

ANNUAL REPORT 1975

ROYAL
AGRICULTURAL
SOCIETY OF
VICTORIA



OFFICE BEARERS 1975

PATRON-IN-CHIEF:

His Excellency The Hon. Sir John Kerr, K.C.M.G., K.St.J., Q.C.

PATRON:

His Excellency The Honourable Sir Henry Winneke, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., K.St.J., Q.C.

PRESIDENT:

P. B. Ronald

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

R. T. Balderstone, M.C.
Adrian Gibson
G. R. Starritt

TRUSTEES:

W. J. T. Clarke
Hon. Sir. William McDonald
P. B. Ronald
G. P. H. Wilson, C.M.G.

LIFE COUNCILLORS:

J. Bott	David W. R. Knox
W. B. Boothby	H. L. Lyall
J. M. Buchanan	T. N. Mitchell, C.B.E.
W. J. T. Clarke	C. O. Moore
Sir Alec R. Creswick	P. B. Ronald
L. S. K. Cunningham	F. E. S. Scott, M.B.E.
K. A. Drummond	* D. S. Smith
J. M. Gardiner	G. P. H. Wilson, C.M.G.
G. Howell	H. T. C. Woodfull, O.B.E.

* Deceased 1/2/76

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

W. A. Angliss	J. W. Kelly
E. W. Best, C.M.G.	R. B. Langdon
J. K. Buchanan	F. B. Langlands
J. M. Burston	F. J. Lithgow
Sir Rupert W. J. Clarke, Bart., M.B.E.	Sir Cecil Looker
Sir Edgar Coles	D. S. MacGregor
W. D. Crowley, Q.P.M.	Colonel M. H. McArthur, O.B.E.
A. J. Fiskin	Lindsay G. C. Nicholas
Prof. H. C. Forster, O.B.E.	K. P. Palmer
C. B. Gardiner	J. W. Rae
R. B. Gerrand	J. H. H. Sleigh
W. McL. Greaves	I. W. Smith, M.P.
J. G. W. Head	F. R. I. Stephens
Robert Hunter	J. W. D. Ward
C. R. Kelly	The Hon. Vernon F. Wilcox, Q.C., M.P.
	H. F. Yuncken

DIRECTOR:

H. J. Clappison

(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 Tuesday, the 16th March, 1976, at 12.30 p.m.

BUSINESS

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

Dated the 17th day of February, 1976.

H. J. CLAPPISON,
Director.

For list of nominations see back.

LIST OF NOMINATIONS

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

(Eleven to be elected)

ANGLISS, W. A., "Marnong", Donnybrook, 3652.

CLARKE, SIR RUPERT W. J., Bart, M.A., M.B.E.,
"Bolinda Vale," Clarkefield, 3439.

FISKEN, A. J., "Lal Lal House," Yendon, 3332.

GARDINER, C. B., Box 126, Tongala, 3621.

GERRAND, R. B., "Malanda," Stradbroke, Via Sale,
3850.

GIBSON, Adrian, 40 Balwyn Road, Canterbury, 3126.

KELLY, C. R., "Barwidgee," Caramut, 3274.

MacGREGOR, D. S., "Dalmore," Baringhup, 3463.

RAE, J. W., A'Beckett Road, Narre Warren North,
3804.

STARRITT, G. R., "Kelso Park", R.D., Tatura, 3616.

YUNCKEN, H. F., "Birkenmoor," Lower Plenty, 3093.

President's Report to members

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, I have pleasure in reporting to you the activities of the Society for the year ending 31st December, 1975.

It would be no exaggeration to say that the year just passed has been one of the most trying in the Society's long history. The country people have had a prolonged period of instability within their respective industries, resulting in extremely poor prices for their product, and, have had to face the increasing costs without any avenues open to them to pass on, or ease, this burden.

This situation has naturally been reflected through Breed Societies.

In spite of these difficulties, the support for the Society, and the allied organisations administered by the Society, has been most heartening. As a result of this support it is pleasing to report that a new entry figure of 33,319 total competitive entries was recorded for the 1975 Royal Melbourne Show.

Besides essential maintenance work carried out during the year, the Society made a number of significant alterations to the Showgrounds.

In Brisbane Avenue the old stands opposite the Hall of Manufactures were demolished and replaced by a lawn well supplied with comfortable seating, and this was fully used as a picnic and rest area during the Show.

The woodchop arena was reconstructed and is now a world class competition arena. The stand for spectators and competitors was placed in a more protected situation — competitors' facilities were improved, and a new high level judges' box erected.

The lawn adjacent to the woodchop complex was also cleared of the miniature train tracks and extended to provide further seating and picnic area and to accommodate the bandstand for the A.M.P. Guest Band of the Day.

Throughout the year your Council has pursued its policy of endeavouring to make more use of the Showgrounds. And although the Planning Committee has worked diligently, and liaison with the Government committees has

been cordial, our efforts have been frustrated, firstly by an appeal against the decision regarding the future of trotting, and secondly by long drawn out procedures regarding Showgrounds re-development.

However, I am able to report that a decision has been reached regarding the building of a new large Government Pavilion, which should commence during 1976.

TROTTING

The Society having been responsible for the introduction of night trotting in Victoria, by fostering the initial legislation resulting in the Trotting Races Act 1946, will now lose this sport to Moonee Valley.

The decision was made early in the year when in March the Racing (Further Amendment) Act was spear-headed through Parliament by the Minister of Youth Sport and Recreation, Mr. Brian Dixon.

This decision is a harsh one for the Society which took all the risks in the formative years, and gave every assistance to the newly formed Trotting Control Board in its early days — even to the extent of reducing charges to enable the T.C.B. to become established.

Now that night trotting has become the premier evening sport entertainment, made possible by the construction of the track and track facilities at the Royal Showgrounds, it appears ludicrous that this now famous arena with its intimate viewing and track built at the request of the Trotting Control Board, should be the main reason for night trotting leaving the Showgrounds.

Another disappointment for the Society is that in the Racecourses (Trotting) Improvements Fund there is a large accumulation of monies mainly derived from the betting at Showgrounds meetings and which will now be used to provide the new trotting track at Moonee Valley.

Most assuredly the Society will miss the trotting in the short term, but it is anticipated that in the future more use will be made of the Showgrounds throughout the year — a restriction which was imposed on the Society by having trotting established here.



Mr P. B. Ronald

The 1975 Royal Melbourne Show

This year the Royal Show was conducted over 11 days and nine nights from Wednesday, September 17 to Saturday, September 27 inclusive, and resulted in an attendance of 849,564, which was an increase of 72,207 on that of 1974.

Attendance records were established on the first Wednesday, Thursday and the second Friday.

Wednesday, September 17, was again used for horse judging and led classes for fat cattle on the Main Arena; while other fat cattle classes (alive) were judged in the sheep pavilion. Judging of the record dog entry also commenced on the first day.

OFFICIAL OPENING

His Excellency, The Honourable Sir Henry Winneke, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., Q.C., Governor of Victoria and the Society's Patron, performed the Official Opening on the Main Arena at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, September 20.

Other official guests included:— The Right Hon. The Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Councillor Ronald J. Walker, and the Lady Mayor; Hon. G. M. Bryant, E.D., M.P., — representing the Prime Minister, and Mrs. Bryant; Hon. I. W. Smith, M.P., — representing the Premier, and Mrs. Smith; Hon. J. M. Fraser, M.H.R., and Mrs. Fraser; The Officer Commanding 3rd Military District, Colonel J. M.



Sir Henry Winneke declares the 1975 Royal Show open.

Murphy, M.C., and Mrs. Murphy; The Chief Commissioner of Police, Mr. R. A. Jackson and Mrs. Jackson; and His Worship The Mayor of Essendon, Councillor H. Cousins and the Mayoress.

ARENA ATTRACTIONS

Many months of planning by the Horse and Arena Control Committee, was rewarded by the presentation of one of our best ever arena programmes.

Conscious of the great diversification of interests of the Victorian Showgoer, this task was not an easy one.

Throughout the years Victorians have indicated a preference for non-stop horse action and this year the Horses-in-Action segment provided a feast of great entertainment in the form of — Rodeo; Camp Drafting; Tent Pegging; Stock Horse Demonstrations; Polo; Dressage Demonstrations; Mounted Police, Musical Rides; Novelty Horse events, and Show Jumping Competitions.

Supporting the Horses in-Action we had the Precision Car Driving Team, the Lohtars, Obedience Dogs Demonstration, Sheep Dog Trials, Mashed Pipe Bands, Police Mobile Squad, Fireworks displays — and the most popular of all Arena attractions, the Grand Parades.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

This year, special free attractions were the A.M.P. Guest Band of the Day; Allans Musical Fountains; the Rees Puppets; the National Bank Barnyard; an exceptionally good non-stop stage programme in Centenary Hall; the Australian Wool Corporation's Wool Fashions.

The Australian Shearing Championships were conducted in Centenary Hall and attracted the usual good crowds.

The new woodchop complex was always well supported, and there is no doubt that the introduction of the A.M.P. Bandstand and the high standard of band music, did much to increase the popularity of this area of the Showgrounds.

The last Saturday was again featured as Children's Day, and the Society supported by standholders and amusement proprietors hand-

ed out approximately 30,000 gift bags, containing novelties and free rides tickets. Besides these, gift vouchers were issued for many valuable prizes including bicycles, radios, sporting equipment etc.

EXHIBITORS' DISPLAYS AWARDS

As an incentive to standholders to make exhibits more appealing the Society conducted a competition for displays mounted at this year's Royal Show.

The awards were divided into the following seven categories:— The Best Primary Industry Display; The Best Government or Semi-Government Instrumentality Display; The Best Australian Manufactured Products Display; The Best Overseas Products Display; The Best Commercial/Community/Social Service Display; The Best Commercial Standholder Display, and The Best Horticultural Standholder Display.

All sections were keenly interested and competition was strong for the various categories.

The Society provided an attractive Perpetual Shield for each of the seven categories, with a replica of the Perpetual Shield being presented to each of the seven winners. Sashes were awarded to first, second and third place-getters.

It is anticipated that this competition will encourage standholders to improve the standard of their displays and exhibits in future years.

ENTRIES

Entries received for the 1975 Royal Show were 33,319, creating a new record, exceeding the 1974 record by 402.

No less than eight new records were established in the Horse Section, four in the Cattle Section, and new figures were recorded for Sheep Shearing, Pigeons, Wines, Arts and Crafts, Photography, Dogs, Cats and Cavies.

As anticipated, entries were down in fat cattle classes, beef and dairy cattle and sheep.

OVERSEAS JUDGES

The Society invited seven overseas judges and a world famous jumping course-builder to participate in this year's Royal Show.

Four of the visitors judged the record Dog entry; one-classes in the Horse Section; one in Poll Hereford; and one in Border Leicester sheep.

Mrs. Winifred Hickman, Maryland, U.S.A., Mr. and Mrs. Tom Stevenson also from Amer-

ica, with Mrs. Virginia Barker of the Philippines judged the dogs.

Captain Tom Morgan, "The Kennels", Lismore, County Waterford, Ireland, built the courses for the jumping contests, and Mrs. Morgan judged the Connemara Ponies and certain Hunting events.

Mr. Bill Shain, Torrington, Wyoming, U.S.A., proved very popular in his adjudication of the Poll Hereford judging, and Mr. J. G. Gunn, of Canterbury, New Zealand judged the Border Leicesters.

We appreciate the necessity to have overseas judges at our Royal Show, and the tremendous amount of good they do, but it would be impossible to conduct a Royal Show such as ours without the back-up support given by our very experienced and, in many cases, world class Australian judges. To them, and to all our honorary stewards, stewardesses, and the many other helpers, I extend the sincere thanks and appreciation of the Council for their magnificent contribution to our Royal Show each year.

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1. Mrs W. L. Heckmann (U.S.A. Judge) presents the Best Exhibit trophy.
2. "Old Melbourne" depicted in the Speed the Plough display.
3. A teline exhibit of distinction.
4. A woolhandler "tosses" a fleece.
5. The Governor and President view a champion.

other R.A.S.V. activities

BREED SOCIETIES:

As stated initially the farming scene for 1975 has passed through a depressed state, and naturally this has had its effect on Breed Society activities.

The policy of this Society has always been one of support and encouragement to Breed Societies and allied organisations, and this practice has been in force for close to 100 years.

In this period in some form or another we have been entrusted with the administration and records of almost every Breed Society formed, and over recent years our liaison and co-operation has been closer and more understood by the members of these bodies, than at any time.

In providing services to these organisations our Society has always been obliged to subsidise such work, but increased costs, especially those incurred by equal pay legislation, have provided us with a problem and continue to cause concern in budgeting. And if we are to continue to provide the services in their present form, Breed Societies will undoubtedly need to re-assess their rates of contribution, and their priorities of needs as distinct from wants.

Over the past year we have been pleased to accept the administration responsibility for the Australian Nuffield Scholars' Association, the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, the Poll Merino Breeders' Association of Victoria, and the Victorian Horse Trials Club.

With these new additions, the Society is carrying out the secretarial work for 53 organisations.

COMPETITIONS:

a. The Victorian Farm Management, Production and Improvement Competition.

The number of entries judged by the State was much higher than last year with 18 finalists in Section A and 15 in Section B.

The larger number of entrants did not result in a lessening of the very high standard evident throughout this Competition and the judging panel had a difficult task with financial, technical and practical performance closely comparable over a wide range of entries.

Section winners were:—

Section A — D. E. & P. M. Miller, Carisbrook. Nominated by the Maryborough Agricultural Society, through the Midlands Group.

Section B — Messrs. H. Twigg and Sons, Bears Lagoon, Nominated by the Bendigo Agricultural Society, through the Northern Group.

b. Farm Competitions Association

Entries in the Wheat Crop Competitions were not well supported last season due mainly to the discontinuance of the District Championships and adverse seasonal conditions in some regions.

However the District Championships have been reintroduced for this year and the Society will follow with interest the functions of the Association.

c. The District Fleece Competition

With 57 entries the District Fleece Competition is maintaining a strong following, and has been well supported by country agricultural societies throughout the fluctuating high and low points of the wool industry in recent years.

d. The Dalgely Commercial Beef Herd of the Year Award.

Commenced last year, this competition was again well supported and is creating much interest among commercial beef producers.

South Lodge Investments, "Howquadale", Mansfield, nominated through the Upper Goulburn Group of V.A.S.A. won the 1975 Award.

e. The Gippsland & Northern Commercial Dairy Herd of the Year.

This award was introduced during the year and was conducted by the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria in conjunction with the Victorian Agricultural Societies Association through that organisation's Groups.

The award was won by Mr. Reg Rumble, of Invergordon, nominated by the Goulburn Valley Group.

I take this opportunity on behalf of my Council to express gratitude to the sponsors of these competitions for their support and co-operation.

We also record our grateful thanks to all the judges involved, including those representing the Department of Agriculture and the Commonwealth Bank, who with our Society's representatives and those of V.A.S.A. covered most of the State on these assignments.

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PRE-ROYAL SHOW JOURNALISTS' TOUR

The annual Shell/R.A.S.V. Journalists' Tour this year visited the Latrobe Valley and parts of East Gippsland.

Visits were made to a diverse number of industries, complexes, instrumentalities and properties.

The keen group of journalists took full advantage of the variety afforded by the Tour, and as a result the Society benefited greatly from the media promotion for the Royal Show.

To all the hosts we express our thanks. Especially to the Sale and District Agricultural Society for the excellent presentation of stock, produce and craftwork.

We would again like to place on record our thanks and appreciation to the Shell Group of Companies which has continuously sponsored this Tour since 1957. In so doing Shell has been responsible for providing hundreds of media representatives with the opportunity to visit all parts of Victoria, and through this has provided invaluable support and promotion for our Royal Melbourne Show.

The Tour Leader this year was Vice-President, Mr. R. T. Balderstone, M.C., who again represented the Society with dignity and distinction.

OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

During the year the Society made an agreement with Pacific Outdoor Advertising, appointing that body sole contractor for outdoor advertising within the Showgrounds, for a period of three years.

The terms of the Agreement are advantageous to the Society and will mean added income from this source.

6. Camp drafting proved popular.
7. Craft demonstrations provided interest.
8. The 1975 Champion Dairy Cow.
9. A Flockmaster's Pride.

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THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER

1975

1974

INCOME —

	1975	1974
Subscriptions —		
Members	\$57,286	\$54,745
Associate Members	7,640	8,170
Ladies' Badges	1,800	2,226
Junior Members	2,695	2,490
	69,421	67,631
Annual Exhibition —		
Admissions — Turnstiles	642,466	575,786
— Railways	190,168	176,506
Grandstands and Sales Ring	576	236
Motor Parks and Cloak Rooms	3,821	3,370
Catering Premiums	49,104	47,579
Entry Fees	100,238	75,620
Rent of Grounds and Buildings	292,978	228,733
Catalogue and Programme Sales	13,832	7,575
Commissions	5,772	5,895
Donations	68,134	51,134
Advertising	8,948	4,690
Dairy Display Sales	27,772	19,921
Cattle Club and Sundry Income	959	1,788
	1,404,768	1,198,833
General —		
Rent of Grounds and Buildings	178,032	164,660
Motor Parks	6,634	7,565
Labour, Materials and Services	148,110	138,008
Commissions	569	2,623
Secretarial Service Fees	390,692	291,524
Outdoor Advertising	2,626	—
Other Income	205	215
Profit on Disposal of Assets	500	1,118
	727,368	605,713
	\$2,201,557	\$1,872,177

DISPOSAL OF INCOME —

Direct Costs — Annual Exhibition —	
Wages, Salaries, Superannuation and Payroll Costs	319,528
Prize Money, Trophies and Sashes	89,028
Attractions	106,533
Catering	72,882
Advertising and Publicity	56,910
	665,881

Judges' Expenses	19,391	14,051
Security and Fire Services	36,170	30,614
Cleaning	16,873	14,172
Public Address System and Commentators	8,446	8,934
Medical and Veterinary Officers' Fees	5,840	4,468
Cartage and Fodder	4,975	5,115
Printing and Booklets	73,048	61,484
Repairs and Maintenance	17,587	19,096
Signs and Floral Work	6,648	8,256
Transport and Badges	3,833	3,292
All other Exhibition Direct Costs	3,107	1,129
	<u>842,704</u>	<u>728,153</u>

General Overhead and Administration Costs —

Wages, Salaries, Superannuation and Payroll Costs	707,978	587,279
Repairs and Maintenance	165,805	162,954
Bank Charges and Interest	39,083	31,347
Insurance Premiums	71,033	48,426
Electricity and Gas	37,516	35,269
Rates and Taxes	30,491	23,326
Motor Vehicle Running Costs	14,765	12,566
Office and General Cleaning	10,809	8,772
Telephones and Postage	29,561	22,044
Printing and Stationery	20,094	13,150
Catering	22,235	13,262
Audit and Legal Fees	10,287	5,609
Travel, Accommodation and Entertainment	5,253	6,540
Farm Competitions	2,308	1,373
Doubtful Debts	—	375
Bad Debts	370	—
Depreciation	208,630	198,601
Long Service Leave Accrual	14,881	21,326
Maintenance on Office Machines	1,728	1,688
Members' Badges	4,858	3,248
All other Expenses	4,680	2,767
Consultant & Architect's Fees	15,128	—
	<u>1,417,493</u>	<u>1,199,922</u>

\$2,260,197

RESERVES —

Special Purposes Insurance	—	5,331
	<u>\$2,260,197</u>	<u>\$1,933,406</u>
Deficit transferred to Accumulated Fund	58,640	61,229
Balance Accumulated Fund at Start of Year	1,955,323	2,016,552
Balance Accumulated Fund at End of Year	<u>\$1,896,683</u>	<u>\$1,955,323</u>

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER

1974

1975

FIXED ASSETS —

	1975	1974
	\$	\$
Land at Council valuation 1972		8,489,774
Buildings and Improvements at Council valuation 1972		195,938
Additions at Cost	8,489,774	1,068,000
	239,078	
	<u>8,728,852</u>	<u>8,685,712</u>
Less provision for depreciation	455,623	302,868
Services and Utilities at cost	585,023	585,023
Less provision for depreciation	30,711	20,474
Plant and Motor Vehicles at cost	342,445	321,247
Less provision for depreciation	251,168	214,987
Office Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings at cost	90,218	82,823
Less provision for depreciation	44,809	35,352
	<u>8,273,229</u>	<u>8,362,844</u>
	554,312	564,549
	91,277	106,260
	<u>45,409</u>	<u>47,471</u>

INVESTMENTS —

General	50,000	50,000
Special Purposes Insurance Fund	57,300	53,000
Trust Accounts		3,332
	17,442	9,347
	<u>174,550</u>	<u>173,020</u>
Short Call	191,992	185,699
	1,227	5,194
	<u>51,400</u>	<u>1,300</u>
Trotting Control Board	52,627	62,494
	44,701	84,952
	<u>800</u>	<u>800</u>
	21,401	400
	11,048	6,489
	<u>144,596</u>	<u>138,254</u>
	2,284	2,323
	<u>142,312</u>	<u>135,931</u>
	37,900	43,155

CURRENT ASSETS —

Cash on Hand	800	800
Cash at Bank	21,401	400
Prepayments and Accrued Interest	11,048	6,489
Sundry Debtors	144,596	138,254
Less provision for Doubtful Debts	2,284	2,323
Stock on Hand at Cost	142,312	135,931
	<u>37,900</u>	<u>43,155</u>
	<u>\$10,792,044</u>	<u>\$10,792,044</u>

Total Assets

CURRENT LIABILITIES —

Bank Overdraft
 Bank Loans
 Sundry Creditors and Accruals
 Provision for Long Service Leave
 Rents Received in Advance
 Short Call Deposits
 Building Loans

59,299
 92,823
 56,635
 5,383
 52,627
 22,857

33,730
 53,562
 82,908
 47,539
 6,311
 62,494
 22,857

289,624

309,401

LONG TERM LIABILITIES —

Bank Loans
 Mitchell Grandstand Loan
 Building Loans

212,789
 200,000
 34,730

271,844
 200,000
 57,587

447,519

529,431

*** TRUST ACCOUNTS —**

Total Liabilities

191,992

185,699

929,135

1,024,531

TOTAL NET ASSETS

9,713,173

9,767,513

REPRESENTING —

Accumulated Funds
 Reserves —
 Assets Revaluation
 Special Purposes Insurance Fund

1,896,683

1,955,323

7,759,190
 57,300

7,759,190
 53,000

7,816,490

7,812,190

TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS AND RESERVES

\$9,713,173

\$9,767,513

* **Note to and forming part of the accounts:** The Society is holding in trust, Debenture Stock transferred by the Kennel Control Council, These investments amounting to \$150,000 will be used in the construction of a building for the Department of Agriculture, which vacated its present pavilion to allow use thereof by the Kennel Control Council throughout the year. Interest on the investments is being accumulated in the Trust Account.

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, 1975. 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 Revenue Account 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 and as shown by the books of the Society.

Dated at Melbourne this 5th day of February, 1976.

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

Acknowledgements

CHANGES IN COUNCIL

All members of Council were saddened by the sudden and untimely passing of Mr. Stan Turner, on October 12, 1975.

The late Mr. Turner joined the Council on January 14, 1964, and contributed much to the Society, especially the Dairy Cattle Committee. He was one of Australia's top Dairy Industry men, and will be greatly missed by this Council and all sections of the Dairying Industry.

We were delighted to welcome to Council, the Hon. I. W. Smith, M.P., Minister of Agriculture, and wish him a long term in office and a fruitful association with the Society.

We also extend a welcome to Mr. John Fiskien, who was elected to Council at the December meeting, and wish him a happy and satisfying period in a forum of which he becomes the fifth generation of the Fiskien family.

FINANCE

The full financial statements of the Society appear in the body of this report.

It is obvious that our costs will again increase in 1976 and much of this increase will need to be offset.

In view of this situation the Society would welcome any approach and support from new sponsors and donors.

Like all other Royal Agricultural Societies, we would find it almost impossible to function without the assistance, support, and co-operation of numerous individuals and organisations. And on behalf of the Council and Members of the Society I wish now to record thanks and appreciation to all who have given that assistance, support and co-operation.

We extend a special thanks to the Premier of Victoria, the Hon. R. J. Hamer, E.D., M.P., and the Members of his Ministry for their sympathetic and understanding attitude to the Society.

The Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. I. W. Smith, M.P., and the Director and Officers of the Department of Agriculture, have been most helpful throughout the year; the Chairman, Colonel McArthur, O.B.E., and Members and staff of the Australian Meat Board, the Board Members and staff of the Australian Wool Corporation, those of the Victorian Egg Board, the Meat and Allied Trades Federation, and the Milk Board, and the numerous Government and semi-Government Departments and instrumentalities, from whom we seek assistance and advice — we express thanks and appreciation.

Most certainly we would not be able to function without the support of our hundreds of donors and sponsors, who so generously increased and renewed their contributions to

the Society in spite of the tight financial situation. To each of these we express our sincere thanks.

To the media representatives, who throughout the year, gave the Society and the Royal Show good publicity, we are most grateful, and hope that we may be able to retain this relationship in the coming year.

I have made reference throughout this report to problems and difficulties the Society has had to face throughout the year. These would have been greatly magnified had I not had the wonderful support afforded me by all members of the Council and their ladies. To you all I express my sincere thanks for your unselfish sacrifices made in the interests of the Society.

Especially do I wish to express my thanks to the Vice-Presidents, Mr. G. R. Starritt, Mr. R. T. Balderstone, M.C., and Mr. Adrian Gibson, who, with their wives, have been of outstanding assistance to my wife and myself throughout a pretty trying year.

I wish also to record my thanks and indebtedness to our Director, Mr. H. J. Clappison, for the efficient manner in which he has carried out his duties, and to the members of the staff for their loyalty and dedication in carrying out the Society's functions during the past twelve months.

P. B. RONALD,
President.

10



11



12



10. An outstanding poultry exhibit.

11. A "fisheye" view of the Grand Parade.

12. Owen Mathews and Aintree Boy performed magnificently under the worst possible conditions on the final night.

COMPARATIVE LIST OF ENTRIES

Section	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Clydesdales	120	138	100	108	128	113	133
Farm and Lorry	17	27	30	26	31	31	36
Arabs	78	59	72	83	80	112	147
Trotters	58	31	41	45	37	32	40
Palominos	—	30	34	43	43	62	63
Quarter Horses	—	5	12	11	17	30	41
Galloways	64	41	46	62	48	57	60
Ponies	284	275	307	328	356	394	461
Connemaras	—	—	—	21	16	17	12
Horses (Led)	39	37	36	34	46	48	72
Saddle Horses, etc.	1,773	1,777	1,857	1,615	1,995	2,104	1,981
Stallions	86	77	77	93	89	125	146
Harness Horses, etc.	213	219	212	241	265	279	310
Stock Horses	—	—	—	—	—	41	56
Donkeys	—	—	—	—	—	58	57
Riding Competitions	1,229	1,337	1,441	1,614	1,678	1,863	1,854
Novelty Horse Events	330	514	480	515	539	579	523
Jumping Competitions	659	739	640	863	718	642	748
Wood Chopping and Sawing	731	839	655	865	750	915	670
Tug-O'-War	16	16	17	16	18	12	12
Fat Cattle	174	235	243	364	355	349	226
Beef Shorthorns	144	174	165	158	145	209	149
Poll Shorthorns	64	70	61	45	56	99	74
Herefords	126	152	147	134	185	235	198
Poll Herefords	165	177	162	155	205	259	283
Angus	261	314	253	267	291	380	317
Devons	—	—	—	—	7	17	7
Santa Gertrudis	5	25	27	29	42	49	27
Galloways	17	33	37	20	41	45	39
Murray Greys	62	72	86	92	117	150	148
Brahmans	17	25	42	33	37	52	39
Brafords	—	8	14	9	18	20	15
Brangus	—	—	4	6	10	9	12
South Devons	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
Charolais	—	—	—	4	11	12	27
Simmental	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Herdmen's Competition	10	9	13	11	11	10	10
Red Polls	64	50	36	43	61	83	78
Dairy Shorthorns	204	189	243	266	256	209	149
Australian Illawarra Shorthorns	128	98	155	209	145	90	82
Ayrshires	212	195	178	226	202	172	156
Jerseys	711	794	681	572	562	555	452
Guernseys	239	256	255	266	247	263	264
Friesians	420	458	462	490	476	520	397
Lincolns	3	1	4	7	2	3	3
English Leicesters	7	13	5	10	—	—	—
Border Leicesters	198	200	137	106	59	28	38
Romney Marsh	47	34	33	38	32	26	54
Cheviots	73	83	50	80	60	48	56
Southdowns	69	93	123	108	95	95	94
Shropshires	7	2	4	—	3	1	—
Suffolks	27	21	25	20	44	51	42
Dorset Horns	183	165	135	124	127	142	129
Ryelands	144	108	115	123	128	104	72
Hampshire Downs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset Downs	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Poll Dorsets	306	329	314	302	329	305	305
Corriedales	36	52	44	37	25	22	35
South-Suffolks	2	16	11	—	8	8	8
Perendales	—	16	12	8	7	6	10
Trade Lamb Competition	39	43	17	22	24	18	40
Fleeces	318	276	309	268	288	321	206
Sheep Dog Trials	78	111	98	94	68	80	78
Sheep Shearing Competitions	93	79	66	90	74	101	115
Goats	254	223	198	212	256	413	361
Pigs	767	775	951	1,158	884	631	665
Poultry	1,400	1,669	1,723	1,846	1,654	1,899	1,791
Eggs (Commercial)	189	222	207	174	161	159	112
Pigeons	1,002	1,073	1,275	1,259	1,083	955	1,334
Budgerigars, etc.	486	426	666	476	597	463	487
Wines, etc.	893	900	1,300	1,208	1,575	1,657	2,007
Dairy Produce	281	215	244	236	184	188	175
Farm Produce	205	152	138	142	151	85	121
Floriculture	66	70	78	80	63	66	66
Apiculture	129	132	134	102	135	90	90
Arts and Crafts	2,899	3,111	2,987	4,136	4,075	4,277	4,472
Photography	983	1,129	950	952	1,061	869	1,235
Dogs	4,809	4,895	4,827	5,557	5,713	5,438	6,161
Young Farmers' Competitions	141	102	126	161	197	110	202
Trotting Races	300	262	324	319	337	266	176
Farm Gadgets	40	52	53	60	53	41	40
Cats	636	747	748	885	1,499	1,568	1,771
Cavies	—	—	—	—	—	78	181
Total Competitive Entries	25,820	27,282	27,752	30,184	31,385	32,917	33,318

ENTRY CLOSING DATES

JUNE 16	Horse Events and Contests, Woodchopping.
JUNE 30	Sheep Dog Trials, Viticulture.
JULY 7	Fat, Beef, Dual Purpose and Dairy Cattle, Dogs, Pigeons.
JULY 21	Sheep, Goats, Pigs, Dairy and Farm Produce, Apiculture, Arts and Crafts, School Competitions, Cats and Kittens, Young Farmers Competitions, Farm Gadgets, Poultry.
AUGUST 2	Sheep Shearing.
AUGUST 6	Photography.
AUGUST 11	Bacon and Pork Pig Carcase Competitions.
AUGUST 18	Trotting Races, Tug-O-War, Budgerigars, Caged Birds, Cavies.
AUGUST 20	District Fleece, Lambs Wool, Victorian Fleece Competitions
AUGUST 27	Lamb Carcase Competition.
AUGUST 30	Budgerigars (unbroken cap classes), Floriculture Competitions.

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