

The Royal Agricultural Society
of Victoria



ANNUAL REPORT

1959

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of the

Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria

To the Members—

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Council of this Society I have pleasure in submitting to you a report on the Society's activities for the year ending 31st December, 1959.

ROYAL VISIT AND ROYAL SHOW

I have the honour to place on record the fact that Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra of Kent graciously consented to perform the official opening ceremony of our Royal Show. This ceremony was carried out on Friday the 18th September by Her Royal Highness in a manner which captured the affection and admiration of all those who had the privilege of witnessing the simple but nevertheless impressive ceremony.

It is therefore with a feeling of deep appreciation that I record the gratitude of this Society to the Princess.

We were especially honoured also to have with us at the opening ceremony the Prime Minister, the Right Hon. R. G. Menzies, C.H., Q.C., M.P., and Dame Pattie Menzies, G.B.E.; the Hon. H. E. Bolte, M.L.A., and Mrs. Bolte, C.B.E.; the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Cr. B. Evans, D.S.O., and Mrs. Evans. These honoured guests, together with Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, inspected various sections of our Royal Show after the official opening ceremony and I feel that they honoured the Society not only by their presence but also by their interest in the various exhibits.

The Royal Show of our Society has in many respects become nationally famous; awards gained at the Royal truly mean something to exhibitors and are recognised as a mark of high standard and quality throughout the Commonwealth. The official opening by Her Royal Highness therefore set in motion on an historic plane this year's celebration of the national fair which has now become one of the world's greatest agricultural events.

The entries for the Show surpassed all previous records and in some sections, particularly horses, entries were so heavy that we had to reject some because of an excess of numbers over accommodation. It was unfortunate that this action became necessary, but all accommodation was used. Even after these rejections the total was 4,561 entries in the horse section.

Particulars of all the entries will be found in another section of this report but it is interesting to note that record entries were received in the beef and dairy cattle sections, and in sheep, fleeces, goats, poultry, pigeons, cage birds, wines, dogs, homecrafts and Young Farmers competitions.

A special place was made for Santa Gertrudis cattle in the Show this year; the newcomers attracted a limited number of entries but a great deal of public attention. The landrace pigs, included for the first time last year, continued to win popular curiosity and, in the sale ring, high prices.

It has become apparent that each year our Royal Show has been an improvement upon the preceding Show; and this year's Show was no exception.

This, however, could not be achieved without careful planning, hard work and the valuable co-operation of many people and it is with considerable gratification that I am able to record that this was received by the Society from all sections of the community.

NEW BUILDINGS

Prominent amongst the new buildings this year was an addition to the Sheep Pavilion; this, with a clear floor space of 26,500 square feet, greatly expanded our sheep accommodation. Financial assistance towards the cost of erection of this building was generously given by the Government of Victoria, through the Premier. Help was also received from the Australian Society of Breeders of British Sheep (Victorian Branch), the Australian Corriedale Association (Victorian Branch), the Australian Polwarth Breeders' Association (Victorian Branch), the Australian Sheep Breeders' Association and the Victorian Stud Merino Sheepbreeders' Association.

The new sheep pavilion was opened officially during the Show by the State Premier, Mr. Bolte, and our thanks go to him for his support. Our sheep accommodation now totals 1,500 with indoor judging rings, and is acclaimed as the largest in the world.

Other new structures included two new liquor bars, new locker accommodation for cattle exhibitors and additional facilities for the public.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance at this year's Show aggregated 653,208 and was the third highest on record. There is little doubt that but for the extremely bad weather on the first Saturday we would have beaten all records for attendance. Due to extremely bad weather on this day, our usual Saturday total was halved and it is therefore with gratification that I record that over the whole Show period we finished only 14,253 down on our record aggregate. On People's Day, Thursday, the 24th September, we had an all-time one day record of 170,610 people.

A feature of Royal Show attendance figures in recent years has been the increasing number of children attending the Show on family tickets or educational excursions. This means that the augmented turnstile figures have not been reflected in proportion to revenue, since so many of the added attendances have represented children admitted at reduced rates.

RELIGIOUS SERVICE

Arrangements had been made by the Victorian State Committee of the World Council of Churches to conduct a service on the Showgrounds Arena on Show Sunday but unfortunately this had to be cancelled because of heavy rain.

"SUN" SHOW GIRL

The "Sun" Show Girl competition again proved popular and 78 girls competed in the final judging at the Show. The winner was Miss Wendy Nankervis, the Show Girl winner from Phillip Island.

The second and third places were won by Miss Eleanor Cooper from Alexandra and Miss Mareedale McGavin from Pakenham. The thanks of this Society must go to the "Sun News Pictorial" for their generous action in conducting the competition again this year.

In the evening the Society had pleasure entertaining the Show Girls with the Presidents of their respective Agricultural Societies at dinner.

VISITORS

His Excellency Sir Dallas Brooks, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., D.S.O., K.St.J., the Governor of Victoria, and Lady Brooks again visited our Show and were present on the evening of the Youth display.

In addition to the distinguished citizens present at the official opening we had the pleasure of entertaining the members of the State Cabinet and their wives; the Hon. P. C. Stoneham, M.L.A., the Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament of Victoria, and Mrs. Stoneham; Sir Herbert Hyland, M.L.A., Leader of the Country Party; Mr. P. W. C. Stokes, M.H.R.; Mr. A. A. Buchanan, M.H.R.; and many other members of both the Commonwealth and State Houses of Parliaments; the Mayor of Essendon, Cr. J. J. Bastick and his Councillors. We also were pleased to have with us His Excellency Mr. A. M. Hamilton, the High Commissioner for South Africa; Mr. J. C. Ajmani, Acting High Commissioner for India; Mr. F. van Rosmalen, Agricultural Attache for the Netherlands in Canberra; and M. J. H. M. Scheeren, of the Netherlands Emigration Office.

FINANCE

The financial statement for the year ended the 31st December, 1959, is at the end of this report. It will be noted that rising costs have made our expenditure heavier this year and this together with our policy of improvement of the grounds has resulted in a small deficit. The possible rather generous amount of £31,284 has been allowed for depreciation. In view of these rising costs, your council may have to give consideration to increasing some charges in order to meet higher costs.

BREED SOCIETIES

We have again carried out the administrative work for twenty-three Breed Societies and associated organisations.

Although this work costs the Society several thousands of pounds annually, we are pleased to assist the Breed Societies in the furtherance of their advancement of agriculture. I feel that our assistance to Breed Societies is not perhaps appreciated by some as much as it could be, as some of the Breed Societies who have opened offices on their own account have found the expense to members much higher and the benefit not as great as they anticipated.

YOUNG FARMERS

Steady progress of the Senior Section of the Victorian Young Farmers movement continues to be recorded. It is a source of satisfaction to your Council that the section has grown from 65 clubs when the Society took over in November, 1955, to 130 clubs in 1959. The Government grant has doubled also — from £5,600 in 1955-56, to £11,350 in 1959. The movement is in great heart and increased interest is shown each month.

PUBLIC INTEREST IN SHOWGROUNDS

The Showgrounds, already a gathering ground for enthusiasts for sports ranging from trotting to basketball and soccer, became a centre of public interest on two occasions during the year for widely different reasons, the production of a motion picture and the organisation of a religious revival. Thousands were attracted to the Dr. Billy Graham Crusade meetings on the arena at the Showgrounds, on the one hand; and the filming by Stanley Kramer Productions of the picture "On the

Beach", on the other, with stars such as Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner and Fred Astaire in a story with an Australian background. Sets for the production were constructed in the Government Pavilion and made the Showgrounds a focal point for the eyes of the whole world.

CHANGES IN COUNCIL

On 5th February of this year the Society had the misfortune to lose an Honorary Councillor, Mr. R. N. Scott, O.B.E., who died at the age of 92. Mr. Scott was not only the oldest member of the Council but the member who had served the Society longest. Mr. Scott was elected Vice-President in 1933 and in 1950 was made an Honorary Councillor in recognition of his long and valued service.

Mr. A. C. Fisker was appointed Trustee on 14th January to fill the vacancy left by the death last year of Sir Clive McPherson. Mr. Fisker was elected to Council in 1944.

Mr. L. J. Dooling, L.L.B., B.Com., Chief Manager for Victoria of the Commonwealth Trading Bank of Australia and the Melbourne Manager of the Commonwealth Bank, was elected to the Council during the year. He has close associations with agriculture, particularly with regard to finance and marketing.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is again my pleasure to place on record the Society's appreciation of the willingness to assist displayed by the Premier of Victoria and the members of the Cabinet, particularly the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. G. L. Chandler, C.M.G., M.L.C.; the Director of Agriculture, Mr. P. Ryan, and his officers who were again most helpful and ready to assist throughout the year and especially in organising new displays in the Hall of Agriculture for the Royal Show.

The Milk Board, headed by Mr. M. Rankin, was again most helpful. I would like to take this opportunity of wishing Mr. Rankin well on his retirement and of thanking him once again for his help and assistance during his years of office. The Australian Dairy Produce Board undertook a display for the first time at the Show this year and we were pleased to note their interest in the Show.

The Society places on record its appreciation of the action of the Wool Bureau this year in staging a wool carnival throughout the Show on a scale never previously seen in Australia. This involved considerable expense and activity on the part of the Bureau. The contribution of the Carnival, with its displays and parades and its popular appeal, was of the highest value both to the wool industry and to agriculture in general.

Of the many Government Departments and Boards represented in various ways, the foremost were the Meat Board, the Department of Primary Industry, the Department of Territories, the Egg Board, the Country Roads Board, the Country Fire Authority, the Forestry Commission, the Railways Department, the Tramways Board, the Electricity Commission. The Police Department and the Army again rendered us considerable assistance. I would also like to mention the co-operation of the Victorian Racing Club in making available their car park for our members.

Many commercial firms were generous in sponsoring competitions or other activities and to these firms I wish to express the Society's thanks. Their numbers are too great to mention in detail, but I would nevertheless like them to know how much we appreciate their valuable support. The

Shell Co. of Aust. Ltd. again sponsored our Pre-Show tour which this year covered the Gippsland area. The Vacuum Oil Co. sponsored the Australian Shearing Championship. The Commonwealth Bank of Aust. have sponsored a Farm Management and Improvement Competition, and the Commercial Bank of Australia sponsored the Society's Fleece Competition. The New Idea sponsored our Baby's Layette Competition. The Australasian Post arranged a shovelling competition. A. A. Swallow donated prizes for our first pine-logging contest.

Our thanks go also to the National Fitness Council for arranging a spectacular youth display as an evening arena event, and to Lilydale Senior Young Farmers, who produced a tractor maypole dance as a centre-piece for the display.

The Society's warmest thanks go to the judges, stewards, stewardesses and other officials, without whose valued services the Show could not be carried through successfully. We would mention especially the overseas judges, notably the Right Honourable the Earl of Northesk, of Berkshire, England, who judged in the dog section; Mr. Duncan Holden who judged saddle horses, and Mrs. Duncan Holden who was responsible for costume judging in turnouts, both of Hawkes Bay, New Zealand; Mr. A. W. Montgomerie, of Auckland, New Zealand, who judged Fresians; and Mr. G. Bryant, Manakau, New Zealand, who judged the Cheviots.

Much of the credit for the success of our 1959 Royal must go to the various media of mass information, all of whom were most co-operative and generous in the news space, listening and viewing time allocated to the Show for a considerable time before as well as throughout its duration.

Commencing well before the Show, the Press, Radio and T.V. gave prominence to Show preparations and during the Show devoted a large amount of space and time to exhibits, competitions and events. Over 120 newsmen, feature writers, photographers, radio commentators, T.V. representatives and other news personnel attended the Royal in a working capacity interviewing officials, judges, exhibitors and public, and writing reports or making broadcasts of our activities. I again take pleasure in thanking all concerned for their valued contributions towards the Show's success.

In conclusion may I take this opportunity of expressing my warmest appreciation to the staff for their efficient and zealous attention to their duties. I feel that our Ground's Manager, Mr. Drew, has been untiring in his efforts to improve the grounds and that inspiring leadership has been given to the whole staff by Mr. H. T. C. Woodfull.

On behalf of the Council,

NORMAN MITCHELL,

President.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

EXPENDITURE	INCOME
ANNUAL EXHIBITION	
Prize Money, Cups and Trophies £20,268	By Ordinary Members' Subscriptions 13,771
Wages 36,246	„ Associate Members' Subscriptions 2,965
Attractions 8,351	„ Ladies' Tickets 790
Catering 5,753	<u>£17,526</u>
Travelling Expenses — Judges 3,077	
Wood Chopping Expenses 987	ANNUAL EXHIBITION
Printing 11,681	„ Admission Tickets sold—
Cartage 552	At Railways £26,938
Cleaning 1,564	At Gates 55,871
Public Address Equipment Expenses 1,118	At Grandstands 9,452
Police and Fire Services 2,648	At Motor Parks and Cloakrooms 604
Payroll tax 623	At Woodchopping Arena 854
Kennel Control Council — Surcharge Refund .. 181	At Sales Ring 215
Advertising and Publicity 5,390	„ Premiums on Refreshments and Catering 7,385
Medical and Veterinary Officers' Fees 739	„ Entry Fees 12,411
Fodder, etc. 253	„ Ground Rents 44,498
Other Show Expenses .. 5,558	„ Commission on Stock Sales 1,327
<u>£104,989</u>	„ Catalogue and Programme Sales 1,856
	„ Sundries 230
	<u>£161,641</u>
ADMINISTRATION AND SHOWGROUNDS EXPENSES	
Wages, Salaries, Superannuation, etc. .. £31,019	GENERAL INCOME
Long Service Leave .. . 761	„ Rent of Showgrounds and Buildings .. . £33,172
Advertising 167	„ Donations 10,282
Audit and Legal Fees 476	„ Advertising 3,238
Insurance Premiums .. 8,131	„ Interest — Trotting Control Board 1,390
Donations 7	„ Commission 662
Loose Tools 295	„ Motor Parks 401
Electricity — Office .. . 9	„ Sundries 547
Office Rent and Cleaning 1,565	<u>£49,692</u>
Postages 1,282	<u>£228,859</u>
Catering 562	Loss Transferred to Accumulated Fund 6,827
Repairs and Maintenance 22,189	
Motor Vehicle Expenses . 1,581	
Rates and Taxes 4,802	
Payroll Tax 2,197	
Travelling Expenses .. . 414	
Office Supplies 1,113	
Cost of Secretarial Services to Herd Societies 6,103	
Telephone 1,285	
Service for Tenants, etc. 499	
Wheat Crop and Farm Tree Championships 316	
Interest and Bank Charges 11,680	
Sundry Expenses (Including Members' Medallions) 2,960	
Depreciation of Plant, Furniture and Buildings 31,284	
<u>£130,697</u>	
<u>£235,686</u>	<u>£235,686</u>

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

LIABILITIES	ASSETS
Current Liabilities—	Fixed Assets—
Bank Overdraft, Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd. £446,611	Land at cost £56,921
Sundry Creditors & Accruals 2,446	Buildings and Improvements at valuation £1,566,892
£449,057	Less Depreciation 26,317
Deferred Liabilities—	1,540,575
Dairy Machinery, Fodder Conservation and Scholarship 1,954	Showgrounds Services & Utilities 229,673
Trust A/c.'s—	Showgrounds Plant and Furniture, at cost 46,193
T. H. Payne Memorial Trust 250	Less Depreciation 4,507
W. J. Dawkins Trophy Trust 100	41,686
Aust. Pig Society Trust 1,500	Office Furniture at cost 4,865
Capt. A. E. T. Payne Trust £10,000	Less Depreciation 460
Income A/c. — balance 376	4,405
10,376	1,873,260
Short Call Deposits 83,275	Deferred Assets—
95,501	Trotting Control Board—
Members' Funds—	Original Liability £24,534
Accumulated Fund—	Grandstand Liability 203,914
Balance, 1/1/59 £379,578	State Electricity Commission Extension deposit 1,479
Loss for year 6,827	229,927
372,751	Current Assets—
Assets Revaluation Reserve 1,042,003	Secretary's Advance A/c. 200
Grandstand Reserve A/c. 232,123	Cash on hand 22
Building Reserve A/c.'s (Sheep Pavilion) 24,070	Sundry Debtors 16,242
1,670,947	Showground Stock on hand at cost 979
	Prepayments 1,649
	19,092
	Trust A/c.'s—
	T. H. Payne Memorial Bonds 250
	Capt. A. E. T. Payne Trust-Inscribed Stock A/c.'s 9,935
	A. F. McNaughton Ayrshire Trophy Bond 120
	W. J. Dawkin's Inscribed Stock 100
	Aust. Pig Society Bonds 1,500
	Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd. — Short Call A/c.'s 83,275
	95,180
£2,217,459	£2,217,459

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, 1959. 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 to 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, as shown by the books of the Society.

Dated at Melbourne this 29th day of January, 1960.

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

H. T. C. WOODFULL, Secretary.

COMPARATIVE LIST OF ENTRIES

Section	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Clydesdales	135	101	110	85	122	129	130	154
Farm and Lorry	15	14	44	31	16	24	8	25
Arabs	10	16	34	16	24	22	27	32
Trotters	91	97	68	35	52	52	44	46
Galloways	47	50	66	56	66	72	68	69
Ponies	200	223	202	220	201	245	256	273
Saddle Horses, etc.	1,146	1,363	1,416	1,368	1,469	1,711	1,828	1,597
Harness Horses, etc.	190	184	186	186	156	180	165	176
*Riding Competitions	—	—	—	—	1,046	1,120	1,108	1,136
*Novelty Horse Events	—	—	—	—	355	246	274	324
*Jumping Competitions	—	—	—	—	1,226	1,175	898	861
*Wood Chopping and Sawing	444	890	866	1,027	1,002	982	916	904
Shorthorns	134	134	157	113	140	144	137	140
Poll Shorthorns	11	16	21	41	25	14	20	6
Herefords	63	70	56	82	98	85	104	83
Poll Herefords	74	92	97	133	117	128	116	115
Aberdeen Angus	102	123	130	111	199	179	226	186
Devons	10	9	13	19	16	18	19	16
Santa Gertrudis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Red Polls	110	117	116	111	63	59	44	35
Dairy Shorthorns	162	161	156	166	164	187	133	168
Fat Cattle	56	61	53	68	40	62	55	84
Illawarra Shorthorns	177	201	220	170	200	176	101	121
Ayrshires	205	256	248	279	221	205	187	172
Jerseys	477	496	499	621	549	588	555	556
Guernseys	189	176	207	254	163	159	240	264
Friesians	172	246	245	212	246	213	195	263
Lincolns	11	10	14	10	8	8	6	6
Border Leicesters	124	171	158	147	144	149	198	163
English Leicesters	13	14	30	29	28	39	39	44
Romney Marsh	113	114	133	94	93	50	104	91
Cheviots	34	34	53	50	81	130	132	194
Dorset Horns	153	168	194	231	225	229	254	228
Shropshires	21	8	15	7	7	5	12	16
Southdowns	82	119	161	133	145	145	133	160
Suffolks	20	32	28	13	24	30	28	39
Ryelands	99	96	100	123	143	160	118	143
Dorset Downs	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Hampshire Downs	8	2	—	—	—	5	3	6
Poll Dorsets	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	64
Corriedales	77	70	93	66	69	56	40	69
Fat Sheep	35	22	15	14	53	34	—	—
Fleeces	48	210	341	382	350	162	195	348
*Sheep Dog Trials	—	—	—	—	78	117	99	115
Sheep Shearing Competitions	—	92	67	66	40	16	16	37
Goats	84	98	135	167	147	166	170	145
Pigs	600	700	801	659	561	590	541	557
Poultry	2,170	2,034	2,167	2,195	2,058	1,691	1,917	1,974
Pigeons	1,205	1,170	890	843	626	997	1,161	1,312
Budgerigars, etc.	446	423	241	344	443	630	773	856
Wines, etc.	441	472	497	486	637	663	657	707
Dairy Produce	165	178	170	266	308	264	315	324
Farm Produce	193	169	173	173	213	198	192	155
*Fruit Packing Competitions	—	—	—	—	114	96	108	120
Apiculture	41	76	57	75	69	85	61	56
Arena Contests	3,984	5,758	5,470	4,879	—	—	—	—
Home Crafts	2,414	2,558	2,377	2,618	2,509	2,412	2,573	3,409
Dogs	3,051	3,178	3,112	3,265	3,545	3,549	3,200	3,615
†Young Farmers' Competitions	—	—	—	278	349	229	59	63
*Trotting Races	—	—	—	—	542	717	546	535
*Rodeo Events	—	—	—	—	70	—	—	—
Sheaf Tossing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
Total Competitive Entries ..	19,642	22,329	22,531	22,457	21,655	21,797	21,540	23,384

* Previously shown as Arena Contests.

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