



The Royal Agricultural Society
of Victoria

REPORT OF
PROCEEDINGS

For the Year 1954

Annual Report of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria

To the Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Council of your Society now reports on the Society's activities during the year ended 31st December, 1954.

FLORAL PAGEANT DURING ROYAL VISIT

During the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Australia, the Society had the honour to be represented in the Floral Pageant arranged in Melbourne. Despite very strong opposition, the float entered by the Society which represented different phases of agriculture was awarded second prize.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHOW GROUNDS

During the year, the area of the Showgrounds was increased by approximately 5 acres. This was made possible by the acquisition by the Society of additional land and by the passing of amendments to the Essendon Land Act by the State Parliament. This additional area, together with the return of the two emergency housing areas, assisted the Society in developing the Grounds. During the year therefore, a considerable amount of construction and building activity took place and these included:

- (a) a new dog pavilion capable of housing 800 dogs. This pavilion was named after one of our Councillors, Mr. William Cockbill, who, for many years, has been Steward-in-Chief of the Dog Section and also Chairman of the Kennel Control Council.
- (b) the construction of approximately 300 horse boxes and lockers. This entailed the opening up of an entirely new horse area, and involved the construction of roads and installation of electricity and water services.
- (c) the modernising of a considerable portion of the Pig Pavilion. This necessitated alterations to the roof, construction of new pens, alterations to drainage, painting and other details.
- (d) the construction of new lawn areas for the public, and the use of some of these for the judging and selling of sheep.
- (e) the establishment of several new cafes and the modernising of one restaurant into an up to date self service cafe.
- (f) the conversion of a horse pavilion into a cattle pavilion in which the dual purpose cattle were housed.
- (g) a new electrical sub-station giving increased electrical supply to standholders.

ROYAL SHOW

The Society again presented its Annual Show which took place from the 23rd September to 2nd October.

We are pleased to record that His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Sir Dallas Brooks, officially opened the Show on the 24th September. He and Lady Brooks who accompanied him, displayed much interest in the Grand Parade and other sections of the Show.

Lady Brooks also attended the Show on the 25th September when she performed the opening ceremony of the new William Cockbill Dog Pavillion.

In view of the great activity which had taken place in the development of the Grounds, it was fitting that the Society should receive an all-time record of 22,531 entries. The details of these are contained in the attached sheet.

(Circular)



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 Council Room, Administrative Building, Plummer Avenue, Royal Showgrounds, Epsom Road, Ascot Vale, on Thursday, the 17th February, 1955, at 12 noon.

BUSINESS

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

Dated the 1st day of February, 1955.

H. T. C. WOODFULL,

Secretary.

For list of nominations see back.

LIST OF NOMINATIONS

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

(Eleven to be elected)

BARTRAM, Harold, "View Bank Farm," Heidelberg.

CLARKE, W. J. T., "Devon Park", Dunkeld.

DOYLE, E. A., "Mulutu", Gembrook Road, Emerald.

DUGDALE, L. M., "Noorilim", Murchison East.

DRUMMOND, K. A., "Talgarno Park", Private Bag, Wodonga.

GARDINER, J., Ventnor, Phillip Island.

HOWE, Harold, 54 Christowel Street, Camberwell.

LUKE, K. G., "Deepfields", Romsey.

MITCHELL, T. N., c/o. Mitchell and Co. Pty. Ltd., Cross Street, West Footscray.

SANDERSON, R. F., Cliveden Mansions, 192 Wellington Parade, East Melbourne.

STEPHENS, Dr. F. G., "Uplands", Terrara Road, Vermont.

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

COMPARATIVE LIST OF ENTRIES

Section	1937	1938	1939	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Clydesdales	257	181	178	105	147	176	157	142	122	135	101	110
†Suffolk Punches	4	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	†	†	†	†
†Percheron	5	3	5	—	1	2	—	—	†	†	†	†
Farm and Lorry	33	41	69	41	52	44	25	26	38	15	14	44
Arabs	3	8	9	8	8	14	18	20	17	10	16	34
Thoroughbreds	15	10	9	7	4	13	7	9	—	—	—	—
Trotters	37	38	53	65	112	93	99	104	84	91	97	68
†Cobs	19	15	17	13	†	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Galloways	—	—	—	—	35	37	41	30	43	47	50	66
Ponies	65	55	63	99	148	184	263	170	173	200	223	202
Saddle Horses, etc.	433	483	583	786	956	809	896	681	1,082	1,146	1,363	1,416
Harness Horses, etc.	181	216	251	208	271	187	243	190	144	190	184	186
Shorthorns	94	76	91	76	104	104	104	111	117	134	134	157
Poll Shorthorns	—	—	—	9	2	5	9	9	9	11	16	21
Herefords	45	20	33	59	67	65	82	56	75	63	70	56
Poll Herefords	17	14	16	35	37	43	60	45	69	74	92	97
Aberdeen Angus	30	17	18	58	98	102	105	85	132	102	123	130
Devons	—	10	13	—	—	—	—	—	4	10	9	13
Dairy Shorthorns	90	62	99	84	127	190	158	139	132	162	161	156
Red Polls	100	73	78	96	90	93	83	102	127	110	117	116
Illawarra Shorthorns	34	13	70	141	182	235	224	207	187	177	201	220
Ayrshires	150	181	209	170	299	299	303	263	249	205	256	248
Jerseys	192	195	323	300	495	471	466	469	483	477	496	499
Guernseys	98	74	65	97	146	188	221	199	183	189	176	207
Friesians	62	72	82	39	82	193	208	156	209	172	246	245
Testing Competitions	25	16	18	11	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fat Cattle	53	28	32	16	31	38	52	54	53	56	61	53
Goats	—	—	—	13	11	38	60	46	90	84	98	135
Lincolns	74	85	78	76	49	25	28	4	16	11	10	14
Border Leicesters	140	111	186	140	160	141	126	97	105	124	171	158
English Leicesters	48	45	41	53	114	62	39	32	19	13	14	30
Romney Marsh	44	55	48	110	113	128	159	122	102	113	114	133
Cheviots	—	—	—	9	20	15	18	21	30	34	34	53
Dorset Horns	66	103	107	141	175	176	169	185	123	153	168	194
Shropshires	71	74	73	21	17	27	13	14	19	21	8	15
Southdowns	175	196	182	79	154	93	114	63	66	82	119	161
Suffolks	60	26	29	12	6	19	15	26	31	20	32	28
Ryelands	112	97	133	61	82	78	83	62	76	99	96	100
Dorset Downs	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	4	—	—	—	2
Hampshire Downs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	8	2	—
Corriedales	95	67	89	66	89	76	64	106	54	77	70	93
†Polwarths	16	5	12	—	—	—	—	—	†	†	†	†
†Merinos	—	—	—	—	—	37	24	†	†	†	†	†
Fat Sheep	42	32	40	25	43	64	62	36	15	35	22	15
Fleeces and Skins	72	59	73	34	66	65	85	62	69	48	210	341
Pigs	502	475	519	395	589	570	468	501	560	600	700	801
Poultry	1,291	1,217	1,301	1,588	1,981	2,105	2,016	2,010	1,900	2,170	2,034	2,167
Pigeons	827	892	1,024	1,078	995	1,046	1,138	1,156	1,049	1,205	1,170	890
Budgerigars, etc.	558	466	495	327	528	514	436	553	589	446	423	241
Dogs	1,342	1,441	1,620	1,419	2,306	3,283	3,097	3,248	2,853	3,051	3,178	3,112
Cats	82	†	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Farm Produce	430	395	402	151	262	320	362	279	188	193	169	173
*Schools' Competitions	762	840	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	—
Dairy Produce	195	181	241	172	183	212	210	213	142	165	178	170
Wines, etc.	448	317	263	192	377	370	407	467	429	441	472	497
Fruits, etc.	377	566	365	182	277	377	460	207	244	234	170	225
Apiculture	—	—	—	29	59	52	103	105	102	41	76	57
Wool Exhibition Comptns.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	378
Arena Contests	1,730	2,379	2,800	3,246	3,657	3,827	3,790	3,603	4,036	3,984	5,758	5,470
Judging Competitions, etc.	318	339	337	510	481	—	—	—	—	—	20	—
Sheep Shearing Competitions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	92	67
Horticulture Exhibits	6	5	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	58	90
Home Crafts	1,380	1,482	1,676	1,095	1,760	1,954	1,770	2,114	2,491	2,414	2,558	2,377
Total Competitive Entries	13,305	13,854	14,518	13,752	18,070	19,262	19,141	18,605	19,130	19,642	22,329	22,531

†Section deleted.

*Section deleted in favour of a non-competitive display in Young Farmers' Pavilion.

Fortunately the Society was favoured with good weather almost throughout the Show, and this no doubt assisted in achieving a record attendance figure of 679,167. This figure was 106,992 greater than in 1953, and 26,507 more than the previous record in 1946.

A comprehensive arena programme was again presented to the public and almost without exception, arena events were conducted on time.

Wood Chopping was again conducted in the special stadium used for the purpose, and proved a decided attraction to the public. Both day and evening sessions took place.

For the first time, an International Fleece Competition was held in conjunction with the Wool Exhibition and Sheep Shearing contests. Entries in the International Fleece Competition were received from all States of the Commonwealth and from England, United States of America, South Africa, Uruguay, Holland and Japan.

We were pleased to have been able during the year to make more space available to standholders and those who were offered space were quick to take advantage of the extra to the Show Grounds for the display of their products.

Practically all standholders embarked on a campaign of improvement to their stands and the general standard of exhibits showed great improvement.

NEW GRAND STAND

Public interest so clearly evidenced at the last Show, greatly encouraged the Council to proceed with plans for a new grandstand to accommodate approximately 8,500 people.

The Council is pleased to report that the design of the stand has been finalised after harmonious conferences with the Trotting Control Board. The stand will provide better facilities for viewing the arena, and also provide amenities for members which have not hitherto been possible.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Your Council wishes to place on record its thanks to the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. John Cain, M.L.A., the Minister for Agriculture, Hon. C. P. Stoneham, M.L.A., the Minister for Education, Hon. A. E. Shepherd, M.L.A., and other members of the Victorian Cabinet; the Department of Agriculture, and other Government Departments; public bodies, all stock Societies; the Press and Broadcasting Stations; Judges, Stewards and Stewardesses, and those many others who have so kindly offered their services and assistance to the Society. Our overseas judges this year were Mr. W. Gordon Blackstock who judged the Shorthorns, Mr. John Cumber who judged the Dairy Shorthorns and Mr. D. T. Sinclair of New Zealand who judged in the Dog Section. The Council also desires to place on record its appreciation of the splendid work done by the members of the staff during the year.

The Council also desires to thank the co-operation extended by the Minister for Education, Hon. A. E. Shepherd, M.L.A., and the Director of Education, Major General A. H. Ramsay in permitting parties of school children, in the care of their teachers, to visit the Show, the great educational value of which is now so widely recognised.

FINANCE

The financial statements and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1954 are attached to this report. The overdraft in the Society's working account with the Bank has been considerably reduced due to the successful year's operations. The Show conducted by the Society returned the highest financial return ever received by the Society. In order to provide capital for its new works, further money was, however, borrowed from the Bank.

THE COUNCIL

At the annual election of office bearers, Mr. T. N. Mitchell was re-elected President of the Society, and His Honour Judge Mitchell, Messrs. J. Bott and L. M. Dugdale were re-elected Vice Presidents.

It is with regret that the deaths of two members of Council during the year are recorded.

Mr. T. A. Meaklim, who died on July 22nd, had been a member of the Council since 1940, and was a Vice-President in the years 1950, 1951 and 1952. At the time of his death he was Chairman and Steward-in-Chief of the Sheep Section, offices which he had filled very efficiently for a number of years.

Mr. A. H. Moore, who died on December 12th, was elected to the Council in 1934, and was elected as Honorary Councillor early in the year 1954. Prominent in the dairy cattle and pig sections of the Show, he had been for many years, Chairman and Steward in Chief of the Dairy Cattle Section and had carried out similar duties for the Pig Section.

Mr. K. A. Drummond, of Talgarno Park, Wodonga, was elected at the September meeting to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Meaklim.

Leave of absence was granted to Mr. C. N. McKay and Cr. H. L. Lyall who travelled overseas during the year.

On behalf of the Council,

T. N. MITCHELL, President.

H. T. C. WOODFULL, Secretary.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954

EXPENDITURE	INCOME
ANNUAL EXHIBITION	
To Prize Money, Cups and Trophies £17,812	By Life Members' Subscriptions £ 300
„ Wages 26,759	„ Ordinary Members' Subscriptions 8,669
„ Attractions 4,171	„ Associate Members' Subscriptions 2,903
„ Catering 3,814	„ Ladies' Tickets 1,570
„ Travelling Expenses—Judges 2,308	————— 13,442
„ Wood Chopping Expenses 904	
„ Printing 10,051	ANNUAL EXHIBITION
„ Cartage 694	„ Admission Tickets sold:—
„ Cleaning 807	At Railways £33,585
„ Fodder 89	At Gates 57,114
„ Public Address Equipment Expenses 834	At Grandstands 12,406
„ Police and Fire Services 1,334	At Motor Parks and Cloakrooms 656
„ Hire of Horse Boxes 246	At Wood Chopping Arena 1,304
„ Payroll Tax 645	At Sales Ring 105
„ Kennel Control Council Surcharge Refund 161	„ Premiums on Refreshments and Catering 6,580
„ Advertising and Publicity 1,886	„ Entry Fees 10,150
„ Electricity and Gas 891	„ Ground Rents 26,924
„ Medical and Veterinary Officers' Fees 502	„ Commission on Stock Sales 661
„ Show Insurances 218	„ Lunch and Afternoon Tea Tickets 153
„ Loss on Stock and Produce Sales 101	„ Catalogue and Programme Sales 1,676
„ Other Show Expenses 3,239	„ Weight Judging Competition 80
————— £77,466	„ Sundries 152
	„ Clydesdale Produce Sweepstakes 76
ADMINISTRATION AND SHOWGROUND EXPENSES	„ Ayrshire Derby Sweepstakes 6
„ Wages, Salaries, Superannuation, etc. 29,183	————— 151,628
„ Advertising 2,007	
„ Audit and Legal Fees 321	GENERAL INCOME
„ Commission on Advertising 1,490	„ Rent of Showgrounds and Buildings 27,432
„ Insurance Premiums 4,458	„ Donations 12,120
„ Official Journal 1,605	„ Advertising 4,055
„ Fodder Conservation Competition 497	„ Interest—Trotting Control Board 1,931
„ Hire of Tubular Steel Stands 3,331	„ Commission 779
„ Electricity—office 98	
„ Office Rent and Cleaning 1,763	
„ Postages 994	
„ Printing and Stationery 1,448	
„ Fodder 43	
„ Repairs and Maintenance 14,541	
„ Motor Vehicle Expense 573	
„ Rates and Taxes 2,491	

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1954

LIABILITIES	ASSETS
Bank Overdraft Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd. £93,164	Secretary's Advance Account £200
Government Loan No. 1 11,939	War Savings Certificates 70
Government Loan No. 3 3,883	Cash on hand 81
T. H. Payne Memorial Trust 250	Showgrounds Stock on Hand 5,593
Short Call Deposits 60,848	Sundry Debtors 5,726
Sundry Creditors and Accruals 7,453	Prepayments 1,319
Provision for Deferred Maintenance 20,000	T. H. Payne Memorial Treasury Bond 250
Accumulated Funds and Reserves:—	A. F. McNaughton Ayrshire Trophy Bond 120
Revenue Account Balance, 1/1/1954 £273,275	Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Ltd.—Short Call Account 60,848
Surplus for year 21,447	Land £36,921
294,722	Buildings and Improvements 314,283
Less Depreciation attributable to previous years written off Motor Vehicles 227	Showgrounds Plant & Furniture 25,715
294,495	Office Furniture 2,673
£492,032	379,492
	Trotting Control Board 42,333
	Less Repayment during year 4,000
	38,333
	£492,032

AUDITORS' REPORT

We beg to report to the members that we have examined the books and accounts of the ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA for the year ended 31st December, 1954. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required, and, in our opinion, the above Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Society's affairs and that the accompanying statement of Income and Expenditure is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the results of the operations of the Society for the year, according to the best of our information, the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books of the Society.

Dated at Melbourne this 26th day of January, 1955.

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

D. R. S. MCGREGOR, F.C.A. (Aust.)

Chartered Accountants (Aust.)

H. T. C. WOODFULL,

Secretary.