



The Royal Agricultural Society
of Victoria

**REPORT OF
PROCEEDINGS**

For the Year Ended 1952

Annual Report of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria

To the Members,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Council takes pleasure in presenting this Report of the Society's proceedings during the year ended 31st December, 1952.

THE ROYAL SHOW.

The 1952 Royal Melbourne Show was held from 18th to 27th September. The general opinion appeared to be it was one of the best exhibitions staged by the Society.

The 19,642 entries constituted an all-time record, being 329 more than the previous highest entry. Record entries were received in the sections for Poultry, Pigeons and Dogs.

A comparative statement is published with this report.

Applications for space were again in excess of the areas available, although extra space was provided by closing of roads and clearing away of rockeries, etc.

His Excellency the Governor (Sir Dallas Brooks) accompanied by Lady Brooks, visited the Show on Friday, 19th September and after inspection of a Royal Australian Air Force Guard of Honour, officially opened the Show from the Council enclosure in the Members' Stand.

The Society was particularly fortunate with the weather. Apart from showers in the late afternoon of two days the weather was fine although on the first day a strong wind made conditions for judging a little unpleasant. On both Saturdays, the Wednesday, and the Show public holiday, the conditions were ideal.

The support accorded the Show by the public was particularly pleasing and although a record attendance was not attained, the total of 579,075 was the third largest in the Society's history. Records were broken on two days and for the first time the attendance was over 100,000 on two separate days.

Through the co-operation of the Essendon City Council which made available a strip of land immediately adjoining the Nicholas Pavilion it was possible to re-introduce Side Shows. There is no doubt this popular feature added greatly to the success of the Show.

As the dairy cattle societies had intimated they did not wish to continue auction sales, the Jersey judging ring which was used previously for this purpose after Judging Day, was made into a wood chopping stadium. This move filled a long felt want as the conduct of wood chopping events in the arena was not satisfactory to the competitors, the horse exhibitors or to arena officials. It enabled the Horse, Programme and Arena Control Committee to improve the arena programme and provide non-stop entertainment for the public—day and night.

The popularity of these events with the public was quickly demonstrated. On the opening day of the wood chopping the entire seating capacity was sold out within one hour of the opening of the gates to the stadium. As in other sections the committee responsible for the organisation of this entertainment already is considering plans for improvements, not only in the number and type of events but also in the arrangements for the comfort of competitors, officials and the public.

For many years your Council has been convinced that rodeo events would prove popular with Show crowds but for lack of suitable facilities had not been able to stage them. During the past year a portable crush was designed and constructed and proved to be completely satisfactory. The events were well conducted and very popular; so much so that Council already has decided to proceed with plans for the 1953 Show.

Acting on a recommendation from the Horse, Programme and Arena Control Committee, your Council appointed Major Peter Borwick of Northampton, England, to judge the classes so ably handled by Mr. John Shedden in 1951. This appointment provided continuity of judging according to the best International practices and was most popular with horse exhibitors.

Council is convinced these visits by overseas judges are already proving of value to horse competitors, particularly those who are looking forward to a possibility of participating in Olympic Games in 1956. Council already has authorised the committee to negotiate for an overseas judge in 1953.

COMPARATIVE LIST OF ENTRIES

Section	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Clydesdales	233	256	257	181	178	105	147	176	157	142	122	135
†Suffolk Punches	—	3	4	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	†	†
†Percheron	—	1	5	3	5	—	1	2	—	—	†	†
Farm and Lorry	68	43	33	41	69	41	52	44	25	26	38	15
Arabs	5	4	3	8	9	8	8	14	18	20	17	10
Thoroughbreds	9	16	15	10	9	7	4	13	7	9	—	—
Trotters	52	30	37	38	53	65	112	93	99	104	84	91
†Cobs	20	17	19	15	17	13	†	†	†	†	†	†
Galloways	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	37	41	30	43	47
Ponies	53	56	65	55	63	99	148	184	263	170	173	200
Saddle Horses, etc.	341	469	433	483	583	786	956	809	896	681	1,082	1,146
Harness Horses, etc.	119	152	181	216	251	208	271	187	243	190	144	190
Shorthorns	79	85	94	76	91	76	104	104	104	111	117	134
Poll Shorthorns	—	—	—	—	—	9	2	5	9	9	9	11
Herefords	43	45	45	20	33	59	67	65	82	56	75	63
Poll Herefords	—	—	17	14	16	35	37	43	60	45	69	74
Aberdeen Angus	21	25	30	17	18	58	98	102	105	85	132	102
Devons	—	—	—	10	13	—	—	—	—	—	4	10
Dairy Shorthorns	80	74	90	62	99	84	127	190	158	139	132	162
Red Polls	77	146	100	73	78	96	90	93	83	102	127	110
Illawarra Shorthorns	39	36	34	13	70	141	182	235	224	207	187	177
Ayrshires	148	152	150	181	209	170	299	299	303	263	249	205
Jerseys	262	217	192	195	323	300	495	471	466	469	483	477
Guernseys	99	117	98	74	65	97	146	188	221	199	183	189
Friesians	44	62	62	72	82	39	82	193	208	156	209	172
Testing Competitions	16	15	25	16	18	11	19	—	—	—	—	—
Fat Cattle	68	43	53	28	32	16	31	38	52	54	53	56
Goats	—	—	—	—	—	13	11	38	60	46	90	84
Lincolns	68	161	74	85	78	76	49	25	28	4	16	11
Border Leicesters	151	133	140	111	186	140	160	141	126	97	105	124
English Leicesters	47	41	48	45	41	53	114	62	39	32	19	13
Romney Marsh	24	43	44	55	48	110	113	128	159	122	102	113
Cheviots	—	—	—	—	—	9	20	15	18	21	30	34
Dorset Horns	78	57	66	103	107	141	175	176	169	185	123	153
Shropshires	63	62	71	74	73	21	17	27	13	14	19	21
Southdowns	150	182	175	196	182	79	154	93	114	63	66	82
Suffolks	9	30	60	26	29	12	6	19	15	26	31	20
Ryelands	83	80	112	97	133	61	82	78	83	62	76	99
Dorset Downs	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	4	—	—
Hampshire Downs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	8
Corriedales	111	75	95	67	89	66	89	76	64	106	54	77
†Polwarths	23	12	16	5	12	—	—	—	—	—	†	†
†Merinos	†—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	24	†	†	†
Fat Sheep	37	46	42	32	40	25	43	64	62	36	15	35
Fleeces and Skins	63	55	72	59	73	34	66	65	85	62	69	48
Pigs	552	545	502	475	519	395	589	570	468	501	560	600
Poultry	1,245	1,216	1,291	1,217	1,301	1,588	1,981	2,105	2,016	2,010	1,900	2,170
Pigeons	733	737	827	892	1,024	1,078	995	1,046	1,138	1,156	1,049	1,205
Budgerigars, etc.	274	519	558	466	495	327	528	514	436	553	589	446
Dogs	1,306	1,361	1,342	1,441	1,620	1,419	2,306	3,283	3,097	3,248	2,853	3,051
Cats	101	84	82	†—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Farm Produce	315	423	430	395	402	151	262	320	362	279	188	193
†District Competitions	3	3	3	3	4	†—	1	1	—	†	†	†
*Schools' Competitions	891	802	762	840	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—
Dairy Produce	115	132	195	181	241	172	183	212	210	213	142	165
Wines, etc.	510	331	448	317	263	192	377	370	407	467	429	441
Fruits, etc.	473	322	377	566	365	182	277	377	460	207	244	234
Apiculture	5	—	—	—	—	29	59	52	103	105	102	41
Horticulture Exhibits	—	—	6	5	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
Home Crafts	1,227	1,414	1,380	1,482	1,676	1,095	1,760	1,954	1,770	2,114	2,491	2,414
Arena Contests	1,335	1,484	1,730	2,379	2,800	3,246	3,657	3,827	3,790	3,603	4,036	3,984
Judging Competitions, etc.	177	244	318	339	337	510	481	—	—	—	—	—
Total Competitive Entries	12,045	12,658	13,308	13,857	14,522	13,752	18,071	19,263	19,141	18,605	19,130	19,642

†Section deleted.

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

This year the Grand Parades were again most spectacular. The inclusion of all horses was an important contributing factor. Credit for organising these parades must be accorded to the stewards in the various sections, and particularly to those in the horse section, whose work is made more difficult because of the scattered location of the stalls, and because many horses have to be stalled outside the Grounds. Thanks are also due to the exhibitors for the ready co-operation, which often was given under considerable difficulty, principally the lack of suitable leaders to handle stock.

During the year the arena lighting system was completely overhauled and as a result illumination for night events was much improved. This was particularly noticeable during the night polo matches which again proved most popular.

For many years past Council has recognised that the Home Crafts hall was completely inadequate for the many entries received in this popular section, and that the crowded conditions made it almost impossible for Show patrons to view the exhibits. Your Council therefore decided to transfer this section to the building previously devoted to horticulture and to transfer the latter display to portion of the Centenary Hall.

New cases were built and the building was freshly painted throughout. As a result the exhibits in the Home Crafts section were housed for the first time in many years in a manner which enabled them to be seen by the large crowds which thronged the building from the opening day.

The dog section is another for which new and larger accommodation is urgently needed. Council has decided to make this its next move in the implementing of the Master Plan for the modernising of the Show Grounds. This is to be done in conjunction with the providing of new accommodation for the horse exhibits on land owned by the Society outside the western end of the Show Grounds. It will entail the erection of fencing to bring the area into the Grounds.

Unfortunately, plans for development have been, and still are hampered by the emergency housing which still occupies two large sections of the Grounds. During the year representations were made to the Government with a view to the Society regaining control of these areas, but as yet these efforts have not been successful.

Early in the year the Olympic Games authorities decided that the Show Grounds would not be the venue for the 1956 Games and Council decided to commence at once works which had been delayed pending the final decision.

A start was made by the demolition of rockeries and the removal of palms and trees which had outlived their usefulness, and were occupying valuable space. This enabled picnic areas to be extended and more facilities such as picnic tables painted in bright colours to be provided. These and gaily coloured umbrellas added to the carnival atmosphere of the Grounds.

USE OF GROUNDS BETWEEN SHOWS.

Your Council is again pleased to report the harmonious relations which exist between the Society and the Trotting Control Board, which provides the bulk of the revenue earned for the use of the Grounds between Shows.

In last year's report mention was made that the Society had been approached with the object of having the arena made available for regular night football matches. Unfortunately no great progress was made, principally because of the lighting restrictions which were in force during the winter months.

As it appears likely restrictions will not be nearly as severe next winter negotiations were re-opened. Investigations are being made also with a view to improving the lighting in the arena.

On Saturday, 18th October, a night football match between Essendon and Richmond teams was staged. Considerable public interest was aroused and there is no doubt a very large crowd would have attended, but unfortunately the night was one of the worst in the year, with pouring rain and gale-force winds.

The Military Tattoo was again held on the Grounds during the week after the Show. Although bad weather forced the cancellation of one performance, the two which were held were very well supported by the public, and on the last night it was necessary for the gates to be closed owing to the congestion caused by the large crowds.

WHEAT CROP CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Once again your Council showed its interest in these competitions by allocating Championship prize monies of £50 each for competitions conducted by the Farm Competitions Association in the Northern Wimmera, Southern Wimmera, Mallee and Northern Districts. Council has notified the Association already that it will be prepared to support competitions again in 1953.

FODDER CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN.

The Fodder Conservation Competition subsidies were again made available. In all 33 agricultural societies and numerous Herd Testing Associations and similar bodies participated and large entries resulted in excellent competitions.

Your Council is grateful to the Department of Agriculture for its financial assistance and for the honorary services of its officers who acted as judges.

Invitations were extended to societies to apply for subsidies for the 1953 campaign, and 34 applications were received.

STAFF.

To undertake the society's new works programme which is part of its Master Plan your Council advertised for and finally appointed a Works Manager in the person of Mr. A. Drew.

To show its appreciation of the years of effort in the Society's interests by its secretary, Mr. Louis Monod and because of his arduous duties his health had suffered, Council decided to send him abroad on an extended tour.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Your Council once again wishes to record its keen appreciation of the interest taken by His Excellency the Governor in the Society's activities.

It also wishes to express thanks for support accorded by public bodies, Government departments, Stud Stock Breeders' Societies, the Press and broadcasting stations throughout the year, and particularly about the time of the Show; to judges, stewards and stewardesses, to all of the Society's sub-committees and their chairmen, to the staff and to all others who contributed to the success of the Show.

THE COUNCIL.

Special leave of absence was granted to Messrs. C. N. McKay, John Bott, R. F. Sanderson, G. P. H. Wilson and K. G. Luke, each of whom was abroad for several months, and an extension of leave was granted to Mr. M. A. Nicholas whose business interests in England delayed his return to Australia.

At the August meeting Council received a letter from Mr. Nicholas in which he tendered his resignation owing to the fact that he anticipated that he would remain abroad for an indefinite period. Council accepted the resignation with regret, and at the September meeting appointed Mr. F. E. Selwyn Scott to fill the vacancy.

Congratulations were extended to Messrs. E. A. Doyle and H. A. Mullett when it was announced at the June meeting that Her Majesty the Queen had bestowed on them the O.B.E. and I.S.O. respectively.

Council learned with keen regret of the sudden death of the Hon. Trevor Harvey, M.L.C. on 9th December, 1952. The Society was represented at the funeral and a message of sympathy was conveyed to the bereaved family.

FINANCE.

Accompanying this report are the Balance Sheet and Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the year.

Your Council is concerned with the growing cost of maintaining the Society's property, and in administration of the Society's activities, particularly regarding secretarial services carried out for breed societies.

Steps have already been taken with a view to obtaining increased payments from the breed societies, and during the coming year considerably increased revenue can be expected from this source.

Your Council is exploring other avenues with the object of earning more money to carry on the Society's national work, and we are confident that satisfactory means will be found.

On behalf of the Council,

A. G. HUNTER, President.
W. F. CRAIG, Acting Secretary.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER. 1952

RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURE
To Life Members' Subscriptions	By Bank Overdraft, 31/12/51
.. Ordinary Members' Subscriptions . . . . .	.. Bank Interest and Interest on Short Call
.. Associate Members' Subscriptions	Deposits
.. Ladies Tickets	
£12,319 16 0	£100,885 5 0
	509 16 11
ANNUAL EXHIBITION	ANNUAL EXHIBITION
.. Premiums Received:—	.. Prizes Paid in Cash
Refreshments and Catering . . . . .	.. Cups and Trophies
.. Admission Tickets Sold:—	.. Special Medallions
At Railways . . . . .	.. Advertising and Publicity
At Gates . . . . .	.. Medical and Veterinary Officers'
At Grandstands	Fees and Ambulance
At Motor Parks and Cloakroom . . . . .	.. Electricity and Gas
At Wood Chopping Arena . . . . .	.. Police and Fire Services
.. Commission Received:—	.. Cartage
On Stock Sales . . . . .	.. Wood Chop Blocks
On Cartage . . . . .	.. Badges and Medallions
Entry Fees . . . . .	.. Hire of Flags, etc.
Ground Rents . . . . .	.. Ribbons, etc.
Advertising in Show Publica-	.. Hire of Road Sweeper, Water
tions	Cart, Arena Gear, Barriers, etc.
Donation . . . . .	.. Hire of Horse Boxes
Luncheon and Afternoon Tea	.. Fuel for Coppers
Tickets . . . . .	.. Judges' Travelling Expenses
Sale of Catalogues and Pro-	.. Refund of Entry Fees, Ground
grammes	Rents etc.
Sundries . . . . .	.. Luncheons and Refreshments
Sale of Lambs, Milk, Bacon,	.. Public Speech Equipment Ex-
Sheep, Steers, etc.	penses
Weight Judging Competition . . . . .	.. Feed for Stock
Clydesdale Produce Sweepstakes . . . . .	.. Purchase of Lambs, Milk, Bacon,
Entry Fees, Produce Sweep-	Sheep, Steers, etc.
stakes, 1952 . . . . .	.. Commission on Advertising
Ayrshire Derby Sweepstakes,	.. Show Printing
1952 . . . . .	.. Wages in connection with Show
£123,483 4 4	Cleaning of Show Grounds and
.. Ayrshire Derby Sweepstakes, 1954-5	Pavilions
.. Rent of Showgrounds, Track and Buildings . . . . .	.. Sand, Tan, Timber, Paint, Glass,
.. Secretarial Services	Paper, Disinfectants, etc. etc.
.. Special Donations . . . . .	.. Special Attractions
.. Advertising in Annual Report . . . . .	.. Kennel Control Council Surcharge
	Refunded
	141 0 0

4,377 8 8 *
 1,056 18 3 X

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1952

LIABILITIES	ASSETS
Ayrshire Derby Trust Account	Secretary's Advance Account
£17 10 0	£200 0 0
Depreciation and Replacement Account 104,466 13 4	War Savings Certificates
Bank Overdraft Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd.	70 12 3
136,262 6 9	Show Grounds Furniture and Plant
Government Loan No. 1 .. £15,463 14 4	£18,164 12 1
Interest due 31/12/52 173 19 4	Less Depreciation
15,637 13 8	585 9 11
Government Loan No. 2 .. 11 4 11	17,579 2 2
Interest due 31/12/52 2 6	Office Furniture
11 7 5	1,888 0 1
Government Loan No. 3 .. 4,782 18 2	Less Depreciation
Interest due 31/12/52 53 16 2	66 4 7
4,836 14 4	1,821 15 6
Revenue Account Balance 119,831 9 8	Land at Book Value
Short Call Deposit Account 23,691 0 4	31,692 6 8
Trotting Control Board Compensation Account 50,333 6 8	Buildings and Improvements—including electrical installation
Less repayments 4,000 0 0	235,796 16 9
46,333 6 8	Less Depreciation
£451,088 2 2	10,563 11 6
	225,233 5 3
	Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd.—Short Call Deposit Account
	23,691 0 4
	Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd.—Depreciation and Replacement Account
	104,466 13 4
	Trotting Control Board .. 50,333 6 8
	Less Repayments 4,000 0 0
	46,333 6 8
	£451,088 2 2

AUDITOR'S 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, 1952. 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 Receipts 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 6th day of February, 1953.

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

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

Chartered Accounts (Aust.).

W. F. CRAIG,

Acting Secretary.