



The Royal Agricultural Society
of Victoria

**REPORT OF
PROCEEDINGS**

For the Year Ended 1953

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, 1953.

THE ROYAL SHOW

The Society again conducted its annual show, which took place from the 17th to the 26th September. The Show was named the "Coronation Show" as a tribute to the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

We are pleased to record that His Excellency the Governor-General, Sir William Slim, officially opened the Show on the 18th September. During his visit he was accompanied by Lady Slim, and Their Excellencies were pleased to see several sections of the Show.

Your Council asked all standholders to co-operate and make their stalls brighter and more attractive, and it is gratifying to record that, with very few exceptions, the standholders readily complied with the request.

The entries for the show were an all-time record and reached 22,329. This was a total of 2,687 more than ever previously received. Record entries being received in the Horse, Pig, Dog, Goat and Home Crafts sections, and in the Friesian and Jersey classifications of the cattle section of the Show. A comparative statement of entries received since 1935 will be found published with this report.

Several overseas judges were engaged by the Society as the Society feels that, in view of the high standard of stock, the best judges should, as far as reasonably possible, be provided. We were, this year, pleased to have as our overseas judges, Commandant R. Moeremans d'Emaus from Belgium, who judged Dressage and Jumping Events, Dr. Carlos Guerrero from the Argentine who judged Aberdeen-Angus cattle; Mr. J. Wassenaar, from Friesland, Holland, who judged Friesian cattle; Mr. A. Horne, of New Zealand, who judged Jersey cattle; Mr. Vernon Hirst, of England, who judged the Dogs, and Mr. J. Shedden, of England, who judged the riding classes.

Unfortunately poor weather conditions marred at least three days of the Show, and because of this the attendances were fewer than last year. On all fine days, however, the attendances showed an increase on last year's figures. The total attendance figures were 572,085.

Especial mention should be made of the new wool exhibit and fleece and sheep shearing competitions. These were staged in the Centenary Hall where a shearing shed was erected on a platform. The wool exhibit created particular interest as there were 210 fleeces exhibited from various parts of the Commonwealth, all States being represented. For the first time an Australian Sheep Shearing Championship contest was held and some of the best shearers in the Commonwealth competed. Sheep shearing was conducted on an almost non-stop basis and proved to be of tremendous public interest. Mannequin parades were held and a fashion competition of garments made of wool was conducted. The whole exhibition proved very popular and the Council feels that the exhibit was of great value to the wool industry, and of considerable interest to the public.

The woodchopping events were more popular than ever and the entries in this section were approximately double the number ever received previously. The fact that three Championship events were conducted no doubt added greatly to this popularity. The events were held in the woodchopping arena where, during the year, dressing sheds had been constructed for the use of competitors.

Arena attractions were again provided for the public and amongst them Polo, Jumping over Olympic Hurdles, Fireworks, Massed Bands and an Army Display were featured. The Grand Parades of course were most spectacular and there appears to be a never ceasing interest in this event. Floats from various Country Societies were included in the Parade for the first time and there is little doubt that these were a successful innovation. It is hoped that the interest in this section will increase, and the Society's thanks are accorded to all those connected with the organisation of the floats as their task was by no means an easy one.

COMPARATIVE LIST OF ENTRIES

Section	1936	1937	1938	1939	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Clydesdales	256	257	181	178	105	147	176	157	142	122	135	101
†Suffolk Punches	3	4	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	†	†	†
†Percheron	1	5	3	5	—	1	2	—	—	†	†	†
Farm and Lorry	43	33	41	69	41	52	44	25	26	38	15	14
Arabs	4	3	8	9	8	8	14	18	20	17	10	16
Thoroughbreds	16	15	10	9	7	4	13	7	9	—	—	—
Trotters	30	37	38	53	65	112	93	99	104	84	91	97
†Cobs	17	19	15	17	13	†	†	†	†	†	†	†
Galloways	—	—	—	—	—	35	37	41	30	43	47	50
Ponies	56	65	55	63	99	148	184	263	170	173	200	223
Saddle Horses, etc.	469	433	483	583	786	956	809	896	681	1,082	1,146	1,363
Harness Horses, etc.	152	181	216	251	208	271	187	243	190	144	190	184
Shorthorns	85	94	76	91	76	104	104	104	111	117	134	134
Poll Shorthorns	—	—	—	—	9	2	5	9	9	9	11	16
Herefords	45	45	20	33	59	67	65	82	56	75	63	70
Poll Herefords	—	17	14	16	35	37	43	60	45	69	74	92
Aberdeen Angus	25	30	17	18	58	98	102	105	85	132	102	123
Devons	—	—	10	13	—	—	—	—	—	4	10	9
Dairy Shorthorns	74	90	62	99	84	127	190	158	139	132	162	161
Red Polls	146	100	73	78	96	90	93	83	102	127	110	117
Illawarra Shorthorns	36	34	13	70	141	182	235	224	207	187	177	201
Ayrshires	152	150	181	209	170	299	299	303	263	249	205	256
Jerseys	217	192	195	323	300	495	471	466	469	483	477	496
Guernseys	117	98	74	65	97	146	188	221	199	183	189	176
Friesians	62	62	72	82	39	82	193	208	156	209	172	246
Testing Competitions	15	25	16	18	11	19	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fat Cattle	43	53	28	32	16	31	38	52	54	53	56	61
Goats	—	—	—	—	13	11	38	60	46	90	84	98
Lincolns	161	74	85	78	76	49	25	28	4	16	11	10
Border Leicesters	133	140	111	186	140	160	141	126	97	105	124	171
English Leicesters	41	48	45	41	53	114	62	39	32	19	13	14
Romney Marsh	43	44	55	48	110	113	128	159	122	102	113	114
Cheviots	—	—	—	—	9	20	15	18	21	30	34	34
Dorset Horns	57	66	103	107	141	175	176	169	185	123	153	168
Shropshires	62	71	74	73	21	17	27	13	14	19	21	8
Southdowns	182	175	196	182	79	154	93	114	63	66	82	119
Suffolks	30	60	26	29	12	6	19	15	26	31	20	32
Ryelands	80	112	97	133	61	82	78	83	62	76	99	96
Dorset Downs	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	4	—	—	—
Hampshire Downs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	8	2
Corriedales	75	95	67	89	66	89	76	64	106	54	77	70
†Polwarths	12	16	5	12	—	—	—	—	—	†	†	†
†Merinos	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	24	†	†	†	†
Fat Sheep	46	42	32	40	25	43	64	62	36	15	35	22
Fleeces and Skins	55	72	59	73	34	66	65	85	62	69	48	210
Pigs	545	502	475	519	395	589	570	468	501	560	600	700
Poultry	1,216	1,291	1,217	1,301	1,588	1,981	2,105	2,016	2,010	1,900	2,170	2,034
Pigeons	737	827	892	1,024	1,078	995	1,046	1,138	1,156	1,049	1,205	1,170
Budgerigars, etc.	519	558	466	495	327	528	514	436	553	589	446	423
Dogs	1,361	1,342	1,441	1,620	1,419	2,306	3,283	3,097	3,248	2,853	3,051	3,178
Cats	84	82	†	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Farm Produce	423	430	395	402	151	262	320	362	279	188	193	169
*Schools' Competitions	802	762	840	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—	*—
Dairy Produce	132	195	181	241	172	183	212	210	213	142	165	178
Wines, etc.	331	448	317	263	192	377	370	407	467	429	441	472
Fruits, etc.	322	377	566	365	182	277	377	460	207	244	234	170
Apiculture	—	—	—	—	29	59	52	103	105	102	41	76
Horticulture Exhibits	—	6	5	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	58
Home Crafts	1,414	1,380	1,482	1,676	1,095	1,760	1,954	1,770	2,114	2,491	2,414	2,558
Arena Contests	1,484	1,730	2,379	2,800	3,246	3,657	3,827	3,790	3,603	4,036	3,984	5,758
Judging Competitions, etc.	244	318	339	337	510	481	—	—	—	—	—	20
Sheep Shearing Competitions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	92
Total Competitive Entries	12,655	13,305	13,854	14,518	13,752	18,070	19,262	19,141	18,605	19,130	19,642	22,329

†Section deleted.

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

The Council has resolved that, in view of the increasing popularity of the dog section, and the inadequacy of the present pavilion, a new dog pavilion should be erected. A contract has been signed for the erection of this pavilion which will be erected in time for the next Show. The entries for the Show produced another record of 3,178 and the Council regrets that it was not able to have the new pavilion erected prior to the 1953 Show.

Several rockeries were removed during the year and this provided more space for the public and for family picnic parties. The necessity for providing more space for this purpose is fully realised by the Council.

During the year more facilities were made available for catering and it is considered that improvements were made for the public in this regard.

SHOW A CREDIT TO INDUSTRY AND STATE

The quality of the stock in almost all sections of the Show was considered to be of a very high standard and it is generally considered that the Show was a credit to the Agricultural industry of the State.

COMPETITIONS DURING THE YEAR

The Fodder Conservation Competitions were again conducted and subsidies were made available by the Society. During the year 35 applications for the subsidy were received and the Department of Agriculture is again thanked for its co-operation and assistance.

The Wheat Crop Championships were again conducted and £50 each for competitions held in the Northern Wimmera, Southern Wimmera, Mallee and Northern Districts was again made available.

THE SHOW GROUNDS

During the year a commencement was made in the demolition of the huts in one of the emergency housing areas at the Grounds. It is expected that during 1954 similar action will be taken with regard to the other emergency housing area. It is also pleasing to report that the State Parliament has passed certain legislation which will make possible the use of land belonging to the Society at the west end of the Show Grounds. Unfortunately the fullest use of the land cannot be made until the second Housing area referred to above is returned to the Society.

The Grounds, of course, are used during the summer months by the Trotting Control Board for the conduct of Night Trotting, and it is most desirable that, whenever possible, use should be made of the Grounds during the winter months. With this view in mind night football matches have been played on the arena, but due to uncertainty of the weather it is felt that the success of night football during winter months may be a little problematical. Every endeavour is being made, however, to see that the Grounds are used during the year to produce revenue for the Society.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Your Council again wishes to place on record its thanks to the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. John Cain, M.L.A.; the Minister for Agriculture, The Hon. C. P. Stoneham, 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 all those countless numbers who have so kindly offered their services and assistance to the Society. The Council also desires to place on record its appreciation to the Secretary, Mr. H. T. C. Woodfull and to the members of the staff for the splendid work done by them during the year. As was stated at the last Annual Meeting, Mr. Louis Monod resigned from the position of Secretary, and the Society's thanks are tendered to Mr. Monod for his long and faithful services. A suitable minute of appreciation has been placed in the books of the Society. The thanks of the Society to Mr. W. F. Craig, for his services to the Society, are also recorded.

FINANCE

The financial statements and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1953, are attached to this report. The Council has during the year been compelled, due to rising costs, to increase the fees payable by Breed Societies, but it is desired to make it clear that even with these increased fees the cost of maintaining the work and records of these Societies is well in excess of the amount being received from them. Your Council feels that it should continue to assist Breed Societies as far as possible, and if further increases become necessary then it will only be done in order to assist in keeping the financial affairs of the Society in order.

The Show conducted by the Society this year returned the highest financial return ever received by the Society, but the difficulty of maintenance of the Show Grounds is an increasing problem particularly in these days of high cost. Wherever possible, work is being carried out by our own labour and costs are thereby reduced as much as possible.

THE COUNCIL

During the year the Society suffered a severe blow in the death of its President, Mr. A. G. Hunter. Mr. Hunter worked unceasingly for the Society and his loss was deeply deplored by all associated with the Society. Mr. Hunter was a Councillor of the Society for 28 years, a Vice-President of the Society for 7 years and a Trustee for 4 years. His interest in agriculture was widely known and he never spared himself in furthering the activities of the Society.

On the death of Mr. Hunter, Mr. T. N. Mitchell was elected President of the Society. His Honour, Judge Mitchell, Messrs. J. Bott and L. M. Dugdale, have been Vice-Presidents during the year.

It is also with regret that the death of the Hon. Trevor Harvey, M.L.C., is recorded. He had been a Councillor of this Society since 1949, and was the owner of a leading Jersey Stud in Victoria. At the time of his death he was a Minister of the Victorian Cabinet.

Leave of absence was granted to Mr. K. McGarvie and Mr. T. Luxton, who travelled overseas and Professor S. M. Wadham, and Mr. H. T. C. Woodfull resigned from the Council. Messrs. J. M. Buchanan, J. Gardiner, C. C. Johnson and D. W. Knox were elected Councillors during the year.

On behalf of the Council,

T. N. MITCHELL, President.

H. T. C. WOODFULL, Secretary.

„ Payroll Tax	2,021 15 0
„ Office Supplies	403 13 0
„ Cost of Secretarial Services to Herd Societies ..	6,335 8 1
„ Telephone	786 16 7
„ Wheat Crop and Farm Tree Championships	300 0 0
„ Interest and Bank Charges	2,596 14 8
„ Sundry Expenses	1,204 8 11
„ Valuation Fee—Insurances	1,608 0 0
„ Depreciation of Plant, Furniture and Buildings ..	12,627 0 0
„ SURPLUS TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUND	4,138 16 2
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	£164,909 15 0
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„ Ayrshire Derby Sweepstakes, 1954-55	5 10 0
„ Fodder Conservation Competition Subsidy	300 0 0
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	£164,909 15 0
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Dated at Melbourne this 2nd day of February, 1954.

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

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

Chartered Accountants (Aust.)

H. T. C. WOODFULL,

Secretary.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1953

LIABILITIES			ASSETS		
Ayrshire Derby Trust Account	£17	10	Secretary's Advance Account	£200	0
Bank Overdraft Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd.	44,971	15	War Savings Certificates	70	12
Government Loan No. 1	13,740	8	Cash on Hand	216	9
Government Loan No. 3	4,343	5	Showgrounds Stock on Hand	4,145	17
T. H. Payne Memorial Trust	250	0	Sundry Debtors	6,093	7
Short Call Deposits	18,716	12	Prepayments	4,818	2
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	6,070	16	T. H. Payne Memorial Treasury Bond . .	250	0
Accumulated Funds and Reserves:—			Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Ltd.—Short Call Account	18,716	12
Revenue Account Balance, 1/1/1953	£119,831	9	Land	£34,917	6
Depreciation and Replace- ment Account	104,466	13	Buildings and Improvements	227,010	0
Trotting Control Board Compensation Account	46,333	6	Showgrounds Plant and Furni- ture	20,644	14
	£270,631	9	Office Furniture	1,969	8
Surplus for Year	4,138	16	284,541	10	3
	274,770	5	Trotting Control Board	46,333	6
Less Expenditure attributable to earlier years. Hire of Tubular Stands	1,494	14	Less Repayment during Year	4,000	0
	273,275	11	42,333	6	8
	£361,385	18		£361,385	18
	9			9	

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, 1953. 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 2nd day of February, 1954.

A. J. COURT, F.C.A. (Aust.)
D. R. S. MCGREGOR, F.C.A. (Aust.)
Chartered Accountants (Aust.)

H. T. C. WOODFULL,
Secretary.