



ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

ANNUAL REPORT 1976

The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria
Royal Showgrounds, Ascot Vale, 3032. (Phone 33 0471)

OFFICE BEARERS 1976

PATRON-IN-CHIEF:

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

PATRON:

His Excellency The Hon. 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., G. R. Starritt, Adrian Gibson

TRUSTEES:

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

LIFE COUNCILLORS

J. M. Buchanan
Sir Edgar Coles
W. J. T. Clarke
Sir Alec R. Creswick
K. A. Drummond
J. M. Gardiner
G. Howell

David W. R. Knox
H. L. Lyall
T. N. Mitchell, C.B.E.
C. O. Moore
P. B. Ronald
F. E. S. Scott, M.B.E.
G. P. H. Wilson, C.M.G.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

W. A. Angliss
E. W. Best, C.M.G.
J. K. Buchanan
J. M. Burston
Sir Rupert W. J. Clarke, Bart.,
M.B.E.
W. D. Crowley, Q.P.M.
A. J. Fisker
Prof. H. C. Forster, O.B.E.
C. B. Gardiner
R. B. Gerrard
W. McL. Greaves
J. G. W. Head
Robert Hunter
C. R. Kelly
J. W. Kelly

R. B. Langdon
F. B. Langlands
F. J. Lithgow
Sir Cecil Looker
D. S. MacGregor
Colonel M. H. McArthur, O.B.E.
I. K. Morton
Lindsay G. C. Nicholas
K. P. Palmer
J. W. Rae
J. H. H. Sleigh
Hon. I. W. Smith, M.P.
F. R. I. Stephens
J. W. D. Ward
Hon. Vernon F. Wilcox, C.B.E., Q.C.
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 15th March, 1977, 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 15th day of February, 1977.

H. J. CLAPPISON,
Director.

For list of nominations see back.

LIST OF NOMINATIONS

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

(Eleven to be elected)

- BUCHANAN, J. K., "Gleneira", Flinders, 3929.
- GREAVES, W. McL., 99 Wooralla Drive, Mt. Eliza, 3930.
- HUNTER, R., 8 Kensington Road, South Yarra, 3141.
- KELLY, J. W., "Eulo" Caramut, 3274.
- LANGLANDS, F. B., "Kalimna Park", Horsham, 3400.
- LITHGOW, F. J., "Flowerfield", Coldstream, 3770.
- LOOKER, Sir Cecil, 26 Tormey Street, North Balwyn, 3104.
- McARTHUR, Colonel M. H., O.B.E., "Melrose Farm", Wollert, 3750.
- NICHOLAS, Lindsay, G. C., "Cooring Yering", Lilydale, 3140.
- WARD, J. W. D., 3 Kilbride, 173 Walsh Street, South Yarra, 3141.
- WILCOX, Hon. V. F., C.B.E., Q.C., "Carinoola", Alexandra, 3714.

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

President's Report

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, to report to you on the Society's activities for the year ending 31st December, 1976.

The year just completed has been a most difficult one for Victorians as a whole, but for those involved in the rural industries it has, in many cases, been devastating.

Fortunately it is seldom that primary producers experience the dual trial of low returns and rising costs coupled with drought conditions, but this has been the lot of the farmer this year.

Very dry conditions persisted throughout the State through the Autumn and Winter months with the first break coming in mid-August. And these conditions combined with instability in most primary industries, especially dairying and beef, produced a compounding of problems for the man on the land.

As a result of these circumstances many breed Societies and allied organisations are passing through a very difficult time.

It was with some trepidation that the Council looked at the prospects for the 1976 Royal Show. However, the alarm was not wholly justified, as support through the various organisations and exhibitors produced an all time high entry figure of 35,145, which exceeded last year's record by 2,826.

IMPROVEMENTS, ALTERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Following its open-space policy, the Council decided to provide a new large picnic and relaxation area in the main section of the Showgrounds.

The complete block bordered by Degraeves Street, Plummer Avenue, Brunton Avenue and Mitchell Street, was cleared of buildings, levelled off and sown down, to create the "A.M.P. Concert Square" which, when weather permitted, proved a most popular area for the A.M.P. Guest Bands' performances and for family groups to relax and picnic.

The main Information Centre, on the corner of Degraeves Street and Plummer Avenue was rebuilt and enlarged and this along with an additional Information Kiosk building in Watson Terrace, was staffed by six attractive young ladies dressed in uniforms bearing the Society's corporate colours.

Extensive alterations and improvements were made to the Pigeon and Poultry Pavilions, the Dog Area, the Western horse area—and the Cumming Stand was re-sheeted on top.

For the 1976 Royal Show many other minor alterations were made throughout the Grounds, all aimed to provide greater comfort and convenience for the general public, exhibitors and their exhibits.

Immediately following the Royal Show, work commenced on the demolition on the site of the new Government Pavilion. On this area bounded by Epsom Road, Plummer Avenue, Peck Street and Brisbane Avenue, were many very old buildings including the Industrial Hall, which was in situ on the Grounds when the National Agricultural Society of Victoria first took up the 30 acres Crown Grant in 1863.

Construction work commenced on the Government Pavilion site as soon as the demolition work was completed, and all indications point to the completion of this magnificent building in time for the 1977 Royal Melbourne Show.

Trotting

Following the decision of the Victorian Government last year to move trotting from the Showgrounds to Moonee Valley Racecourse, the first meeting was held at the new venue on Saturday, October 30, 1976.

However, 16 meetings are programmed for the Royal Showgrounds in the current season with a number of Night Trials. And arrangements have been made for the T.C.B. administration to retain offices at the Showgrounds for the time being.

The 1976 Royal Show was held from Wednesday, September 15 until Sunday, September 26.

This is the first occasion on which the Show has run for 12 days and 10 nights, making it the longest running Royal Show in Australia.

The first five days were good days with fine weather and attendances in excess of those of last year. However, in the second week we experienced four very wet and cold days which required the re-arranging of the Arena Programme, and cancelling some activities including a Grand Parade and Fireworks Display.

Towards the end of the Show there was an improvement in the weather conditions and a corresponding lift in attendances.

The attendance on the last Sunday was disappointing, but undoubtedly will improve in future years. The aggregate total of 847,761, the highest for any Royal Show in 1976, was only 1,803 short of that for 1975 despite the adverse weather conditions and worsening economic situation.

The first day of the Show was again devoted to horse judging, and led classes for fat cattle on the Main Arena, the trade fat cattle classes (Alive) were judged in the Sheep Pavilion, and judging of the record dog entry also commenced.

On the second day, Thursday, all breeds of cattle were judged on the Main Arena, except Jerseys.

The Society was honoured again to have his Excellency, Sir Henry Winneke, Governor of Victoria, visit the Show on this day and present awards. We were also delighted to welcome the Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P., Leader of the British Conservative Party, with Mr. Dennis Thatcher and Mr. A. Butler, M.P., who lunched with Members of Council and their ladies. Mrs. Thatcher presented some of the cattle awards in the Main Arena; had a quick tour of Centenary Hall and other areas, and prior to departing made the presentation to the 1976 winner of The Sun Country Show Girl Competition, Miss Jane Pearce of Donald.

Mr. P. B. Ronald



The 1976 Royal Melbourne Show

Official Opening

The Official Opening of the 1976 Royal Melbourne Show was performed on the Main Arena on Saturday, September 18 at 2.30 p.m. by the Society's Patron and Governor of Victoria, His Excellency, The Honourable Sir Henry Winneke, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., K.St.J.

Official guests at this function were:— The Hon. I. W. Smith, M.P., Minister of Agriculture, representing the Premier; Hon. I. M. Sinclair, Federal Minister for Primary Industry, representing the Prime Minister; His Excellency, The American Ambassador, Mr. James Hargrove; The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Cr. D. G. Osborne; The Officer Commanding 3rd Military District, Colonel J. A. McGreevy; the Mayor of the City of Essendon, Cr. B. J. Rowe, and Mr. Bill Roycroft, O.B.E.

All of the above guests were accompanied by their ladies.

Throughout the Show we hosted many interstate and overseas guests, including His Excellency, Shaikh Khalifah bin Sulman Alkhalifah, Prime Minister of Bahrain, who was accompanied by his Minister of Development and Industry, His Excellency, Mr. Yousef Ahmed Al Shirawi, and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, His Excellency, Mr. Jawad Salim Alarayed.

Also, Air Chief Marshall Sir Dennis Smallwood with Group Captain and Mrs. Dalston.

Sir Henry Winneke opens the 1976 Royal Melbourne Show

In preparing the Main Arena programme for the 1976 Royal Show, the Horse and Arena Control Committee concentrated on action and variety with the object of making the programme as diversified and entertaining as possible.

However, as mentioned earlier in this report, bad weather affected the arena surface, requiring the postponement of a number of events and cancellation of others.

This type of situation places a great strain on the Ringmaster and his staff, and cannot help but inconvenience some exhibitors.

New features included the mass display by the Victoria Police Department, embracing all sections of the Force; the mass participation exercise organised by the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation; the R.A.S. Judging Championships; the Ride and Drive Championship, and the Golden Eagles.

The Historical Parade of horsedrawn vehicles was organised for the last Saturday and Sunday, and this with the new features mentioned above, proved very successful.

Other Attractions

Besides the proven free attractions such as the National Bank Barnyard, the Wildlife Reserve, the Rees Puppets, Musical Fountains and primary industry displays and demonstrations, the Society introduced some new attractions this year. These included an exhibition and demonstrations of past farming skills organised by Mr. Bill Ronald. In this complex was an authentic blacksmith shop; a number of stationary engines; a chaffcutter; restored horse-drawn farm vehicles; and demonstrations of sleeper cutting and mortising fence posts and preparing rails for post and rail fencing. This exhibit was well received, and indicates that the general public are still very much interested in basic agricultural skills.

Demonstrations of milking by hand were also given on three occasions and these caused a lot of interest.

This year in an endeavour to assist cattle exhibitors with costs, the Society permitted exhibits, other than champions, to leave the Showgrounds on the last Friday evening.

To enable us to keep faith with the public we placed the cattle champions of all 23 breeds, in No. 6 Cattle Pavilion for the last Saturday and Sunday.

Twice on each of these days Mr. Brian Naylor (HSV 7), gave a commentary on the background of each breed as the respective champions were paraded.

The display was greatly appreciated by the general public and also breed societies' members, most of whom expressed the hope that it would be repeated and extended to include other livestock.

Following last year's successful introduction of the A.M.P. Guest Band of The Day, this exercise was repeated on the newly prepared lawned area on the corner of Plummer Avenue and Degraeves Street. The setting was perfect for the bands but unfortunately rain interfered with the attraction on a number of days.

The Woodchopping programme received a tremendous boost with the large sponsorship by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company. The three events, named "THE B.H.P. THOUSAND" covered two world titles and one Australian title with first prize in each of \$1,000.

Entries

Overall entries received for the 1976 Royal Melbourne Show totalled 35,145, being 2,826 above the previous record created in 1975.

For the first time horse entries exceeded 7,000 (7,162) and in this total eight sections registered best ever figures.

New highs were also created for Woodchopping, Viticulture, Dogs, Cats, Pigeons and Photography.

Fat cattle entries increased on 1975, and five beef cattle breeds created entry records. As was to be expected, overall entries in beef and dairy cattle were down as were those for sheep.



COMPARATIVE LIST OF ENTRIES

Section	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Clydesdales	138	100	108	128	113	133	119
Farm and Lorry	27	30	26	31	31	35	42
Arabs	59	72	83	80	112	147	169
Trotters	31	41	45	37	32	40	52
Palominos	30	34	43	43	62	63	57
Quarter Horses	5	12	11	17	30	41	14
Appaloosas	—	—	—	—	—	—	30
Galloways	41	46	62	48	57	60	69
Ponies	275	307	328	356	394	481	526
Connemaras	—	—	21	16	17	12	15
Horses (Led)	37	36	34	46	48	72	66
Saddle Horses, etc.	1,777	1,875	1,615	1,995	2,104	1,981	2,255
Stallions	77	77	93	89	126	146	149
Harness Horses, etc.	219	212	241	265	279	310	367
Stock Horses	—	—	—	—	41	56	58
Donkeys	—	—	—	—	58	57	84
Riding Competitions	1,337	1,441	1,614	1,678	1,863	1,864	1,782
Novelty Horse Events	514	480	515	539	579	523	687
Jumping Competitions	739	640	663	718	642	748	811
Wood Chopping and Sawing	839	655	865	750	915	670	1,874
Tug-O-War	16	17	16	18	12	12	6
Fat Cattle	235	243	364	355	348	226	283
Beef Shorthorns	174	165	158	145	209	149	151
Poll Shorthorns	70	61	45	56	99	74	74
Herefords	152	147	134	185	235	198	182
Poll Herefords	177	182	155	205	259	283	217
Angus	314	253	267	291	380	317	304
Devons	—	—	—	7	17	7	7
Santa Gertrudis	25	27	29	42	49	27	27
Galloways	33	37	20	41	45	39	42
Murray Greys	72	86	92	117	150	148	148
Brahmans	25	42	33	37	52	35	22
Brarolds	8	14	9	18	20	15	28
Brangus	—	4	6	10	9	12	8
South Devons	—	—	2	—	2	—	4
Charolais	—	—	4	11	12	27	28
Simmental	—	—	—	—	—	1	16
Limousin	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Herdsmen's Competition	9	13	11	11	10	10	6
Red Polls	50	36	43	61	83	78	65
Dairy Shorthorns	169	243	266	256	209	149	138
Australian Illawarra Shorthorns	98	155	209	145	90	82	60
Ayrshires	195	178	226	202	172	156	108
Jerseys	794	681	572	562	535	452	312
Guernseys	256	255	266	247	263	264	180
Friesians	458	462	490	470	520	397	311
Lincolns	1	4	7	2	3	—	4
English Leicesters	13	5	10	—	—	—	—
Border Leicesters	200	137	106	59	28	38	42
Romney Marsh	34	33	38	32	26	54	74
Cheviots	83	80	80	60	48	56	46
Southdowns	93	123	108	95	95	94	72
Shropshires	2	4	—	3	1	—	—
Suffolks	21	25	20	44	51	42	57
Dorset Horns	165	135	124	127	142	129	128
Ryeland	108	115	123	129	104	72	72
Hampshire Downs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset Downs	—	1	—	—	2	—	3
Poll Dorsets	329	314	302	329	305	305	294
Corriedales	52	44	37	25	22	38	19
South Suffolks	16	11	—	8	8	8	4
Perendales	16	12	8	7	6	10	13
Wiltshire Horn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trade Lamb Competition	43	17	22	24	16	40	—
Fleeces	276	309	268	286	321	206	225
Sheep Dog Trials	111	88	94	68	80	78	88
Sheep Shearing Competitions	79	86	90	74	101	115	99
Goats	223	198	212	256	413	361	312
Pigs	775	951	1,158	884	631	668	591
Poultry	1,668	1,723	1,846	1,654	1,809	1,791	1,661
Eggs (Commercial)	222	207	174	161	159	112	114
Pigeons	1,073	1,275	1,259	1,083	955	1,334	1,384
Budgerigars, etc.	426	666	476	597	463	487	533
Wines, etc.	900	1,300	1,208	1,575	1,657	2,007	2,337
Dairy Produce	215	244	236	184	188	175	192
Farm Produce	152	138	142	151	85	121	103
Floriculture	70	78	80	63	66	66	64
Apiculture	132	134	102	135	90	90	64
Arts and Crafts	3,111	2,987	4,136	4,075	4,277	4,472	4,204
Photography	1,129	950	952	1,061	869	1,235	1,444
Dogs	4,895	4,827	5,557	5,713	5,438	5,161	6,582
Young Farmers' Competitions	102	126	161	197	110	202	166
Trotting Races	262	324	319	337	266	176	248
Farm Gadgets	52	53	60	53	41	40	34
Cats	747	748	885	1,499	1,566	1,771	1,932
Oavies	—	—	—	—	78	181	179
Total Competitive Entries	27,292	27,762	30,184	31,385	32,917	33,319	35,145

Overseas Judges

Six overseas judges were invited to adjudicate at the 1976 Royal Show. Four judged the record breaking Dog exhibits and two judged sheep.

The highly qualified husband and wife team of Glen and Jean Fancy, from La Canada, U.S.A., Mr. Kazu Igarashi from Tokyo, Japan; and Mr. Newt. Herzog, Oakland, California, U.S.A. spearheaded the judging panel for the dogs.

Mr. H. Brooks, Palmerston North, New Zealand, and Mr. L. Mackay, of Gore, N.Z. judged Romney Marsh and Southdown sheep breeds respectively.

The Society has always acknowledged the necessity to have overseas judges adjudicate at the Royal Melbourne Show, and appreciates the benefits that accrue from this practice, but equally we are aware that without the back-up support of our experienced interstate and Victorian judges, it would not be possible to organise a Royal Show.

So to our overseas visitors and Australian judges, and indeed to all our honorary stewards, stewardesses and other voluntary helpers, we extend our sincere thanks for their contribution to the success of our Show.

The Minister of Agriculture, The Hon. Ian Smith, M.P., and the President, Mr. P. B. Ronald, entertain His Excellency Shaikh Khalifah, Prime Minister of Bahrain



Other R.A.S.V. Activities Competitions

BREED SOCIETIES

The continued rural recession has had its effect on Breed Societies as well as all other sections of the rural industries, resulting in a number of cases of a reduction in stock registrations, transfers, etc.

Our Society's policy has always been one of encouragement and support to Breed Societies and allied organisations, from their formation, through the establishing period to stabilization—and we are proud of our involvement in this role for close to 100 years.

However, in providing services to these organisations it has always been necessary to subsidise this work and in the present economic climate this task is becoming increasingly more difficult.

And although our contact with most societies is one of trust and frankness, there are some, which have benefited tremendously through our administrative expertise, which at the first signs of hardship consider the only answer is to look elsewhere for administrative services. To these organisations and their members we would ask no more than that they come to us and discuss the problems first, we are confident that we can reach some compromise.

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

Despite the drought conditions throughout the State, the entries in this year's competition were surprisingly good, with 16 in Section A and 12 in Section B, entering the State Final.

The Judges were impressed with the overall efficiency of the finalists in coping with extra management problems due to the bad season and economic situation.

Section winners were:

Section A—F. S. & J. E. Spencer, Princetown. Nominated by the Heytesbury Agricultural Society, through the South Western Group.

Section B—D. & M. Doery, Westmere. Nominated by the Ararat Agricultural Society, through the Wimmera Group.

2. Farm Competitions Association

District Championships were re-introduced to the Crop Competitions for the year under review but due to seasonal conditions only two District Championships were conducted. These were for the Northern Wimmera (won by Mr. Kevin Creek, Nhill A. & P. Society) and the Southern Wimmera which was won by the Association's late Chairman, Mr. Clarrie Westerdorf, of Dimboola.

Over recent years support has been waning for crop competitions, it is therefore hoped that with the renewal of District Championships more interest may be injected into the competitions.

3. The District Fleece Competition

Interest is being maintained in this project and most country agricultural societies have been able to secure good entries since the wool industry has become more stabilized.

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

Now in its third year, this competition continues to produce some excellent entries in all breeds of commercial beef animals.

The winner this year was Mr. Keith Urquhart of "Boonerah", Hexham.

5. The Gippsland and Northern Commercial Dairy Herd of the Year Award.

As with the Beef Herd Award, the Commercial Dairy Herd of the Year Award produced some outstanding entries this year. It is of interest to note that only one of last year's State finalists made it to the finals this year.

The Award went to Messrs. J. & P. White of "Reynella Park", Tinamba West.

6. The Elders Commercial Wool Sheep Flock of the Year Award.

This competition also received good support and brought to light some outstanding Commercial Flocks.

The winner was Mr. W. J. Toland, of Cobungra.

On behalf of the Members of the Council and the Society I wish to place on record our sincere appreciation to the sponsors of these competitions for their continued support, and subsequent benefit to the respective primary industries.

Further, we express our gratitude to all those persons who assisted in organising and judging the various competitions, especially those officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, the Commonwealth Banking Corporation, Dalgely Australia Limited, Gippsland and Northern and Elders G.M., who with our own Society representatives and those of V.A.S.A. travelled throughout the State to adjudicate.

Security and Fire Services	36,170	
Cleaning	16,873	
Public Address System and Commentators	8,446	
Medical and Veterinary Officers' Fees	5,840	
Cartage and Fodder	4,975	
Printing and Booklets	73,048	
Repairs and Maintenance	17,587	
Signs and Floral Work	6,648	
Transport and Badges	3,833	
All other Exhibition Direct Costs	3,107	
	<u>\$1,060,851</u>	842,704

General Overhead and Administration Costs —

Wages, Salaries, Superannuation and Payroll Costs	807,835	707,978
Repairs and Maintenance	257,717	165,805
Bank Charges and Interest	33,321	39,083
Insurance Premiums	119,320	71,033
Electricity and Gas	43,672	37,516
Rates and Taxes	36,492	30,491
Motor Vehicle Running Costs	17,279	14,765
Office and General Cleaning	11,763	10,809
Telephones and Postage	44,552	29,561
Printing and Stationery	27,354	20,094
Catering	17,608	22,235
Audit and Legal Fees	9,774	10,287
Travel, Accommodation and Entertainment	5,247	5,253
Farm Competitions Prizemoney	2,772	2,308
Doubtful Debts	716	—
Bad Debts	1,461	370
Depreciation	188,233	208,630
Long Service Leave Accrual	17,185	14,881
Maintenance on Office Machines	2,060	1,728
Members' Badges	5,911	4,858
All other expenses	4,286	4,680
Consultant and Architect's Fees	—	15,128
Insurance Valuations	3,950	—
	<u>1,658,510</u>	<u>1,417,493</u>
	<u>\$2,719,361</u>	<u>\$2,260,197</u>

RESERVES —

Special Purposes Insurance

	5,000	—
	<u>\$2,724,361</u>	<u>\$2,260,197</u>
Deficit transferred to Accumulated Fund	(183,261)	(58,640)
Less Capital Grant towards Arts & Crafts Pavilion	25,000	—
	<u>(158,261)</u>	<u>(58,640)</u>
Balance Accumulated Fund at Start of Year	\$1,896,683	1,955,323
Balance Accumulated Fund at End of Year	<u>\$1,738,422</u>	<u>\$1,896,683</u>

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1976

1975

1976

FIXED ASSETS —

Land at Council valuation 1972			
Buildings and Improvements at Council valuation 1972			
Additions at Cost	\$8,489,774	\$8,489,774	\$1,068,000
	248,358	239,078	
	<u>8,738,132</u>	<u>8,728,852</u>	<u>8,273,229</u>
Less provision for depreciation	608,540	455,623	
Services and Utilities at cost	585,023	585,023	
Less provision for depreciation	40,948	30,711	
	<u>544,075</u>	<u>544,075</u>	<u>554,312</u>
Plant and Motor Vehicles at cost	359,783	342,445	
Less provision for depreciation	264,596	251,168	
	<u>93,581</u>	<u>90,218</u>	<u>91,277</u>
Office Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings at cost	53,546	44,809	
Less provision for depreciation			
	<u>40,035</u>	<u>40,035</u>	<u>45,409</u>

INVESTMENTS —

General	100,000		50,000
Special Purposes Insurance Fund	25,600		57,300
Trust Accounts	62,800	17,442	
		174,550	191,992
		<u>1,227</u>	<u>52,627</u>
Short Call	206,377	51,400	44,701
Trotting Control Board	72,125		

CURRENT ASSETS —

Cash on Hand	800		800
Cash at Bank			21,401
Prepayments and Accrued Interest	10,156	144,596	11,048
Sundry Debtors		2,284	
Less provision for Doubtful Debts	168,591		142,312
	3,000		
	<u>39,784</u>	<u>37,900</u>	<u>37,900</u>
Stock on Hand at Cost			

Total Assets

\$10,560,122 \$10,642,308

LESS —

CURRENT LIABILITIES —

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

\$79,016
66,482
118,131
68,070
3,455
72,125
12,066

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

\$419,345

\$289,624

LONG TERM LIABILITIES —

Bank Loans
Mitchell Grandstand Loan
Building Loans

146,324
200,000
22,664

212,789
200,000
34,730

447,519

*** TRUST ACCOUNTS —**

Total Liabilities

994,710

929,135

TOTAL NET ASSETS

\$9,565,412

\$9,713,173

REPRESENTING —

Accumulated Funds
Reserves —
Assets Revaluation
Special Purposes Insurance Fund

1,738,422

1,896,683

7,759,190
67,800

7,759,190
57,300

7,826,990

7,816,490

Total Accumulated Funds and Reserves

\$9,565,412

\$9,713,173

* **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 pavilion to allow use thereof by the Kennel Control Council last 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, 1976. 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 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 8th day of February, 1977.

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

Pre-Royal Show Journalists' Tour

The 1976 Annual Shell/R.A.S.V. Journalists' Tour covered the Goulburn Valley region.

This was the 20th consecutive Tour sponsored by the Shell Group of Companies and it was fitting that the area chosen was part of that traversed by the first tour.

Members of the party were shocked by the drought conditions affecting the area and the sad state of the fruit, dairying and beef producers.

The Tour was the most diversified yet undertaken and from it flowed outstanding coverage as to the plight of rural industries in the area, and promotion for the 1976 Royal Show.

The journalists on the Tour were enthusiastic and hard working and many subsequently were in charge of respective media teams during the Royal Show.

The Society's Vice President, Mr. G. R. Starritt, was the Tour Leader and his intimate knowledge of the region and the people was of great benefit to the overall success of the Tour.

Changes in Council

During the year the Council was saddened by the loss of three stalwarts, Mr. W. B. (Bill) Boothby died on August 6, 1976, five days later on August 11, Mr. H. T. C. (Colin) Woodfull, O.B.E., and Mr. L. S. K. (Lance) Cunningham on December 20.

The late Mr. Boothby, was elected to Council in May, 1951 and was made an Honorary Life Councillor in May, 1971. During his 26 years on the Council he contributed much to the Beef and Fat Cattle Committee, the Sheep Dogs competitions, Centenary Hall and the Farm Management Competition Committee. He was Chairman of the Farm Management Committee at the time of his death.

Mr. Colin Woodfull joined the Council in June, 1950, mainly through his interest in the Kennel Control Council and as a breeder and exhibitor of dogs. In 1953 he was persuaded to leave the Council and take up the appointment of Secretary of the Society. Ten years later, in 1963, the designation was changed to Director and he served in this capacity until his retirement in March, 1973.

During the twenty years in which Mr. Woodfull served as Secretary/Director, the Society experienced the most progressive period in its history.

In June, 1968 he was honoured with an O.B.E. for service to agriculture. On his retirement the Council saw fit to create him an Honorary Life Councillor.

Mr. Lance Cunningham was elected to Council in 1954 also through his interest in the Kennel Control Council Committee.

He served the Society as Vice President from 1961 to 1965, and was a prominent member of the Finance, Dogs, Media and Public Relations, Centenary Hall, Horse and Arena and Space Committees.

In 1965 he was appointed Chairman of the K.C.C. and resigned from the position in 1972. He was appointed President of the K.C.C. in 1973 and retained that position until his death.

In 1974 he was created an Honorary Life Councillor of the Society.

No organisation, no matter how strong, can continue its functions and not experience some sense of loss, when it is deprived of knowledge and expertise such as that contributed by our three late Councillors. We miss them and will find difficulty in filling the gap left by their deaths.

On a happier note, we congratulate Sir Edgar Coles on his 20 years of service to the Council and subsequent elevation to Honorary Life Councillor.

We extend a welcome to Mr. I. K. (Ian) Morton to the Council and express the wish that his period with us will be a happy and satisfying one.

Finance

The Society's financial affairs are fully covered in the financial statements in the body of this report.

It will be noted costs have increased quite dramatically, and this has placed the Society's affairs in a most unfavourable position.

During the year a number of new sponsors and donors were obtained and we would welcome any approach and support from individuals and organisations in this field.



The "B.H.P. Thousands" attracted record entries in the Woodchops

Mr. E. G. Whitlam, Leader of The Opposition, was impressed with the Exhibits in the Hall of Champions



Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Council and Society I now wish to record thanks and appreciation to all those individuals and organisations that have supported our Society and the Royal Show over the past year.

Without this help an organisation such as ours would experience great difficulty in continuing to function efficiently and effectively.

Special thanks is extended to the Premier of Victoria, The Hon. R. J. Hamer, E.D., M.P., and the Members of his Ministry, for the promise of continued support to the Society, and their understanding of our special problems.

The Hon. I. W. Smith, M.P., Minister of Agriculture, the Director and Officers of his Department, have all been most helpful throughout the year, as have the Chairman of the Australian Meat Board, Colonel McArthur, O.B.E., and the Members and Staff of his Board.

Assistance has also been forthcoming from the Members and Staff of the Australian Wool Corporation; the Australian Dairy Corporation; the Milk Board; the Victorian Egg Board; the Meat and Allied Trades Federation, and numerous Government and semi-Government Departments and instrumentalities.

There is no way that our Society could conduct our Royal Show without the support of our loyal sponsors and donors, who over the years have continued to assist the Society. And to each of these we express special gratitude.

Throughout the year and during the Royal Show, we were fortunate in having the support of media representatives who through their respective mediums gave the Society good publicity. We express our gratitude to these people and their organisations, and trust that we may be able to retain their goodwill and good relationship throughout the coming year.

It has not been an easy year for your Council or the Society due to seasonal and economic conditions already referred to — and these linked with the move of trotting, construction of the Government Pavilion, and the extra work created by committee meetings — especially the Works and Planning Committee — has superimposed additional responsibilities on certain members of Council throughout the whole year.

To all the members of Council and their ladies I express my sincere thanks for the unselfish sacrifices made in the interests of the Society.

To the Vice-Presidents, Mr. G. R. Starritt, Mr. R. T. Balderstone, M.C., and Mr. Adrian Gibson, who, with their wives, have fully supported my wife and myself through a difficult year, I express my sincere appreciation and thanks.

Also I wish to place on record my personal thanks and that of the members of Council, to our Director, Mr. H. J. Clappison, for the efficient manner in which he has performed the duties of Chief Executive Officer, and to the members of the staff for their loyalty and the dedication with which they have served the Society over the past year.

P. B. RONALD,
President.

Sir Henry and Lady Winneke with Mr. Ronald and Mrs. Thatcher examine a fleece in Centenary Hall





GUEST BAND
ADVENT BR

1
THE
BHP
THOUSAND
3




ENTRY CLOSING DATES 1977
 JUNE 15 — Horse Events & Contests, Woodchopping
 JUNE 29 — Sheep Dog Trials, Viticulture
 JULY 6 — Fat, Beef, Dual Purpose and Dairy Cattle,
 Dogs, Pigeons
 JULY 20 — Sheep, Goats, Pigs, Dairy & Farm
 Produce, Apiculture, Arts and Crafts, School
 Competitions, Farm Aids Competition, Poultry
 Cats & Kittens, V.Y.F. Competitions.
 AUGUST 1 — Sheep Shearing.
 AUGUST 5 — Photography.
 AUGUST 10 — Bacon & Pork Pig Carcase
 Competition
 AUGUST 17 — Trotting Races,
 Tug-O-War, Caged Birds, Budgerigars,
 Cavies
 AUGUST 19 — All Fleeces.



