



The Royal



The Official Newsletter of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria
& The Victorian Agricultural Societies' Association.

MARCH/APRIL, 1989

1988 ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

I have pleasure in reporting on the activities of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria for the year ended December 31, 1988.

1988 ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW

The 130th Melbourne Show was conducted over a period of 11 days and nine nights, commencing on Thursday, September 15 and concluding on the second Sunday, September 25.

It was the first time since the mid-1970's that the Show has included the second Sunday and the result this year was such, that Council has given favourable consideration to a similar extension in 1989.

Attendances

Overall, attendances were disappointing with 738,437 patrons passing through the turnstiles.

Evening attendances fell away, however, there were a number of days where admissions before 6.00 p.m. exceeded the 1987 figures.

Factors including appalling weather on the first and traditionally biggest weekend, competition from Expo '88 in Brisbane, school holidays and the Olympics telecasts in the evenings, contributed to the unsatisfactory result.

His Excellency, The Right Honourable, Sir Ninian Stephen, A.K., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.B.E., the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, officially opened the Show on Saturday, September 17.

Theme

The Society expressed its support for the Bicentenary by adopting the theme 'Australia — Showing Our Best' for the Show, which highlighted the achievements of our top stud stock breeders, focussed attention on two major Australian industries — wool and automotive, and provided an avenue for celebration by presenting a program of free entertainment in the main arena and around the grounds which found favour with all age groups.

Entries

Competitive entries for the 1988 Royal Melbourne Show totalled 39,639 and within this figure, pleasing increases were recorded in the Clydesdales, Harness ponies, Australian riding ponies, Simmental and Limousin beef cattle, Ayrshire and Jersey dairy cattle; Border Leicester, Romney, Cheviot, Dorset Horn, Ryeland and Poll Dorset sheep sections; pigeons; dairy and farm produce and cats.

National Cheese Show

The National Cheese Show introduced this year, represented a major new initiative for the Royal Melbourne Show and the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria.

The competition, generously supported by Coles New World Supermarkets (Victoria), is the only one of its kind in Australia to give Australian cheesemakers the chance to have their products marketed through one of the country's biggest supermarket chains.

Coles New World provided a \$1.2 million, 12 month supply contract to the winner of the champion cheddar cheese and a 12 month supply contract worth \$150,000 to the winner of the fancy cheese section.

The National Cheese Show highlights the Society's determination to look critically at its Show competitions with a view to amending the existing or traditional format in order to make them more commercially relevant.

Indoor Judging Ring

The Federation Ring, a new indoor judging facility for sheep and cattle was also introduced this year. It created a new dimension for the exhibiting and sale of livestock at the Royal Melbourne Show.

This facility has tremendous potential during the Show and for major stock shows and sales through the year, which makes it a valuable asset.



Mr. J. H. H. Sleigh, A.M., President, Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria.

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION

Death of Sir Cecil Looker

On September 19 we were deeply saddened at the loss of one of our most distinguished members of Council, Sir Cecil Looker.

Sir Cecil was elected to Council on September 10, 1974 and served actively on the Sponsorship, Public Relations, Finance, Membership and Woodchopping committees.

In the area of sponsorship, Sir Cecil's leadership of the responsible committee and his many and varied contacts within the commercial sector, made his contribution to the RASV a very important and valuable one.

He will indeed be sadly missed.

Australia Day Honours for President

Mr. J. H. H. Sleigh was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in the 1988 Australia Day honours.

The Award was made in recognition of Mr. Sleigh's contribution and service to primary industry, in particular, the cattle industry.

Two New Life Councillors

Mr J. G. W. Head and Mr. W. McL. Greaves were made Life Councillors during the year, in recognition of their service to the Society over the past 20 years.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

OFFICE BEARERS 1988

PATRON-IN-CHIEF:

His Excellency, The Rt. Hon. Sir Ninian Stephen, A.K., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.B.E.

PATRON:

His Excellency, Dr. Davis McCaughey, A.C.

PRESIDENT:

J. H. H. Sleight, A.M.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

W. R. R. Beggs, A. Gibson, R. B. Langdon.

TRUSTEES:

The Hon. Sir William McDonald, Kt.
P. B. Ronald, C.M.G., G. R. Starritt, A.M., O.B.E., G. P. H. Wilson, C.M.G.

LIFE COUNCILLORS:

W. A. Angliss
Sir Rupert W. J. Clarke
Bart., M.B.E., M.A.
K. A. Drummond
J. M. Gardiner
R. B. Gerrand, M.B.E.
W. McL. Greaves
J. G. W. Head
G. Howell
R. Hunter

J. W. Kelly
D. W. R. Knox
D. S. MacGregor, M.B.E.
C. O. Moore
L. G. C. Nicholas
P. B. Ronald, C.M.G.
G. R. Starritt, A.M., O.B.E.
J. W. D. Ward
The Hon. Vernon F. Wilcox, C.B.E., O.C.
G. P. H. Wilson, C.M.G.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

J. Ballour Brown
W. R. R. Beggs
E. W. Best, C.M.G.
A. C. Bott
J. K. Buchanan, A.M.
I. I. Bucknall
J. M. Burston
R. M. Butler
W. D. Crowley, Q.P.M.
E. Drinkwater
A. J. Fiske
C. B. Gardiner
A. Gibson
B. R. J. Hallows
R. F. Haselgrove
C. R. Kelly
R. B. Langdon
F. B. Langlands

F. J. Lithgow
Sir Cecil Looker, Kt. (died 19/9/1988)
The Hon. Sir William McDonald, Kt.
K. J. McIver
Sir Ian McLennan, K.C.M.G., K.B.E.
M. T. Marriott
I. K. Morton, A.M.
R. Potter
J. W. Rae
J. S. A. Robb
J. H. H. Sleight, A.M.
I. McK. Starritt
F. R. I. Stephens
K. W. Urquhart
The Hon. Evan Walker, M.L.C.
(Charged portfolio 12/10/1988)
R. G. Walker

EXECUTIVE STAFF:

DIRECTOR: Maj. Gen. J. C. Hughes, A.O., D.S.O., M.C., RL

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER: D. J. Reid

FINANCE MANAGER: J. F. Clifford

GROUNDS MANAGER: M. Martin

INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGER: D. G. Hay

MARKETING MANAGER: V. A. Hilton



The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of members of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria will be held in the Royal Banquet Rooms, Plummer Avenue, Royal Showgrounds, Epsom Road, Ascot Vale on Tuesday, April 11, 1989, at 12 noon.

BUSINESS

1. Minutes of previous Annual Meeting.
2. To receive the Annual Report and Balance Sheet.
3. To receive the declaration of election of Councillors.
4. To appoint two auditors.
5. To amend the Rules by substituting for Rules 5, 7 and 10, the following:
 5. The Society shall consist of Honorary Members, Honorary Life Members, Life Governors, Life Members, Ordinary Members and Corporate Members.
 7. (a) The Council may at any time appoint any person to be an Honorary Member or an Honorary Life Member of the Society in recognition of services rendered in promoting the objects for which the Society was established.
 10. The privileges of an Honorary Member and an Honorary Life Member of the Society shall be the right to free admission to the Society's Grounds and grandstands during shows or exhibitions conducted by the Society and also such other rights as may be determined by the Council from time to time, and such rights may vary in regards to different persons.

Dated 14th day of March, 1989
Major General J. C. Hughes,
Director

LIST OF NOMINATIONS

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

(Eleven to be elected)

- *J. BALFOUR BROWN, "Two Creeks", Sheffield Road South, Montrose, 3765
- *W. R. R. BEGGS, "Buln Gherin", Beaufort, 3373
- *J. K. BUCHANAN, A.M., "Gleneira", Boneo Road, Flinders, 3929
- *K. A. FINNIN, F.S.S.E., A.I.A.B., 4 Sunhill Road, Mount Waverley, 3149
- *B. R. J. HALLOWS, "Penmaen", Websters Road, Riddells Creek, 3431
- *R. F. HASELGROVE, "Beneden", P.O. Box 299, Merbein, 3505
- *F. B. LANGLANDS, P.O. Box 4, Ocean Grove, 3226
- *F. J. LITHGOW, "Flowerfield", Coldstream, 3770
- *R. POTTER, "Yarram Park", Willaura, 3291
- *G. J. SHEPPARD, 2 Lincoln Drive, Cheltenham, 3142
- *I. McK. STARRITT, "Kelso Park", R.M.B. 2330, Tatura, 3616
- *A. J. WOODS, 18 Thomson Street, Essendon, 3040

Note: Nominations being in excess of the vacancies, a ballot will be conducted.

Refer to enclosed ballot paper for voting directions.

(*Denotes Councillors retiring by rotation and eligible for re-election)

Mr. Head became a Councillor on May 10, 1968, although his formal association with the RASV goes back to 1955 when he joined the Kennel Control Council committee as RASV appointee. He is now President of the KCC, a position he has held since 1977.

With his election to Council on December 10, 1968, Mr. W. McL. Greaves established a unique record in that he represented the third generation of the Greaves family to serve the Society in that capacity.

Mr. Greaves preceded Mr. J. W. Rae as the Royal Show Ringmaster and is presently a member of the Horses, and Show Attractions and Entertainment Committees. He is also the Councillor responsible for the Show's horticultural display and has a special interest in the beautification of the Showgrounds.

New Council Member

Mr. Ern Drinkwater was elected to Council in July to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Head's elevation to Life Councillor.

Mr. Drinkwater's election to Council closely followed his retirement as Chief General Manager of the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria.

He and his wife Joan, have had considerable success as breeders and exhibitors of Labrador and Cocker Spaniels and Mr. Drinkwater has a reputation as a very competent judge of Working dogs.

Since 1966, he has been a Royal Show Steward in the Dog Section and for the past 20 years, has served on the committee of the Kennel Control Council.

The Society must consider itself fortunate to have a man of Mr. Drinkwater's calibre on Council.



Mr. J. M. Burston stood down as Vice President following the 1988 Annual Meeting.

Mr. J. M. Burston Retires from Office

Following the 1988 Annual Meeting, Mr. J. M. Burston did not seek election to the office of Vice President.

After seven years in the position, Mr. Burston's decision to step down was

met with a great deal of regret and this opportunity must be taken to thank him for his very considerable contribution as a Vice President.

The vacancy created by Mr. Burston's move was filled by Mr. R. B. Langdon.



Mr. R. B. Langdon became the Society's new Vice President following Mr. Burston's decision to stand down.

Retirement of Committee Chairmen

The year under review has seen the retirement of three Council committee chairmen, each of whom has had significant influence on their areas of responsibility.

Mr. Duncan MacGregor retired as Sheep and Goat committee chairman after 17 years and Mr. Royden Gerrard stepped down as chairman of the Dairy Cattle committee, having served in that position since 1971.

The prominent status of the sheep and dairy cattle sections at the Royal Melbourne Show is largely the result of the considerable investment of time and effort on the part of Mr. MacGregor and Mr. Gerrard, and their respective committees.

Also this year, Sir Ian McLennan retired as the inaugural chairman of Council's Management committee.

Since its establishment in 1985 as a result of the McKinsey study, this committee has achieved a great deal in assisting to establish a more streamlined management structure within the RASV's administration.

We have been particularly fortunate to have a person with Sir Ian's vast managerial experience to guide the progress of this committee in its initial period of operation.

New Honorary Life Members

Fourteen Honorary Life Memberships were presented during the year to persons who have served the Society for 20 years or more.

Our new Honorary Life Members are:

- Mr. A. D. Moses (Woodchop section) presented 8.3.1988
- Mr. R. G. Costin (Woodchip section) presented 8.3.1988
- Mrs. J. Baker (Arts & Crafts section) presented 6.9.1988
- Mr. J. Beus (Arts & Crafts section) presented 6.9.1988
- Mrs. E. Fuhrmerster (Member of Staff) presented 12.4.1988
- Mr. R. T. Balderstone (past President) presented 12.4.1988
- Mr. J. Nosedá (Horse section) presented 10.5.1988
- Mr. A. Telford (Horse section) presented 10.5.1988
- Miss P. Petrie (Cat section) presented 13.12.1988
- Mr. R. Nester (Arena deck) presented 13.12.1988
- Mr. J. Kett (Arena deck) presented 13.12.1988
- Mr. F. Riley (Casualty section) presented 13.12.1988
- Mr. & Mrs. B. Banham (catering staff) presented 13.12.1988

FINANCE

The land and the buildings of the Society have been revalued by \$26,773,701 in this year's Accounts.

The deficit of \$139,236 is after conducting a major Bicentennial event — ArtCraft '88 — at a net cost of \$123,000 and interest of \$160,000 on the cost of capital works required to be carried out by the Joint MFB/Essendon City Council Fire Report.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS AND CHANGES

New Appointments

Mr. Derek Hay joined the RASV's staff in March to take up the position of Computer Services Manager.

Mr. Hay has been involved with computers since the early 1970's and therefore has a very broad knowledge of and experience within the industry. He also has a background in accountancy.

In his new position, Mr. Hay is responsible for the day to day operation and development environments both batch and on-line systems.

Mr. Fred Bannan was appointed Showgrounds' Foreman in June.

Mr. Bannan's experience includes an extensive involvement with the building industry, security supervision, maintenance supervision and set building for television.

The level of experience and expertise Mr. Bannan brings to the position of Grounds' Foreman will undoubtedly prove to be of great value to the Society.

In September, Mr. Ron Hewett joined the staff of the Marketing department as Sales Executive, responsible for commercial space sales during Show, and the marketing of grounds' facilities outside the Show period.

Mr. Hewett comes to the RASV with very considerable experience in the convention/exhibition and tourism industries.

Previous positions with Ansett Transport Industries and the Australian Tourism Commission have seen Mr. Hewett in senior postings in America, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

From 1984 to 1987 he occupied the position of Director of the Australian Convention Bureau, in Melbourne.

Temporary Staff Changes

With the decision of Mr. Allan Bruno, the Society's Horse department Registrar, to take long service leave from December 31 until mid-April 1989, two temporary changes in staff positions were decided upon in preparation for 1989.

Mr. Brian Sinclair will move from his position as Registrar of the Victorian Agricultural Societies' Association to cover the duties of Mr. Bruno and Mrs. Pat Riley, Mr. Sinclair's assistant, will assume Mr. Sinclair's responsibilities in the administration of VASA, the Australian Council of Rural Youth, the Royal Melbourne Wine Show and Royal Show arts and crafts.

BREED SOCIETIES

As at the beginning of 1988, the RASV was the secretariat for 41 breed societies and associated rural organisations.

These were:

Cats

Feline Control Council

Cattle

Angus Society of Australia (Vic. Committee)
 Australasian Dexter Association (Inc.)
 Australian Ayrshire Breeders' Association
 Australian Belted Cattle Society
 Australian Highland Cattle Society
 Australian Simmental Breeders' Association Ltd. (Vic. Branch)
 Beef Improvement Association of Australia
 Charolais Society of Australia (Vic. Region)
 Dairy Shorthorn Association of Australia
 Lunging Society of Australia



The new 'Federation Ring' indoor judging facility proved popular with sheep and cattle exhibitors at the 1988 Royal Melbourne Show.

Vale — Miss Jan Gray

Councillors, staff and RASV members, particularly those who had an involvement with the Royal Show Arts and Crafts section felt a great loss at the untimely death of Miss Jan Gray on February 24.

A staff member for more than 20 years, Jan was popularly known as "Miss Arts and Crafts" because of the 14 years she spent in administering this major Royal Show section.

In memory of Jan, Council agreed to establish the "Janice M. Gray Memorial Award" for the most successful school in the schools' section of Arts and Crafts.

The "Janice M. Gray Memorial Award" will be competed for in perpetuity.

Poll Shorthorn Society of Australia (Vic. Branch)

Victorian Stud Beef Cattle Breeders' Association

Dogs

Australian National Kennel Council
 Kennel Control Council

Goats

Australian Cashgora Fibre Growers.

Horses

Appaloosa Horse & Spotted Pony Society of Australia
 Australian Palomino Horse Breeders' Association
 Australian Pony Stud Book Society (Vic. Branch Inc.)
 Australian Warmblood Sporthorse Association
 The Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society (Federal Council)
 The Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society (Vic. Branch)
 The Equestrian Federation of Australia (Vic. Branch Inc.)
 Victorian Pinto Society.

Sheep

Association of Stud Sheep Breeders of Australia
 Australian Corriedale Association Ltd.
 Australian Corriedale Association Ltd. (Vic. Branch)
 Australian Sheep Breeders' Association Inc.
 Australian Society of Breeders of British Sheep Ltd. (Vic. Branch)
 Australian Superfine Woolgrowers' Association
 Sharlea Ultra Fine Society of Australia Ltd.
 Southdown Breeders' Association of Victoria
 Victorian Dorset Horn Breeders' Association
 Victorian Prime Lamb Committee
 Victorian Stud Merino Sheepbreeders' Association Inc.
 Victorian Working Sheep Dog Association.

Rural Activities

Australian Council of Rural Youth
 Australian Nuffield Farming Scholars' Association
 National Ploughing Association of Australia
 Victorian Agricultural Societies' Association Inc.
 Victorian Young Farmers.

At its State Conference in June, the Victorian Young Farmers voted to move the organisation's administration from the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria to the Victorian Farmers' Federation.

The decision effectively ended a 55 year association between the VYF and RASV and was prompted by changes to the movement, the most significant of which being the State Government's decision to cease direct funding for the VYF's Area Advisory Officers.

At this juncture, mention should be made of VYF Advisory Officers Ian

Milburn, Bruce Graham, Phillip Butcher and Noel O'Keefe, whose professional attention to the requirements of rural youth in Victoria for a number of years, has been of the highest standard.

The Victorian Pinto Society also decided to alter its administrative direction during the year and will leave the services of the RASV in early 1989 in order to set up its own office.

The RASV began servicing three new breed organisations during the year; the Australian Highland Cattle Society, the Australasian Dexter Association (Inc.) and the Australian Cashgora Fibre Growers.

In the case of the two cattle organisations (Highland and Dexter), the RASV will handle all animal registrations in addition to providing general secretarial and accounting services.

Computer Services

The upgrading of computer facilities to better accommodate existing and anticipated requirements of the RASV and breed organisations, has been ongoing since March.

Integral to the upgrading program has been the introduction of the MIDAS financial accounting system and the purchase of new equipment; a DRS500 System.

Initially, the DRS500 will allow for the provision of distributed word processing while establishing a basis for the introduction of a higher, more sophisticated level of office automation. It will also allow for the eventual introduction of a desk top publishing facility.

Work is being undertaken on the development of an integrated facility

booking system which will have very positive benefits for our Show and non Show commercial space sales.

A number of regional agricultural societies have shown interest in the use of the RASV's computer facilities to streamline their membership and general Show data processing.

The potential for the RASV in this area is obvious and therefore resources are being directed toward these organisations in order to provide guidance in the utilisation of computers and computer systems.

Closer links between the RASV and the RAS of NSW have been forged during the year with the result that co-operative development of common systems for membership processing, animal registrations and Show processing is presently being undertaken.

THE SHOWGROUNDS

Commercial Usage

Council remains committed to increasing the commercial use of Showgrounds' facilities outside the Show period.

Toward this end, a new Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of Mr. W. R. R. Beggs, to fully investigate and submit proposals to Council on alternate usage of facilities, the prime objective of which is to substantially boost income to the Society.

The Non Show Commercial Space Committee has as its staff support the Marketing Manager and Space Sales Executive whose special expertise is vital in order to accomplish the desired result.

In 1988, this Committee's initial responsibility has been to:

- ★ Identify the most realistic potential commercial uses of the Showgrounds
- ★ Establish a scale of realistic commercial rental rates for facilities.
- ★ Identify those facilities which have the greatest potential for commercial use during the year.
- ★ Commence the planning and production of suitable printed material to promote available facilities.

It is Council's expectation that substantial progress will be made in the effective commercial use of the grounds in 1989.

Grounds Improvements

In accordance with the terms of the Joint MFB/Essendon City Council Fire Report, the installation of a \$1.5 million water main was completed prior to the opening of the 1988 Royal Melbourne Show.

Initial work has also commenced on the refurbishment of the Society's administrative building in Plummer Avenue, a project which is required to

be completed no later than August 1989, as stipulated in the above report.

Other improvement works undertaken during the year included the stage one completion of the Clydesdale Pavilion refurbishment, a project undertaken with the generous support of Bunge (Australia); the laying of a concrete floor in the Hall of Commerce and the completion of stage one of a three year upgrading program for arena lighting.

New dressing rooms and toilet facilities were constructed for woodchop exhibitors at the Epsom Road end of the Boral Stadium and several old buildings were demolished.

A number of buildings were either

completely or partially re roofed including the No. 5 cattle pavilion, the Horse Club and other catering outlets.

The interiors of all cattle pavilions were white-washed and the exteriors of the Centenary Hall, Royal Block, Horse Club and Hall of Manufactures were painted.

New lawn areas were established on the Epsom Road frontage, adjacent the Main Gate and near the Hall of Manufactures.

Initial planning for the construction of a new creche on the Triangular Lawn at the rear of the Wilson Stand was also completed before the end of the year. This building will have been constructed in advance of the 1989 Royal Show.



The 1988 Royal Show, "Australia — Showing Our Best", was launched to the media during a re-enactment of the 1848 ploughing match; the event from which the modern Royal Melbourne Show evolved.

The ploughing match re-enactment was staged in Yarra Park, near the MCG.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

ArtCraft '88

ArtCraft '88, Australia's Bicentennial Arts and Crafts exhibition was staged by the Society over four days from February 24 to 27. The biggest competitive exhibition in Australia outside the Royal Melbourne Show, ArtCraft '88 was officially opened by the Governor-General and attracted more than 6,000 entries from exhibitors across the country.

While public patronage was somewhat lower than expected, the exhibition was highly regarded and praised by the professional and amateur arts and crafts communities and succeeded in drawing attention to the state of arts and crafts in Australia, in the Bicentennial year.

Congratulations must go to the organising committee chaired by Mr. W. R. R. Beggs and comprising Mrs. R. B. Langdon, Mrs. L. G. C. Nicholas, Mrs. R. Potter, Ms. Kay Morrissey (Victorian Crafts Council) and Ms. Nancy Hammond (Victorian Ministry of Education) who were involved in the detailed planning of ArtCraft '88 for close to two years prior to its opening.

Commercial Farmer Competitions

In association with the Victorian Agricultural Societies' Association and with special assistance from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DARA), the Society successfully conducted the following commercial farmer competitions during the year:

- ★ Dalgely Farmers Commercial Beef Herd of the Year Award.
- ★ Gippsland & Northern/Western Star Commercial Dairy Herd of the Year Award.
- ★ Commonwealth Development Bank Victorian Farm Management, Improvement and Production Competition.
- ★ Elders Pastoral Commercial Wool Sheep Flock of the Year Award.
- ★ VAB Share Dairy Farmer of the Year Award.

In addition, the Society introduced the inaugural Victorian Premier Wool Clip Competition.

As a result of each of these competitions, the RASV was able to assist in focussing attention on the achievements of Victorian producers and by so doing, creating an opportunity for a broader assessment and understanding of successful farm management practices and techniques.

Royal Melbourne Wine Show

The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria can display justifiable pride and satisfaction in being responsible for organising and conducting Australia's premier wine show.

In 1988, the Show attracted 2436 entries which were judged by a distinguished panel of experts including,

for the first time, two international judges; Mr. John Avery from the renowned Avery's of Bristol (United Kingdom) and Mr. Peter J. Morrell, Morrell and Company, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Maddison Avenue, New York, USA.

The involvement of Messrs Avery and Morrell provided an important critical international focus on Australian wines, at a time when more attention than ever before is being paid to them in the traditionally hostile and self-centred overseas markets.

The success of the 1988 Show can be fairly attributed to the work of the Wines Committee chaired by Mr. Adrian Gibson with special acknowledgement of the very considerable support provided by wine show sponsors, the State Bank, Victoria.

Shell/RASV pre Royal Show Journalists' Tour

Another of the Society's annual activities which is worthy of mention in this report is the pre Royal Show Journalists' Tour.

The tour represents a 32 year association and commitment on the part of the RASV and the Shell

Company of Australia, to the building of greater understanding between Victoria's metropolitan and rural sectors, through the involvement of the media.

This is achieved by the organisation of a tour of specially selected agricultural and associated rural industry enterprises and operations, within a pre-determined region of the State.

Each year, between 20 and 30 journalists from Victorian, interstate and overseas media organisations participate on the tour, which facilitates the telling of many stories relating directly to the successes, and sometimes failures, of those people behind Victoria's primary production.

This year, the tour covered the state's north central region, centering on Bendigo and during its five day duration, journalists were exposed to everything from a large commercial piggery to ostrich farming; from stud sheep breeding to grain growing and handling.

Over its 32 year history, the Shell/RASV pre Royal Show Journalists' Tour has given nearly 1,000 media representatives the chance to visit more than 700 properties and enterprises, across the length and breadth of the State.



A feature of the Show's 'super second Sunday' arena program was the Melbourne round of the Bicentennial Rodeo, presented by Tomas Cook Boot & Clothing.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1988

	CONSOLIDATED WITH RASV LTD.		CONSOLIDATED WITH RASV LTD.		SOCIETY		SOCIETY	
	1988	\$	1987	\$	1988	\$	1987	\$
FIXED ASSETS								
Land at Council Valuation 1988		16,525,000		1,023,000		16,525,000		1,023,000
Buildings & Improvements								
— At Council Valuation 1988	20,416,000		8,450,975		20,416,000		8,450,975	
— Additions at Cost			3,347,805				3,347,805	
			11,798,780				11,798,780	
LESS Provision for Depreciation		20,416,000	2,679,891	9,118,889		20,416,000	2,679,891	9,118,889
Services and Utilities at Cost	1,850,333		1,486,382		1,850,333		1,486,382	
LESS Provision for Depreciation	216,314	1,634,019	188,135	1,298,247	216,314	1,634,019	188,135	1,298,247
Plant and Motor Vehicle at Cost	1,228,288		1,094,104					
LESS Provision for Depreciation	690,950	537,338	584,302	509,802				
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings at Cost	1,016,219		913,927					
LESS Provision for Depreciation	641,199	377,020	565,701	348,226				
		39,489,377		12,298,164		38,575,019		11,440,136
INVESTMENTS								
Debentures, Deposits, Cash at Bank at Cost:								
— Loan to RASV Ltd.	264,100		88,957					32,462
— Special Purpose Insurance Fund.	565,857		491,016					
— Trust Accounts.	28,715		26,095					
— Short Call	332,649	1,191,321	289,048	875,118				
CURRENT ASSETS								
Cash on Hand	900		900					
Prepayments & Accrued Interest	68,368		110,678					
Sundry Debtors	649,099		898,019					
LESS Provision for Doubtful Debts	(38,000)		(38,000)					
Stock on Hand at Cost	128,084	808,451	124,325	1,095,922				
		41,489,149		14,268,204		38,575,019		11,472,598
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES								
Loans — Secured	41,500		33,500		41,500		33,500	
Loans — Unsecured	1,151,585		695,198		27,362		80,617	
Loans — from RASV Ltd.					133,591	202,453		114,117
Sundry Creditors & Accruals	489,956		650,794					
Provision for Long Service & Annual Leave	327,442		302,764					
Received in Advance	483		15,000					
Short Call Deposits	332,648	2,343,614	289,047	1,986,303				
LONG TERM LIABILITIES								
Loans — Secured	1,508,624		1,152,047		1,508,624		1,152,047	
Loans — Unsecured	206,366	1,714,990	410,235	1,562,282	77,780	1,586,414	193,983	1,346,030
TRUST ACCOUNTS		28,716		28,094				
TOTAL LIABILITIES		4,087,320		3,576,679		1,788,667		1,460,147
TOTAL NET ASSETS		\$37,401,829		\$10,692,525		\$36,786,152		\$10,012,451
REPRESENTING								
Accumulated Funds		1,610,184		1,749,420		1,560,364		1,560,364
Reserves —								
— Asset Revaluation	34,532,891		7,759,190		34,532,891		7,759,190	
— Special Purposes Insurance Fund	565,857		491,016					
— Dog Complex Contribution	692,897	35,791,645	692,897	8,943,105	692,897	35,225,788	692,897	8,452,087
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS & RESERVES		\$37,401,829		\$10,692,525		\$36,786,152		\$10,012,451

Auditor's report to members of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria.

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet and Revenue Account in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria at 31st December, 1988 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and comply with the Rules of the Society.

Dated this 14th day of March, 1989
 255 William Street,
 Melbourne

J. A. COURT, F.C.A.
 I. McC. ROUGH, F.C.A.
 Chartered Accountants

NOTES:

- On the 30th March 1987 a Company R.A.S.V. Ltd. was incorporated to carry out the operational activities of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria with the exception of membership income and property costs. The assets of land and improvements together with the liabilities thereon remain with the Society.
- Effective on 31st December 1988 land and buildings were independently revalued under separate valuations by Bowden Stokes and Jones of the land and Edward Rushton Pty. Ltd. of the buildings. The transfer to the Asset Revaluation Reserve as a result of their valuations is \$15,502,000 for land and \$11,271,701 for buildings.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1988

INCOME	CONSOLIDATED WITH RASV LTD.		SOCIETY	
	1988 \$	1987 \$	1988 \$	1987 \$
Admissions & Car Parking	3,745,942	3,553,402		
Advertising	54,557	66,122		
Catering Premiums	326,855	296,737		
Competition Entry Fees	348,626	316,057		
Computer Fees	206,665	209,645		
Donations & Sponsorship	940,257	740,720		
Improvement Grant	50,000	50,000		
Materials & Services	117,402	102,346		
Members' Subscriptions	276,097	248,147	276,097	248,147
Secretarial Services	513,922	584,818		
Show Sales & Sundry Revenue	86,345	43,555		
Space and Ground Rental	2,025,678	1,788,517		
Contribution from RASV Ltd.			111,306	43,452
	<u>58,692,346</u>	<u>58,000,066</u>	<u>5387,403</u>	<u>5291,599</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Advertising and Publicity	374,620	296,492		
Audit and Legal	51,666	51,175		
Catering	182,716	177,882		
Computer Costs	141,620	145,421		
Depreciation	423,712	408,909	234,658	217,036
Director's Fees	1,258	625		
Electricity and Gas	210,117	187,749		
Insurance	276,710	275,543		
Interest	316,657	241,487	152,745	74,563
Judges' Expenses	91,075	58,515		
Maintenance and Cleaning	987,131	801,550		
Printing and Stationery	304,277	238,740		
Rates	119,606	110,987		
Show Attractions	350,913	328,491		
Show Running Costs	279,100	246,194		
Special Purposes Insurance Fund	25,000	25,000		
Sundry Costs	130,296	81,533		
Salaries, Wages and Payroll Costs	4,038,399	3,696,695		
Telephone and Postage	105,793	105,850		
Trophies and Prizes	420,716	334,172		
	<u>8,831,582</u>	<u>7,811,010</u>	<u>387,403</u>	<u>291,599</u>
(Deficit) Surplus for Year	<u>-139,236</u>	<u>189,056</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>58,692,346</u>	<u>58,000,066</u>	<u>5387,403</u>	<u>5291,599</u>

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at start of Year	1,749,420	1,560,364	1,560,364	1,560,364
(Deficit) Surplus for Year	(139,236)	189,056	-	-
Balance at end of Year	<u>\$1,610,184</u>	<u>\$1,749,420</u>	<u>\$1,560,364</u>	<u>\$1,560,364</u>

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF SOURCE AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1988

SOURCE OF FUNDS		APPLICATION OF FUNDS	
Funds from Operations		Increase in Assets	
Inflow of Funds from Operations	8,692,346	Current Assets	
LESS Outflow of Funds from Operations	<u>8,333,031</u>	Inventories	3,759
(*refer note below)	359,315	Investments	316,203
Increase in Current Liabilities		Fixed Assets	641,232
Loans	464,387	Decrease in Liabilities	
Provisions	24,678	Creditors & Accruals	175,347
Short Call Deposits	43,601		
Increase in Non-Current Liabilities			
Loans	152,708		
Trust Account	622		
Decrease in Current Assets			
Receivables	248,920		
Prepayments & Accruals	<u>42,310</u>		
	<u>\$1,336,541</u>		<u>\$1,336,541</u>

*NOTE:
 Deficit for Year (139,236)
 Transfer to Special Purposes Insurance Fund 74,839
 Depreciation for Year 423,712
\$359,315

MAJOR AWARD WINNERS 1988

HORSES

Best Equestrienne Turnout (Garryowen)
Miss L. Walker, Wyong, N.S.W., on Marena Cabaret.

WINES

The Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy — Best Red Wine (Classes 29, 30 & 31)
Thomas Hardy & Sons Pty. Ltd. — 1987, Reynella, S.A.

The Victorian Wine Industry Association Inc. Trophy for the Most Successful Exhibitor in the Victorian Wine Classes
Coldstream Hills, Coldstream, Vic.

The Francois De Castella Trophy for the Most Successful Exhibitor in all Wine & Brandy Classes

B. Seppelt & Sons Ltd., Tanunda, S.A.
The State Bank Victoria Trophy for the Best Muscat in Show

Lindemans Wines Pty. Ltd. — 1978, Red Cliffs, Vic.

MISS SUN COUNTRY SHOW GIRL

Miss Samantha Gallus, Drouin, Vic.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Florence Monod Memorial Award
Mrs. G. Schwarze, Glenroy, Vic.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Best Print in Exhibition
Eugene Hoogesteyns, L.R.P.S., A.A.P.S., Cranbrook, Qld.

Best Slide in Exhibition
Bill Lagrue, Echuca, Vic.

FARM INVENTIONS

Grand Champion Exhibit
Mr. Michael J. Duthie, Belmont, Vic.

WOODCHOPPING

Grand Aggregate Trophy
Mr. D. J. Foster, East Devonport, Tas.

DOGS

Best Exhibit in Show
Babeuf Kennels' English Springer Spaniel Bitch, AUST CH. WONGAN CHIFFON (V).

Best Puppy in Show
Mrs. A. Chackleford's Poodle (Miniature) Dog, NADELLE BI CENTURIO (V).

Best in Obedience Trial
S. Field's Irish Setter Bitch, AUST. CH. TARAGLEN VERUSHKA (N) C.D.X.

SHEEP

Supreme Champion Ram
R. & C. Harris, "Gloroy", Newbridge, Vic.

Supreme Champion Ewe
N. & S. Armstrong, Marrar, N.S.W.

NATIONAL FLEECE COMPETITION

Grand Champion Fleece
M. Rayner (Snr.), Grathlyn, Mudgee, N.S.W.
Australian Lambs Wool Championship
Challicum Partnership, Doug Hopkins, Buangor, Vic.

GOATS

Supreme Champion Doe (Dairy)
Mrs. R. Butt, Ararat, Vic.

Champion Angora Doe
L. D. Sly, Lockhart, N.S.W.

Champion Mohair Fleece
J. P. & S. M. Masters, Greenock Angora Stud, Seville, Vic.

PRODUCE

Champion Honey — Small Producer
T. P. Cullinan, via Kyabram, Vic.

Champion Honey — Open Producer
J. W. Courtney, Maryborough, Vic.

Champion Honey — Packers
Honey Corporation of Aust. Ltd., Maryborough, Vic.

Best Mead in Show

I. Vickery, Strathmore, Vic.
Champion Butter for Export

Murray Goulburn Co-op, Rochester, Vic.

Champion Butter — Fresh
Bonlac Foods Ltd., West Melbourne, Vic.

Champion Dried Milk Product
Murray Goulburn, Kiewa, Vic.

Champion Yoghurt

Queensco Foods Co-op Association Ltd., Caboolture, Qld.

Champion Cheddar (Open Section)
United Milk Tasmania, Wynyard, Tas.

Champion Fancy Cheese
Lactos Pty. Ltd., Burnie, Tas.

Most Successful Exhibitor
United Milk Tasmania, Wynyard, Tas.

Cheesemaker of Champion Cheddar (Open Section)

G. R. Urquhart.

Champion Wheat — Hard

J. Matarazzo, Balranald, N.S.W.

Champion Wheat — Soft

G. Wiese, Bordertown, S.A.

Champion Oats — Milling

W. & P. L. Jenkins, Stawell, Vic.

Champion Oats — Echidna

G. Wiese, Bordertown, S.A.

Champion Oats — Any Variety

G. Wiese, Bordertown, S.A.

Champion Barley

S. Walscott, Dimboola, Vic.

Champion Grain Legumes

R. W. & W. L. Westendorf, Dimboola, Vic.

Champion Oilseeds

Hodder Pastoral Co., Vic.

Victorian Championship for Meadow Hay

A. W. & I. F. Bunn, Talara, Vic.

PIGS

Supreme Exhibit

Duroc, exhibited by C. Cormican, Tallygaroopna, Vic.

CATS

Best Entire Cat — Longhair

Black Persian, DB. GD. CH. SAYONARA MIU MULGA, owned by Mr. & Mrs. F. Hird, Fernree Gully, Vic. Bred by Mrs. N. Thompson, N.S.W.

Best Entire Cat — Siamese/Oriental
Seal Point Siamese SUNGLO BELLISIMO, owned and bred by Mr. & Mrs. T. Bradley, Strathfieldsaye, Vic.

Best Entire Cat — Other Shorthair
Cornish Rex, GD. CH. KALIZMA PRIDDY SPECIAL, owned and bred by Mr. B. Jones, Kalizma Cattery, Caulfield, Vic.

1988 ROYAL SHOW MEDIA AWARDS

1988 Royal Show Press Photographic Awards

Best Show Photo (Published) — Bruce Howard, The Herald.

Best Show Photo (Unpublished) — Ilana Rose, Hoofs and Horns.

1988 Olympus/Royal Show Press Journalism Awards

Best Show Story — Sharon Gray, The Age.

Best Agricultural Story — Lyall Grey, Stock and Land.

1988 Olympus/Royal Show TV Journalism Awards

Best Royal Show Reports — Brian Shrowder, ATV 10 and Gavin McDougall, GTV 9.

CATTLE

Elders Pastoral Beef Breed of the Year (Angus)

Saraloga Quebec (A.I.) (Imp. Can.), exhibited by W. G. & J. A. Watt, Clunes, N.S.W.

Supreme Beef Breed Bull
Simmental, P. Gorrie, Denman, N.S.W. — Tangara Kingston.

Supreme Beef Breed Female
Murray Grey, G. L. & N. L. Wesley, Flinders, Vic. — Orcadia Park Minette 1002

Supreme Junior Champion Beef Breed Bull

Charlairs, M. L. & B. J. Galvin, Yerong Creek, N.S.W. — Talgoona Gallipoli.

Gippsland and Northern Champion Dairy Cow

Illawarra, L. W. & M. J. Peters, Finley, N.S.W. — Wilmington Buttercup 14th

Gippsland and Northern Champion Dairy Heifer

Holstein-Friesian, F. Sorrhagan, Arcadia, Vic. — Rockwood Park Warden Cretone.

Federation Insurance Champion Dairy Bull

Holstein-Friesian, G. C. I. & A. Cochrane, Nowra, N.S.W. — Walkerbrae Challenger (Imp. Can.).

U.D.V. Interbreed Type and Production Cow

Guernsey, Meadow View Dairy Pty. Ltd. — Meadow View TC Rowena.

COMMERCIAL FARMING COMPETITIONS

Elders Pastoral Commercial Wool Sheep Flock of the Year Award

W. & G. Donaldson, Hopesplains, Inverleigh, Vic.

Commonwealth Development Bank Farm Management, Production and Improvement Competition

Section A — L. & R. Thomas, Yarroweyah, Vic.

Section B — A. & M. Edgar, Nareen, Vic.

Dalgely Farmers Commercial Beef Herd of the Year

Langi Kai Kai Youth Training Centre, Beaufort, Vic.

Gippsland and Northern Western Star Commercial Dairy Herd of the Year

K. R. & C. S. Pay, Kerang, Vic.

V.A.B. Share Dairy Farmer of the Year
G. & L. Santamaria, Orbost, Vic.

BIRDS

Poultry — Best Bird in Show
W. Trimmer, Gosford, N.S.W. — Chinese Langshan Pullet.

Best Finch in Show
N. Smith, Boronia, Vic. — Parson.

Best Parrot Type Bird
C. Bush, North Fitzroy, Vic.

Best Cage Bird (Other than a Finch)
C. Bush, North Fitzroy, Vic.

Grand Champion Budgerigar
J. & R. Tanner, Cheltenham, Vic.

CARCASS COMPETITIONS

Grand Champion Beef Carcass
Murray Grey, W. R. Northey, Shepparton, Vic.

Bacon Pig Carcass
G. Fraser, Walchem, Vic.

CHINA-ROYAL SHOW GUEST NATION 1989

Formal agreement with the Chinese regarding their involvement at the 1989 Royal Show as Guest Nation, was reached during a visit to China by the President and Director in January, 1988.

Since that time, detailed planning has been underway in preparation for our third international style Show.

As part of the planning process, representatives from the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), the Chinese government organisation responsible for the Royal

Show involvement, have been to Melbourne on three occasions to meet with the Director and his staff and to inspect the Showgrounds: in particular the P. B. Ronald Pavilion which will house the major exhibition.

In order to create greater awareness of the Chinese participation in 1989, the Society has corresponded with a comprehensive selection of China linked commercial and community based organisations, informing them of planning progress. This communication link is a vital one and will be

maintained throughout 1989.

By March, 1989, it is expected that full details of the P. B. Ronald Pavilion display and other associated activities; the nature of proposed cultural displays and entertainments, will be to hand which will then enable the Society to put all final complementary programming in place.

Paid advertising and promotion will centre around 'Show Me China', the theme which has been formally adopted for the 1989 Royal Melbourne Show.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In conclusion, I must take this opportunity to record my appreciation and gratitude for the very valuable assistance given to me and my wife during 1988, by my Vice Presidents and fellow Councillors.

Special acknowledgement is warranted of the support provided by the Director, Major General Hughes and the tremendous contribution made by the Society's staff over the past 12 months.

It is important to acknowledge also the help given to the RASV during the year by the Premier, The Honourable John Cain and members of his Ministry.

Special thanks go to the former Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, The Honourable Evan Walker who changed responsibilities during the year. We wish him every success in his new ministry and look forward to working with the new Minister, The Honourable Barry Rowe.

The co-operation and support provided by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DARA) in assisting to organise our annual commercial farmer competitions is greatly appreciated and we therefore extend our special thanks to DARA's Chief General Manager, Mr. Jeff Wright, and to those representatives of the Department who have been directly involved during 1988.

Our partner in the organisation of the commercial farmer competitions is, of course, the Victorian Agricultural Societies' Association, and so to the President, Mr. Bob Brooks and his Council, I must record the RASV's gratitude for continued support.

The organisations whose names appear below constitute our major sponsors and to each of them we are particularly indebted.

Staging an event like the Royal Melbourne Show is costly and without the very significant financial support provided by these organisations, the Society would find the task impossible.

Our special thanks go to:

Ampol Petroleum (Victoria) Pty. Limited, Arnott Brockhoff Guest, Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Limited, Australian Airlines, Australian Meat & Livestock Corporation, Australian Mutual Provident Society, Australian Wool Corporation, Benson Trading Company Limited, BHP Steel Group, Bowen & Pomeroy Pty. Ltd., Bunge Australia Limited, Carlton & United Breweries Limited, CC Stockfeeds Pty. Ltd., Cellante Property Advisors, Coles New World Australia, Comalco Aluminium Limited, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Commonwealth Development Bank of Australia, Dalgety Farmers Limited, Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Elders Pastoral, Federation Insurance Limited, Gippsland & Northern Company Limited, Herald & Weekly Times Limited, ICI Australia Limited, Kubota Tractors (Australia) Pty. Ltd., Mitty's of Queen Street, National Australia Bank Limited, Patterson Cheney Pty. Limited, Pavier Amusements, Phosphate Co-operative Company of Australia Limited, Radio 3KZ Pty. Ltd., Radio 3UZ, Royal Parade

Motor Inn, Rural Finance Corporation, Shell Company of Australia Limited, Southern Cross Hotel, St. Kilda Road Travelodge, State Bank Victoria, Super Kmart Victoria, Thomas Cook Boot & Clothing Company, Uncle Ben's of Australia, Victorian Dairy Industry Authority, Westpac Banking Corporation.

The Society is also particularly reliant on, and thankful for, the help provided by our many honorary judges, stewardesses and stewards, many of whom have maintained a long standing commitment to the Show over the years.

And finally, not because of less importance but rather the need to highlight it more, is the expression of gratitude for the continued support of the Society's members and Royal Show exhibitors. We look forward to that support continuing in the future.

1989 brings with it new challenges and the excitement of our third Guest Nation Show featuring China. We look forward to the 12 months with interest and confidence.

**J. H. H. Sleight,
President**



This photo by The Herald's Bruce Howard, won the published section of the 1988 Royal Show Press Photographic Awards.



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VICTORIAN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

Showgrounds, Ascot Vale, 3032

— OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER —

Financially Assisted by the Commonwealth Development Bank



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Bob Brooks

1988 saw rural returns settle down after a very shaky start and whilst some industry returns are less than satisfactory, most improved to be considerably better than indicated at the start of the year. Wool still remained the glamour industry and although production declined slightly, demand remained very strong.

Our Show season proved very rewarding with most Societies showing

growth in entries and increased gate receipts, of course increased revenue being an essential ingredient for the continuing well being of Societies. Undoubtedly increasing demands on the financial resources of Committees is one of the major factors facing Societies, and on that note may I point out that those Societies who have not brought membership up to a realistic figure are not really confronting the issue.

The competitions run in conjunction with the RASV and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs have been very successful and are fulfilling a major role, thanks to Show Societies who do so much work seeking entries, and organising and running the Field Days etc.

Maisie and I have enjoyed visiting many shows around the State and look forward to being present at many more.

Our Annual Meeting and Convention, which is the highlight of the year, will be held at Hamilton on May 10, 11 and 12 and Maisie and I look forward to meeting you there. I extend an invitation to all Societies to participate and enjoy the hospitality of our host Group.

SEYMOUR BICENTENNIAL SHOW

Seymour's Bicentennial Show was held on October 1, 1988 and was a great success with gate takings equal to last year. Entries in most sections were excellent, with notable increases in the horse and goat sections.

Show Society President Mr. John Munckton, introduced the inaugural President of the Victorian Agricultural Societies' Association, Mr. Frank Ruler, MBE, who raised the VASA flag which had been presented to the Central Highlands Group by Mr. Tom Tehan, also a past President of VASA, and Life Member of the Seymour Show Society.

Mr. Keith McLarty, Seymour's "Citizen of the Year", officially opened the Show and said he was honoured to be invited to officiate whilst an actual member of the Seymour Society.

The Show's historical theme was complimented by Graham Young's bullock team, which paraded round the showgrounds for most of the afternoon. The theme was also supported by displays of restored T-Model Ford cars and steam engines.

The Show Girl and Tiny Tots competitions were popular and drew support from the large crowds present.

Special medallions struck by the Federal Council of Agricultural Societies to mark the bicentennial, were awarded in major sections of the Show.

MEETING DATES

APRIL 12 —
Agricultural Machinery Field Day Committee.

MAY 10, 11 & 12 —
Annual Convention — Hamilton.

JULY 20 — (N.B. Earlier date)
Council.

SEPTEMBER 21 — OCTOBER 1 inclusive —
Royal Melbourne Show.

NOVEMBER 30 —
Council.

1988 MISS "SUN" COUNTRY SHOW GIRL — SAMANTHA GALLUS

Being chosen as the 1988 Miss "Sun" Country Show Girl was a great thrill and honour.

During this time I have met many wonderful people and had the opportunity to be involved with many functions including the "Sun" cycling tour and various judging assignments in my region, Central and South Gippsland.

My time spent at the Royal Melbourne Show itself and indeed, the days leading to the final announcement were most enjoyable.

Immediately after being selected, my work at the Show commenced. Throughout the next ten days I was to cover a huge area and make many presentations, ranging from Hereford Bulls and Sheep to Woodchoppers, learning a considerable amount from all involved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the other Regional Finalists for their friendship and for making the days we were together such a fun time. I know they would join me in sincerely thanking Mrs. Norma Buckland for the way she created a "Home" environment for us. Further to this I would like to thank Mrs. Buckland personally for the way she looked after me for the duration.

Finally, I urge any girl considering entering the competition to do so as the rewards in real terms are substantial and the experience gained is invaluable. The Royal Melbourne Show is the culmination of 12 months effort from countless dedicated people and is the most exciting two weeks of Melbourne and Country Victoria. Why wouldn't you want to be involved? Good Luck.

Samantha Gallus



Obituaries

JEAN EALES

Over 400 people gathered in the Lilydale Uniting Church on Friday, 6 January, to pay their last respects to Jean Eales, who collapsed and died on 3 January, aged 73 years.

In his Eulogy, David Wilkinson, a member of the Lilydale Show Society said — "When we think of Jean Eales, we think of Agricultural Shows".

Jean served the Lilydale Show Society in an Executive capacity for over 30 years. She was Secretary of the Lilydale Horticultural Society for six years prior to the merger with the Agricultural Society in 1953.

During her years with the Show Society, Jean served two terms as Secretary and organised the co-operative which bought an acre of land adjoining the Recreation Reserve on which the Society's own building now stands. She was President five years (1978 to 1982), lived for the Society and was devoted to it. A building on the Showgrounds was named the "Jean Eales Pavilion" in recognition of her service over many years. She was made a Life Member prior to becoming President.



Jean Eales

Jean was the Lilydale Society's Delegate to the Port Phillip Affiliated Agricultural Societies' Association for twenty years, and was made a Life Member of the Group in 1988.

Jean was a well known and respected VASA delegate; she edited the very successful VASA Journal, and was made an Honorary Councillor in 1977.

Jean was very involved in her local community and in 1981 was the first recipient of Lilydale Shire's "Citizen of the Year" award, for outstanding community service.

Jean's husband, Ken, predeceased her three years ago and she leaves one son, Tom, who said, "There will be changes at the Show, and changes on the farm" — an era has ended.

NORM PODGER

Norm passed away suddenly at his home on Monday, 13 February, 1989, at the age of 79.

The Camperdown Show Society, the South Western Group and V.A.S.A., have lost one of their stalwart supporters as a result of Norm Podger's death.

He was a member of the Camperdown Show Society for 60 years and served as President for nine years. In recognition of his services to the Society, he was made an Honorary Life Member.

Norm was a delegate to the South Western Group, representing the Camperdown Society and at the time of his death, was serving his second term as President of the Group.

On the Show scene, Norm was an exhibitor and judge of poultry, cattle, sheep, flowers and vegetables. He also exhibited in the poultry section of the Royal Melbourne Show for 60 years.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Eileen, and family.

WILLIAM TELFORD

Mr. William Telford, a member of one of Kyabram's oldest pioneer families, died in the Goulburn Valley Base Hospital on 19 September last, as a result of an accident.

Bill looked after the family farm, "Hyde Park" at Kyabram. He served with the A.I.F. in World War II; was a Councillor of the Kyabram A.H. & P. Society and served as head Steward of the Clydesdale Classes for over thirty years.

Bill is survived by his sister.

JEAN RYAN

The Clunes and District Agricultural Society records the passing of Jean Ryan on 18 February, 1989.

Jean was a foundation member of the Clunes Society's Ladies Committee which was formed in 1964 and was Secretary from 1969-1981. On her retirement from the position of Secretary she was awarded a Life Membership in recognition of her contribution to the Committee.

Jean, who served in the WRAAF during World War II still continued her interest in the Clunes Society following her retirement, and although a double amputee carried on an active role as Steward and Exhibitor until her death.

Jean will be greatly missed at the Clunes Show.

VASA HONOURS COUNCILLORS

In recognition of their valued service to VASA, members of the Executive, at their meeting held on Thursday, 23 February last conferred Awards for Meritorious Service on:—

Allan Lowndes (Numurkah), Alec Duguid (Swan Hill), Bill Duncan (Neerim), Ernie Barker (Dandenong) and Geoff Scott (Mansfield).

The status of Honorary Councillor was conferred on Jack Wall (Shepparton) and Ken Johnson (Leongatha), and an Honorary Life Membership to Rod McRobert (Heathcote) Immediate Past President of VASA.

The presentation of these awards will be made at the Annual Convention to be held in Hamilton.

There are many dedicated people throughout VASA and it is fitting that they should be recognised in this way. Congratulations to these members for a job well done.

JUDGING COMPETITIONS

VASA conducts Judging Competitions, for Dairy and Beef Cattle breeds, and Wool and Meat Sheep breeds, which are designed to provide, in a practical way, the opportunity for young people in the community to increase their knowledge and improve their skills in assessing cattle and sheep. The Competitions present an excellent opportunity for potential young judges and their future careers in the Show ring.

The Competitions commence at Show level and the winners compete at Group level, before being eligible to take part in the State Finals. In the Sheep Sections competitors are also drawn from our Agricultural Colleges and regional Sheep Shows. Two competitors are nominated by each participating Group for the State Final. The winner of the State Final goes on to represent Victoria in the National Final, which is held in a different State each year, usually at a Royal Show. Where to after winning a State Final? VASA looks to the various Breed Societies to assist these young people by inviting them to become members of their Official Judging Panel as an Assistant or Associate Judge in the hope that invitations will be forthcoming for them to judge at Country Shows, Feature Shows, etc., thereby giving them further opportunities to improve their skills.



1988 CONVENTION AT HAMILTON

Sponsored by the Commonwealth Development Bank of Australia.

The 23rd Annual Convention of VASA will be held at Hamilton on May 10, 11 and 12, 1989, and our major sponsor will again be the Commonwealth Development Bank.

We look forward to welcoming Ron Ramsdale who is taking over from Andy Finnin, as State Manager of the Commonwealth Development Bank. We hope Andy and his wife will still find the time to join us at the Convention.

Your Hosts for the 1989 Convention will be the Western Group, who are all putting in a lot of time and effort to make it an interesting one.

The main venue for activities will be Alexandra House, with a Civic Reception on Wednesday evening at the Hamilton Art Gallery Auditorium, followed by dinner at the Hamilton Golf Club. On Thursday, luncheon will be at the Hamilton Institute of Rural Learning, and Delegates will have the choice of three tours in the afternoon.

TOUR 1 —

Tour of the Portland Aluminium Smelter. This will involve a one hour coach trip to Portland, tour of Portland township, visit to the Aluminium Smelter and return to Hamilton.

TOUR 2 —

Tour of Hamilton township and environs, which will include a visit to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Pastoral Research In-

stitute where trial work is in progress on pastures, crops, sheep, cattle and trees. A visit to the "Big Woolbales", a unique tourist complex in the shape of five woolbales, containing shearing and craft displays and demonstrations.

TOUR 3 —

This tour will take in the township of Hamilton and environs, the "Big Woolbales" tourist complex and walking tours of some of the surrounding industries, such as Hamilton Sheep Skin Products, who manufacture superb cuddly animals, Hamilton Ability Industries, a sheltered workshop operation producing attractive pine products and Aurora Tools, a huge engineering and tool manufacturing plant.

A Dinner Dance will be held at Alexandra House on Thursday night. Guest Speaker at Friday's General Meeting session will be Mr. Hugh Beggs, Chairman of the Australian Wool Corporation.

The closing date for Registration is Friday, 31 March, 1989, with the Convention Secretary, Mrs. Marilyn Lyons, "Dundas Park", Vasey, 3407 — telephone (055) 74 3242. There are four Registration options available to Delegates, with the cost for Full Registration — \$142.00 per person.

Additional Registration forms, Program outlines and Information Sheets are available from the office of the Registrar, VASA, Royal Showgrounds, Ascot Vale, 3032 — telephone (03) 376 3733.

A CENTURY TO ALBURY COX

Congratulations to Mr. Albury Cox, a long time resident of Kyabram, who celebrated his 100th birthday on 11 October, 1988.

A breeder of Jersey cattle, he established the well known Tavistock Stud in 1915. His keen eye for good Jersey cattle led him to many parts of Australia as a Judge and he is a respected Life Member of the Australian Jersey Herd Society.

In 1929 he moved to Kyabram and joined the Kyabram Show Society. Albury has been a valued member ever since. He celebrated his birthday with over 300 of his family and friends.

Albury says the secret to his longevity is "plenty of good Jersey milk".

SHOW DATES

With the success of our 1988/89 Show Dates booklet, sponsored by Honda Australia, information is being collected now for the production of the 1989/90 booklet.

If your Society has not yet provided the dates of your 1989 and 1990 show to the Registrar's office, you are urged to do so immediately. It is proposed to make this booklet as comprehensive as possible and we need the assistance of all Societies.

Supplies of the 1988/89 booklet have been exhausted and the new booklet for 1989/90 will be available in mid June at a cost of \$4.50.

FIELD DAY

A Field Day will be held on the property of Ken and Carol Pay, winners of the 1988 G. & N. Western Star Commercial Dairy Herd of the Year Award on Friday, 28 April next. The Pay's property is via Kerang on Kooroop Road.

The day's programme will commence at 10.00 a.m. with an address of welcome by Fred Bridgewater, President of the Northern Group.

The Field Day will be Officially opened by Mr. Bill Hill, Chairman of Bonlac.

A Farm Walk will be a feature of the day and a number of speakers will cover subjects such as Synchronised Mating, Production Indexes for Fat and Protein and Latest Development in Genetics.

Lunch will be supplied, at a nominal charge, by the Gannawarra Tennis Club.

This Field Day will be a unique opportunity to examine an efficient commercial dairy farm in operation. Attendance is recommended to all who are interested in dairy farming.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to Mrs. Vivien Anderson, who has received a life membership from the Kyabram A.H. & P. Society, in recognition of long and dedicated service.

The presentation was made to Mrs. Anderson at the Society's Annual General Meeting.

Vivien Anderson joined the Society in 1972 as Secretary and remained in that position until 1981. She was re-elected Secretary in 1983-84, and also served as Treasurer on two occasions during this period.

She is currently the President of the Goulburn Valley Agricultural Societies' Association, and again our congratulations for a most worthy honour.

NEW SOCIETY

A new Society has joined the ranks of VASA. The Bellarine Agricultural Society has been formed as a result of a perceived need on the Bellarine Peninsula to cater for the needs of the many breeders, horse exhibitors, and people interested in crafts and related agricultural activities now living in the area.

The first Bellarine Show will be conducted at Drysdale on Sunday, 3 September. The Secretary is Mrs. J. M. Brown of Bennett Street, Drysdale.

We extend a welcome to the Bellarine Society and wish them well for the future.

1989 AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY FIELD DAYS

GIPPSLAND — 16, 17, 18 and 19 MARCH

MALLEE — 2 and 3 AUGUST

ELMORE — 3, 4 and 5 OCTOBER

WANDIN-SILVAN — 11 and 12 OCTOBER

1988 COMPETITIONS — RESULTS

Victorian Farm Management Production and Improvement Competition

Sponsored by The Commonwealth
Development Bank of Australia.

Section A:

First — L. H. & R. Thomas, Yarroweyah,
(GOULBURN VALLEY).

Second — B. J. & J. P. Englefield,
Wemen. (NORTHERN).

Section B

First — A. & M. Edgar, West Cuyuc
Pastoral Co., Nareen. (WESTERN).

Second — M., K., R. & K. Ingram,
Lindenow. (GIPPSLAND).

Elders Commercial Wool Sheep Flock of the Year Award

First — W. C. & G. E. Donaldson,
"Hopesplains", Inverleigh.

Second — A. W. Stephens, "The
Wattles", Aspley.

Third — W. P. Lourie, Raywood.

Gippsland & Northern/Western Star Commercial Dairy Herd of the Year Award

First — K. & C. Pay, Koroop.

Second — R. & B. Hawkes & Son,
Simpson.

Third — J. & G. Moody — Hazel-
wood North.

Dalgety Farmers Commercial Beef of the Year Award

First — Langi Kal Youth Training
Centre, Beaufort.

Second — Glendaloch Farms, Yea.

Third — A. J. Treasure, Lindenow.

Dalgety Farmers Beef Productivity Competition

First — H. C. & R. Inchbold,
Yarrowonga.

Second — W. H. Harris & Co.,
Dumbalk North.

Third — A. H. & A. C. Buxton,
Bundalaguah, via Sale.

V.A.B. Sharefarmer of the Year Award

First — G. & L. Santamaria, Orbost.

Equal Second — M. & H. Farley,
Tallangatta; P. & L. Carkeek, Tally-
garoopna.

Third — T. & G. Tesselaar, Heytesbury.

Beef Cattle Judging

Sponsored by The Commonwealth
Development Bank of Australia.

First — Shean Kallady, Alexandra.
(UPPER GOULBURN).

Second — Rosie Anderson, Warrnam-
bool. (SOUTH WESTERN).

Third — Andrew Preece, Ceres.
(SOUTH WESTERN).

National Final — Beef

First — Katrina Steer, Bordertown,
S.A.

Second — Alison Gould, Highgate,
W.A.

Third — Paul Dale, Taree, N.S.W.

Dairy Cattle Judging

Sponsored by Allowrie Foods Australia
Limited.

First — Leanne Campi, Cohuna.
(NORTHERN).

Second — Norman Frost, Fish Creek.
(PORT PHILLIP).

Third — Mark Shelley, Bacchus
Marsh. (CENTRAL HIGHLANDS).

National Final — Dairy

First — Craig Cochrane, Nowra,
N.S.W.

Second — Fiona Barker, Mundaring,
W.A.

Third — Leanne Campi, Cohuna,
Victoria.

Sheep Judging Competitions

1988 State Finals were cancelled due
to lack of sponsorship, contestants
and the availability of sheep and
handlers.

Meat Sheep Breeds

Colin Young, runner-up in the 1988
State Final, will represent Victoria in
the National Finals.

Wool Sheep Breeds

No representative in National Finals.

Honda Agricultural Motorcycle Competition

First — Stephen Riley, Nerrena, via
Leongatha. (CENTRAL & SOUTH
GIPPSLAND).

Second — Gavin Johnston, Minyip.
(WIMMERA).

Third — Dean Garro, Speewa Island,
via Swan Hill. (NORTHERN).

Dog Jumping Competitions

Sponsored by Australian Airlines.

Intermediate Class

First — C. Cooke, Mordialloc, "Breeze".
(PORT PHILLIP).

Second — D. Fuge, Rutherglen,
"Buck". (GOULBURN VALLEY).

Third — A. Fox, Swan Hill, "Fergie".
(NORTHERN).

Open Class

First — M. Froesch, Broadford,
"Whiskers". (UPPER GOULBURN).

Equal Second — M. Froesch, Broadford
"Smokey". (MIDLANDS).

Equal Second — D. Keillor, Cashmore,
via Portland, "Urger". (WIMMERA).

Crocheted Article

First — Mrs. R. Tickner, Morwell,
(GROUP 14).

Second — Mrs. H. Nix, Diggers Rest,
(CENTRAL HIGHLANDS).

Third — Mrs. N. Meggeto, Drouin,
(CENTRAL & SOUTH GIPPSLAND).

Hand Knitted Garment

First — Mrs. G. Schwarze, Glenroy.
(PORT PHILLIP).

Second — Mrs. B. Cassell, Mulwala.
(NORTH EASTERN).

Third — Mrs. R. Luke, Ballarat.
(SOUTH WESTERN).

A.D.F.A. Rich Fruit Cake

First — Mrs. R. Smith, Glengarry.
(GIPPSLAND).

Second — Mrs. D. M. Coutts,
(GROUP 14).

Third — Mrs. R. Muir, via Bacchus
Marsh. (CENTRAL HIGHLANDS).

Miss "Sun" Country Show Girl

Sponsored by The Sun News Pictorial,
Australian Airlines, Mary Kay Cosmetics,
Southern Cross Hotel, Daydream
Island Resort, David Jones Hair and
Beauty Salon, O'Brien Catering and
St. Kilda Road Travelodge.

First — Miss Samantha Gallus,
Drouin. (CENTRAL & SOUTH GIPPS-
LAND).

Second — Jo-Anna Weeks, Alexandra
(UPPER GOULBURN).

Third — Christie Gulbis, Fitzroy
North. (MIDLANDS).

National Winner — Rebecca White
(NORTHERN TERRITORY).



**Raynor and Laurie Thomas, 1988
Farm Management Winners.**

ANDY FINNIN TO RETIRE

The message from your sponsors,
the Commonwealth Development
Bank, in this issue is a letter within
a newsletter.

"After more than 45 years in
banking, most of which I was
servicing primary producers, I have
elected to retire and to find other
useful things to do.

"Primary production has been and
will continue to be the source of
Australia's economic fortune and we
are proud of the role of the CDB has
played over the past 30 years in
respect of its unique role. I am
grateful to have played in the team
with VASA in recognising achievers in
agriculture through farm competitions,
field days and country shows.

"My successor, who arrives early
March is anxious to meet all of you
associated with VASA and I confidently
commend to you Ron Ramsdale, who
spent his boyhood in the Kyneton
district, as a knowledgeable banker
with two feet on the ground and with
no fear of getting some country dust
and mud on his shoes.

"Thank you all for being a most
agreeable part of my career and every
good wish for successful shows in the
future."

Warm Regards ANDY FINNIN

