolks	21	25	30	32	31	28	60	1937
Dorset Horns	239	209	216	240	181	164	254	1958
Ryelands	108	119	120	102	103	106	160	1957
Hampshire Downs	—	6	9	4	4	—	9	1965
Dorset Downs	—	—	—	2	3	—	4	1950
Poll Dorsets	250	267	286	342	313	329	342	1966
Corriedales	42	38	33	35	40	35	124	1934
South-Suffolks	—	—	—	6	7	5	7	1967
Trade Lamb Competition	—	—	—	—	20	9	20	1967
Fleeces	514	591	389	409	352	331	591	1964
*Sheep Dog Trials	83	87	82	95	47	90	117	1957
Sheep Shearing Competitions	78	78	62	109	76	68	109	1966
Goats	135	155	140	190	207	191	207	1967
Pigs	664	743	751	673	612	686	801	1954
Poultry	2,050	1,930	1,943	1,538	1,252	1,271	2,195	1955
Eggs (Commercial)	—	185	182	129	153	170	185	1964
Pigeons	1,225	1,260	1,257	1,169	869	910	1,312	1959
Budgerigars, etc.	973	777	1,054	513	371	586	1,054	1965
Wines, etc.	867	808	917	877	973	937	973	1967
Dairy Produce	337	301	326	281	265	286	357	1961
Farm Produce	233	208	228	194	122	228	431	1930
Floriculture	—	—	—	—	20	51	20	1967
Apiculture	76	114	106	103	158	123	158	1967
Arts and Crafts	3,578	3,370	3,133	3,308	3,211	2,876	3,846	1961
Dogs	4,011	4,133	4,312	4,334	4,435	4,777	4,435	1967
Young Farmers' Competitions	149	192	149	159	204	147	349	1953
Trotting Races	288	319	262	253	248	325	717	1956
Farm Gadgets	—	—	41	71	68	55	71	1966
Cats	671	583	656	737	606	608	737	1966
Total Competitive Entries	26,941	27,058	27,243	26,137	25,156	24,311		

