



# The Royal



The Official Newsletter of The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria  
& The Victorian Agricultural Societies' Association.

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## 1983 PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO MEMBERS

### Ladies and Gentlemen

On Council's behalf, I have pleasure in reporting on the activities of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria for the year ending 31 December 1983.

The year was greeted by the Society's Council and Administration with an understandable degree of caution as the effects of our worst drought, coupled with the general economic malaise, had yet to be determined in relation to Royal Show attendances and entries.

Fortunately our concerns were not realized, and in fact, Melbourne was the only Australian Royal Show to improve upon its 1982 attendances. It was particularly gratifying that despite the adversities mentioned, two new attendance records were established. On the Sunday (18 September) 127,018 people passed through the turnstiles, and on the Thursday — Show Day (22 September) 173,790 people attended.

Stringent financial controls have, of course, been kept in place and in addition to this the upgrading and streamlining of administrative systems is continuing.

Capital works have necessarily been kept to a minimum; however improvement projects undertaken

included the refurbishing of the Royal Banquet Rooms in order to accommodate the Diners Club Wine Tasting, redevelopment of Skene Street into a beautifully paved pedestrian mall, modification of the Western end of the Pig Pavilion to house the Commonwealth Bank Farm Learning Centre, and the provision of special comfort facilities in the Mitchell Grandstand for people with disabilities.

In all, over one million dollars was expended by the Society in new works and maintenance.

### 1983 Royal Show:

898,293 people visited the 125th Melbourne Show, which was conducted over ten days and nine nights, from Thursday 15 September to Saturday 24 September, inclusive.

On Saturday 17 September, the Show was officially opened by our Patron-in-Chief, His Excellency, the Rt. Hon. Sir Ninian Stephen, A.K., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.B.E., K.St.J., Governor General of Australia. It was His Excellency's first visit to the Royal Melbourne Show as Governor General and indeed Patron-in-Chief of the Society.

Present also at the Official Opening Ceremony was a special



*By G. R. STARRITT, O.B.E.,  
President of The Royal Agricultural  
Society of Victoria.*

guest of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, the Japanese Ambassador, Mr Yanagiya, who was visiting the Show as a prelude to Japan's participation in 1984, as our first Guest Nation.

### Show Theme: "Victoria on Parade"

The creation of the Show around the theme "Victoria on Parade", heralded a number of significant changes to the traditional format of the Show, particularly in terms of entertainment and education.

In the area of entertainment, the Victorian theme was highlighted in "Victorians in Action", through the involvement of seventeen community groups, ranging from sports car enthusiasts to the Girl Guide Movement who performed massed activities on the Main Arena.

Continued on Page 4

## OFFICE BEARERS 1983

### **PATRON-IN-CHIEF:**

His Excellency, The Rt. Hon. Sir Ninian Stephen, A.K., G.C.M.G.,  
G.C.V.O., K.B.E., K.St.J.

### **PATRON:**

His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Brian Murray, K.C.M.G., A.O.,  
K.St.J.

### **PRESIDENT:**

G.R. Starritt, O.B.E.

### **VICE-PRESIDENTS:**

J. H. H. Sleigh, J. M. Burston, A. J. Fiske.

### **TRUSTEES:**

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

### **LIFE COUNCILLORS:**

W. A. Angliss	J. W. Kelly
J. M. Buchanan	D. W. R. Knox
Sir Rupert W. J. Clarke	C. O. Moore
Bart., M.B.E., M.A.	Col. Sir Malcolm H. McArthur
W. J. T. Clarke	Kt., O.B.E.
Sir Alec Creswick, Kt.	L. G. C. Nicholas
K. A. Drummond	P. B. Ronald, C.M.G.
J. M. Gardiner	G. R. Starritt, O.B.E.
G. Howell	J. W. D. Ward
R. Hunter	G. P. H. Wilson, C.M.G.

### **MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:**

R.T. Balderstone, C.M.G., M.C.	F.J. Lithgow
J. Balfour Brown	Sir Cecil Looker, Kt.
W.R.R. Beggs	D.S. MacGregor, M.B.E.
E.W. Best, C.M.G.	The Hon. Sir William McDonald Kt.
A.C. Bott	Sir Ian M. McLennan, K.C.M.G.,
J.K. Buchanan, A.M.	K.B.E.
J.M. Burston	I.K. Morton
R.M. Butler	B.N. Naylor
W.D. Crowley, Q.P.M.	R. Potter
A.J. Fiske	J.W. Rae
C.B. Gardiner	J.S.A. Robb
R.B. Gerrand, M.B.E.	J.H.H. Sleigh
A. Gibson	I. McK Starritt
W. McL. Greaves	F.R.I. Stephens
J.G.W. Head	K. W. Urquhart
C.R. Kelly	R.G. Walker
The Hon. D.E. Kent, M.L.C.	The Hon. Vernon F. Wilcox
R.B. Langdon	C.B.E., Q.C.
F.B. Langlands	

### **EXECUTIVE STAFF:**

**DIRECTOR:** J. B. Parry

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:** I.A. Pedersen, D.F.C.

**CHIEF ACCOUNTANT:** J.F. Clifford

**GROUND MANAGER:** K.J. Monkhouse



## **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 Show Grounds, Epsom Road, Ascot Vale on Tuesday, the 13th March, 1984 at 12 noon.

### **BUSINESS**

1. Minutes of previous Annual Meeting
2. To receive the Annual Report and Balance Sheet.
3. To receive the declaration of election of Councillors.
4. To appoint two Auditors.

Dated 21st Day of February, 1984

**J.B. PARRY,**  
Director

### **LIST OF NOMINATIONS**

#### **MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

(Eleven to be elected)

BALDERSTONE, R. T., C.M.G., M.C. "Koonje" Rhinds Road, Wallington 3221.  
BEST, E. W., C.M.G., P.O. Box 55, Coldstream 3770.  
BURSTON, J. M., "East Mount Ada" Benalla 3672.  
BUTLER, R. M., "Meadow Banks" Newstead 3462.  
CROWLEY, W. D., Q.P.M., Railway Road, Wesburn 3139.  
HEAD, J. G. W., "Grenada Park" Mangalore West 3663.  
LANGDON, R. B. "Roseparke" Wallaces Road, Dromana 3936.  
MORTON, I. K., 53 St. Kinnord Street, Essendon 3040.  
ROBB, J. S. A., C/- Chateau Remy, Avoca 3467.  
SLEIGH, J. H. H., "Bayunga" P.O. Box 36, Nagambie 3608.  
STEPHENS, F. R. I. "Vermont" R.M.B. 1154 Benalla 3672.

(The above are Councillors retiring by rotation and eligible for re-election).

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

# ANNUAL REPORT

More than seventy Victorian Sporting and Recreational organisations provided instructive entertainment on the AMP Lawn and in Centre Point, under the banner of "Victoria at Play". The entertainment programme was supplemented by a magnificent Victorian schools and municipal bands festival, together with a varied range of other activities showing Victorians at work, demonstrating their skills in everything from crafts to blacksmithing.

Education was also a key word this year, with the further development of the Commonwealth Bank Farm Learning Centre, set up in a permanent location at the Western end of the Pig Pavilion, and the introduction of the Westpac Produce Pavilion in Centenary Hall.

The latter was unique in that it embraced far more than an aesthetic display of fruit and vegetables. Rather, it introduced an important, new educative dimension which allowed visitors to see, feel and smell the produce, and take in a number of primary processes that transformed the raw product into a form readily recognizable and familiar. For example, the making of wheat into flour and flour into bread. Samples of various products were also offered to patrons as they passed through the pavilion.

An additional component to this new Produce Pavilion concept, was the staging of special regional displays by seven Victorian Premier Rural Towns — Bairnsdale, Bendigo, Maryborough, Sale, Murchison, Portland and Stawell.

In each case, the displays were distinctive and highlighted either the physical, commercial or industrial attributes of the districts in which the towns are located.

Diners Club International provided the important link between the Royal Show and our Wine Industry, through the introduction of the "Diners Club" Public Wine Tasting.

Fifteen Victorian and Interstate Wineries participated, a number of

which were exhibitors in the Royal Melbourne Wine Show (conducted in August) and this effectively bridged the gap between the two major exhibitions.

Another new innovation this year which helped accentuate the "Victoria on Parade" theme, was the Hoechst School Banner display project, incorporating the creative talents of city and country school children, from over thirty schools.

Each of the large canvas banners were created around a particular rural theme suggested by the Society when invitations to participate in the project were distributed.

The completed banners (more than fifty), were hung at various locations around the Grounds during the Show.

The rural theme was highlighted by arena activities and displays also. One which proved to be of significant interest to urban patrons was the haymaking display staged by the Whittlesea Agricultural Society.

The changes introduced this year were most successful, and collectively they formed a firm base upon which new and significant variations in the format of future Royal Melbourne Shows can be made.

The Attractions Committee, Director and the Attractions Manager are deserving of special praise for their contribution towards this success.

## Show Entries:

Competitive entries totalling 38,031, were received by the Society for the 1983 Show. This compares with 37,661 last year.

Despite the very serious problems caused by drought, entries in the major stock sections did not drop significantly; in fact, a number of breeds in the Dairy Cattle, Beef Cattle and Sheep

actually recorded an increase on their 1982 figures, which was particularly heartening.

It is worth recording that the showing of Poll Dorset Sheep at Melbourne is now considered to be the largest in the world.

The Royal Show Sheep Sales were also well supported and I am pleased to report that a number of new sales records were established.

## Sponsorship:

Our level of sponsorship increased significantly in 1983 and credit for this must go to the Society's Sponsorship Committee and the Sponsorship Manager.

We gratefully acknowledge the support and participation of the following major sponsors:

A.R.C. Engineering; Alcoa of Australia; AMP Society; ANZ Bank; The Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited; Boral Cyclone Limited; Carlton and United Breweries; Commonwealth Banking Corporation; Commonwealth Development Bank; G. J. Coles & Coy Ltd; Diners Club Limited; Federation Insurance Limited; Flag Inns; General Motors Holden (Patterson-Cheney); Gippsland and Northern Co Ltd; Hortico (Australia) Pty Ltd; James Hardie Industries Ltd; Myer Melbourne Ltd; National Australia Bank; Southern Cross Hotel; State Bank; Sun News Pictorial; 3MP Radio; 3KZ Radio Pty Ltd; Victoria's 150th Anniversary; Westpac Banking Corporation; and Woolworths (Vic) Ltd.

## Finance:

The additional revenue resulting from the successful Show has been largely offset by increased cost generally in addition to a lower return from out-of-show activities.

This has been due to the fierce competition between venues and the general economic situation.

## **Council:**

During the year, the Society was deeply saddened by the loss of two distinguished Life Councillors — Mr W. J. T. Clarke, who was also a Trustee (10 May 1983), and Sir Alec Creswick (10 June 1983).

Mr Clarke, 81, became a Councillor in 1936, and his subsequent 47 years of service to the Society made him the longest serving Council Member. In 1957, Mr Clarke was made a Life Councillor, and in 1970 he became a Trustee.

A valued Committee Member, Mr Clarke served on Council's Executive, Finance, Horse and Arena and the Beef and Fat Cattle Committees.

Apart from his involvement with the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, Mr Clarke's commitment to racing extended over many years and included his service as joint Vice Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Victoria Racing Club, and Life Membership of the Warrnambool, Hamilton and South Western Districts Associated Racing Clubs.

Sir Alec Creswick passed away at the age of 71. He was elected to Council in 1948 and held the positions of Ringmaster, Chairman of the Horse and Arena Committee and Society Vice President. He became a Life Councillor in 1968.

Like Mr Clarke, Sir Alec had a keen appreciation and affection for horses, which led to his involvement with the Equestrian Federation of Australia and the International Equestrian Organisation, the F.E.I., the Victorian Polo Association, Victoria Racing Club, Racecourse Licensing Board and the Melbourne Hunt Club. In each instance, his involvement was significant in terms of service in a position of office.

Sir Alec Creswick made an important contribution to Australia's international standing in the equestrian field as manager of the Olympic Equestrian Team — Stockholm in 1956, Rome in 1960 and Montreal in 1976. Up

until 1981 he was a selector for the Overseas Touring Team.

## **Resignation of Mr Brian Naylor:**

Due to the ever increasing pressure from his professional commitment to the Nine Television Network, Mr Brian Naylor submitted his resignation from Council in November.

Mr Naylor became a Councillor in 1977 and although his term has been comparatively short, he has been able to make an invaluable contribution in terms of strengthening the Society's understanding of the media.

He served as a member and subsequently Chairman of the Council's Public Relations Committee, and also greatly benefited the Society through his involvement in a number of other areas, including Arts and Crafts and the Miss Sun Country Show Girl Quest.

Prior to his official association with the RASV as a Councillor, Mr Naylor had a long standing involvement within the Royal Melbourne Show as Compere of the Australian Wool Corporation's Wool Fashion Parades.

## **Japan — First Guest Nation:**

The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria has extended an invitation to Japan to become its first ever Royal Melbourne Show Guest Nation, in 1984. The selection of Japan is considered appropriate because of its relevance to Australia as our largest trading partner.

Planning for Japan's participation next year commenced in earnest in January, when the Society's Director, Mr Brian Parry visited Japan to establish a number of important contacts.

The Japanese government has since confirmed its involvement, which will take the form of a major commercial, industrial and cultural exhibition in the P. B. Ronald Pavilion.

This involvement will be supported by the Society through the programming of entertainment

segments of a Japanese nature and origin, the invitation of Japanese judges in the Dog Section, the inclusion of Japanese craft classes in the Arts and Crafts section, and the introduction of Japanese fare onto the Show Grounds where possible.

It is proposed that the Show have an international theme every second year, and by so doing, demonstrate our (Australia's) relationship with other countries in terms of trade and culture.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

### **RAS of Commonwealth Conference — 1985:**

The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria will host the RASC Conference immediately after the Royal Melbourne Show in 1985.

In May this year, I visited the RASC Conference in Zimbabwe, accompanied by Mr & Mrs John Sleigh, where preliminary plans were discussed for a delegates' visit to Australia in 1985.

Planning was progressed in December when the Director and I attended a meeting in the United Kingdom with the Conference organisers.

We have already submitted a draft tour itinerary for Conference delegates, which highlights the diversity of agriculture within our State, and this is now under consideration.

### **Commercial Farmer Competitions:**

A vital aspect of the Society's activity "out of Show", is the joint organisation with the Victorian Agricultural Societies' Association, of five annual commercial Farmer Competitions:—

- The Commonwealth Development Bank Victorian Farm Management, Production and Improvement Competition.
- The Dalgety Commercial Beef Herd of the Year Award.

**Continued on page 8**

**THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1983**

	1983 \$	1982 \$
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Land at Council Valuation 1972	1,023,000	1,023,000
Buildings and Improvements at Council Valuation 1972	8,450,974	8,450,974
Additions at Cost	2,879,462	2,796,611
	11,330,436	11,247,585
LESS Provision for Depreciation	9,458,491	9,572,472
Services and Utilities at Cost	604,081	604,081
LESS Provision for Depreciation	143,319	102,748
Plant and Motor Vehicle at cost	638,148	609,550
LESS Provision for Depreciation	359,113	327,696
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings at Cost	732,083	877,620
LESS Provision for Depreciation	292,686	403,801
	11,660,485	11,852,478
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>		
Debentures, Deposits, Bonds and Cash at Bank at Cost:		
— General	112,156	170,000
— Special Purposes Insurance Fund	239,945	193,354
— Trust Accounts	25,665	27,365
— Short Call	198,932	209,658
	576,698	600,377
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash on Hand	700	700
Prepayments and Accrued Interest	35,770	49,091
Sundry Debtors	467,190	478,832
LESS Provision for Doubtful Debts	38,000	18,000
Stock on Hand at Cost	123,416	104,231
	589,076	614,855
	12,826,259	13,067,710
<b>LESS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Bank Overdraft — Secured	163,617	520,366
Loans — Secured	19,220	15,360
Loans — Unsecured	179,531	112,681
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	376,918	284,095
Provision for Long Service & Annual Leave	216,854	215,942
Received in Advance	2,915	2,615
Short Call Deposits	198,932	209,658
	1,157,987	1,360,717
<b>LOAN TERM LIABILITIES</b>		
Loans — Secured	403,125	429,257
Loans — Unsecured	793,604	906,286
	1,196,729	1,335,543
<b>TRUST ACCOUNTS —</b>	25,665	27,365
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	2,380,381	2,723,625
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	\$10,445,878	\$10,344,085
<b>REPRESENTING</b>		
Accumulated Funds	1,753,846	1,698,644
Reserves —		
Asset Revaluation	7,759,190	7,759,190
Special Purposes Insurance Fund	239,945	193,354
Dog Complex Contribution	692,897	692,897
<b>TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS AND RESERVES</b>	\$10,445,878	\$10,344,085

Auditor's report to members of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria.

In our opinion, the attached Balance Sheet and Revenue Account which have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for Land and Buildings and Improvements which have been reflected at Council 1972 valuation, are properly drawn up in accordance with the Rules of the Society and so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society at 31st December, 1983, and the results of the operations for the year ended on that date.

Dated at Melbourne this 20th day of February, 1984.

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

**THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA**  
**REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1983**

EXPENDITURE	1983 \$	1982 \$	INCOME	1983 \$	1982 \$
Wages and Payroll Costs	2,728,051	2,698,854	Show Admissions and Car Parking	2,189,293	1,959,118
Maintenance and Cleaning	474,610	392,131	Space and Ground Rentals	1,269,185	1,180,950
Depreciation	357,966	396,968	Secretarial Service Fees	667,873	679,525
Show Attractions	176,868	144,434	Show Entry Fees	203,810	198,843
Printing & Stationery	191,730	197,212	Materials and Services	159,003	190,506
Show Running Costs	118,070	110,928	Members' Subscriptions	184,200	182,871
Insurance	152,655	131,782	Show Sales and Sundry Revenue	55,162	43,522
Catering	157,958	139,400	Donations and Sponsorship	284,751	186,325
Trophies and Prizes	146,805	133,256	Catering Premiums	210,162	205,119
Advertising and Publicity	127,938	115,575	Computer Fees	77,545	75,835
Interest	176,635	167,127	Advertising	28,484	29,004
Telephones & Postage	63,837	67,651			
Rates	81,885	79,396			
Electricity and Gas	100,425	90,770			
Judges Expenses	39,606	40,595			
Sundry Costs	71,509	38,201			
Computer Costs	86,376	70,147			
Audit and Legal	16,340	14,925			
Special Purposes Insurance Fund	25,000	25,000			
Provision for Doubtful Debts	20,000	—			
	<u>5,314,266</u>	<u>5,052,548</u>			
(Deficit) Surplus for Year	5,202	(111,930)			
	<u>\$5,319,468</u>	<u>\$4,940,618</u>		<u>\$5,319,468</u>	<u>\$4,940,618</u>

**ACCUMULATED FUNDS**

	\$	\$		\$	\$
Deficit for Year	—	111,930	Balance at Start of Year	1,698,644	1,760,574
Balance at End of Year	1,753,846	1,898,644	Grant for Capital Improvements	50,000	50,000
			Surplus For Year	5,202	—
	<u>\$1,753,846</u>	<u>\$1,810,574</u>		<u>\$1,753,846</u>	<u>\$1,810,574</u>

# ANNUAL REPORT

- The Elders Commercial Wool Sheep Flock of the Year Award.
- The Gippsland & Northern Western Star Commercial Dairy Herd of the Year Award.
- The Victorian Artificial Breeders' Society Co-operative Share Dairy Farmer of the Year Award.

With the continuation of these annual competitions, the Society is contributing in a practical way, to the betterment of commercial farming in Victoria.

The Field Days which are run in conjunction with each competition, provide a worthwhile forum for discussion, analysis and education.

I wish to acknowledge the role of VASA as co-organiser of the above competitions, in addition to the assistance given to both our organisations, by officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture.

## Acknowledgements:

In concluding this Report, I want to record the Society's appreciation to the many individuals and organisations, without whose assistance and co-operation, we would not have

achieved as much as we have during 1983.

We thank His Excellency, the Rt. Hon. Sir Ninian Stephen, A.K., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., K.St.J., Governor General of Australia and R.A.S.V. Patron-in-Chief for officially opening our 125th exhibition.

To our Patron, His Excellency Rear Admiral Sir Brian Murray, K.C.M.G., A.O., K.St.J., Governor of Victoria, and Lady Murray, for their contribution and personal interest in the Society and Show.

Our gratitude must go to the Premier, The Hon. John Cain M.P., and his Ministers, in particular the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. D. E. Kent, MLC, for assistance and interest shown in the Society's activities over the past twelve months.

Thanks is extended to the officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture, headed by the Director General Dr David Smith, whose practical assistance to the RASV and VASA in the operation of our Commercial Farmer Competitions, has been invaluable.

I wish to make mention of the significant and very valuable support given to us during the year by the metropolitan and rural

media. Every possible effort will be made on the part of the Society to maintain this vital goodwill.

On behalf of the Council and the Administration, I now wish to extend special and sincere gratitude to all RASV members, Show Exhibitors and members of Breed Societies who pledged their support when the Show was threatened by industrial action. Fortunately the full extent of this threat was averted but had it proceeded, the Show could not have continued without this promised support.

We are also indebted to the many hundreds of honorary Show Judges and Officials who give of their time so willingly and freely.

This year has been a most productive one for the Society, and from a personal viewpoint, a particularly satisfying one. The gains made have been the result of a tremendous team effort involving Council and members of the Society's staff.

My personal thanks is extended to my Vice President and other members of the Executive for their firm support and considered counsel. My wife and I are also most appreciative of the help given to us throughout the year by all Councillors and their wives.

To the Director and through him, to the staff, I want to express Council's genuine appreciation for the continued dedication to the task. The job of administering one of Australia's largest Agricultural Societies and the organisation of what we believe to be the country's premier Royal Show, is by no means an easy one, and I am proud, as indeed are my colleagues, to be associated with such a fine team.

Next year, with the involvement of Japan as our first Guest Nation, will prove to be exciting and challenging. I am extremely confident about the Society's capacity to meet that challenge, and we look forward to embarking upon a successful 1984.

**G. R. Starritt,  
O.B.E.,  
President.**





# VICTORIAN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION

All material for publication in this section of the Newsletter, should be forwarded to the Editor,  
Mr. J. Fletcher, R.M.B. 5730, Timboon, 3268. Tel.: (055) 94 3364.

## NEW REGISTRAR FOR VASA

To serve VASA to the best of his ability, and to concentrate his considerable administrative experience on those areas requiring change and improvement.

These are the aims of VASA's new Registrar, Brian Sinclair, who assumed the position in December 1983. Brian succeeds Bob MacDonald, now heading up the Royal Agricultural Society's Sheep Section.

Brian was born in Shepparton 34 years ago, and despite the fact that his family moved to Melbourne when he was quite young, Brian has an obvious affinity with the country, consistent with his origins.

Following an education at Essendon High School, Brian joined the staff of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria in 1966, and is now one of very few RASV staffers who have served under three Directors — the late Mr H. T. C. Woodfull, Mr H. J. Clappison, and Mr J. B. Parry, the current Director.

"There have been a lot of changes," Brian says with an infectious chuckle, and he should know, having served in no less than five different sections.

Brian's first position was with the Kennel Control Council of Victoria, where he spent two years preparing litter registrations and handling membership and registration queries from Victorian stud dog breeders and enthusiasts.

The next eleven years were spent in the Sheep Section, where Brian admits to gaining some of his most valuable breed society experience.



*Brian Sinclair*

"The Sheep Section at that time, (and still is), one of the biggest Breed Society Sections within the RASV. We handled more than a dozen Sheep Societies for which we supplied secretarial support, and believe me, there was always something to do," Brian says.

Apart from handling the thousands of sheep registrations, and providing the necessary secretarial support for the Sheep Breed Societies under his control, Brian also had considerable involvement with the processing of farm and dairy produce entries for the Royal Melbourne Show and the Show's pig entries.

"I consider myself pretty lucky

having worked in the Sheep Section when I did, because I had the opportunity of working with Tom Love, who would have to rate as one of the most capable Breed Society administrators in Australia," Brian reflects.

From Sheep it was on to Cattle for Brian Sinclair who spent the next two years as Secretary/Registrar for a number of Beef and Dairy Cattle Societies, in the company of Bob MacDonald and Don Dennis. Again there was plenty of variation and lots of solid work for Brian, which assisted him in adding to his extensive administrative experience.

For the three years up until now, Brian has been a member of the RASV's Horse Section, responsible for the administration of the Australian Pony Stud Book Society's Victorian Branch, and Australian Palomino Horse Breeders' Association Federal Council. Brian will retain charge of these organisations while administering VASA.

Working with Brian in the VASA area is Pat Riley, who also has had a long and distinguished career with the RASV.

Pat joined the organisation in the very late 1950's, and apart from a two year break in the 1970's, has worked continuously with the Society.

Like Brian, Pat worked for some time in the Sheep Section with Tom Love before becoming Private Secretary to the late Mr Colin Woodfull in his capacity as Director. She also served under Mr Woodfull's successor Mr Clappison before leaving the Society in 1977 to live in Grafton, N.S.W.

Continued on page 10

# ALEXANDRA'S 100th SHOW

Upon her return to Melbourne in 1979, Pat took up a position with the RASV's Public Relations Section where she worked until the end of 1983.

On behalf of all affiliates, we welcome Brian and Pat to the VASA ranks and wish them a long, successful and happy association.

## WIMMERA SHOWGIRLS

Wimmera Agricultural Societies' Association conducted the final of their Sun Country Show Girl competition at the Ararat Show on Saturday, October 29, 1983.

The judges were Mr and Mrs Gordon Marriott and Mr and Mrs Ken Johnson, of Camperdown and Leongatha respectively.

They chose Tracey Miller — Rupanyup Society and Carolyn Roberts — Hopetoun Society as joint winners. Kristen Pipcorn, representing Rainbow Society, was runner-up.



*The photo: Tracey Miller (left) and Carolyn Roberts after the completion of the judging.*

The Alexandra Times, dated February 26th, 1876, gives details of the first show held in Alexandra.

It stated that the Show was a great success, with 200 entries in the sheep, cattle and horse classes, and that the quality could not be excelled in Victoria.

There was considerable competition in the butter and cheese classes; a few exhibits of wheat and potatoes, and a sample of locally grown Irish flax.

The day concluded when 30 gentlemen sat down to a dinner at the Corner Hotel.

What with climatic conditions and two World Wars, some shows were cancelled over the period of time until the 100th show was held on November 12 and 13, 1983.

The Show council, with tremendous support from service clubs, the Shire Council, the local newspaper, government departments, and local volunteers, staged a two day event as a fitting celebration for the 100th show, and it proved an outstanding success, with gate money of over \$7000.

The highlight of the Saturday Show was the attendance of the Governor, Sir Brian Murray and Lady Murray. Sir Brian performed the opening ceremony during the afternoon.

Other special guests were Dame Pattie Menzies, who lived in the district when she was a girl, and many former local residents who came for the occasion. The renewal of old friendships was a feature of the Show.

Entries and quality in all classes were very good. The Society was fortunate in receiving a government grant to improve sheep pens during the year, but with 90 entries in the Poll Dorset feature show, temporary pens still had to be erected for the fat lamb classes.

The all-breeds special feature cattle section was, as usual, well contested. The supreme beef breed bull was a poll Shorthorn, "Yamburgan Corker". All the other classes were won by the Matalanka Simmental Stud. Horse events were well up to standard. The Clydesdales were a feature on the

Sunday. The supreme champion of the breed was exhibited by the Mitchell's of Kanumbra, and champion Clydesdale male was paraded by Mrs Yandell of Lancefield.

The inclusion of dairy goats proved to be a winner, with nine exhibitors entering over 50 head of goats on the Sunday. The best exhibit was shown by J. Dickins, and the most successful exhibitor was C. Johnson.

The poultry and dog shows again proved very popular with the general public.

The "Sun" Show Girl competition attracted record entries, and was won by Kerry Scott, of Alexandra.

Perhaps more than on the Saturday, the social side of the celebrations was featured on the Sunday. There was never a dull moment in the arena after the arrival of the Police Brass Band; the Bendigo Marching Girls and the Healesville Baton Twirlers. The novelty pony events, the polocrosse, and the tent pegging were all greatly enjoyed by the spectators. A horse drawn wagon loaded with wool, blade shearing demonstrations, rides for children in a horse drawn vehicle, and a steam engine display all added a touch of nostalgia to the weekend. For the more energetic there were sheaf tossing, wood chopping, cross cut saw events, whip cracking and Iron man events. They all added to the fun.

The display of old kitchen furniture and implements; the model timber mill, and the old handcrafts in the pavilion were all well presented and of great interest to the crowd. There were also magnificent displays of photos, and continuous slides of local interest, all arranged by the local Camera Club.

The Society feels that the Show was a fitting celebration, and a memorial to all those who played their parts over the years to organise and exhibit in this annual event.

(Our thanks to the assistant secretary Miss T. Edwards, for this comprehensive report.)

## 1984 VASA Convention at Ballarat

Ballarat will host VASA's eighteenth Annual Convention over three days — Wednesday 2, Thursday 3 and Friday 4 May.

The Convention venue will be the magnificent Old Ballarat Village which is located in Main Road opposite one of Victoria's most popular historical park complexes, Sovereign Hill.

The City of Ballarat will formally welcome convention delegates on Thursday 3 May, when Councillor Melton Foo, Mayor of Ballarat, will officially open the 1984 Convention.

Following the Official Opening Ceremony, delegates will have the opportunity to see more of this host city. Coach tours to scenic areas within the district have been arranged, or as an alternative, delegates may visit the Sovereign Hill Historical Park, where the Goldmine will be of special interest.

To top off Thursday's special activities, a Dinner will be conducted at the Old Ballarat Village in the evening.

Among the items of interest on the Convention programme will be an address to be delivered by Dr W. Snowdon, Director of the Australian National Animal Health Laboratories, Geelong.

A.N.A.H.L. has been the centre of considerable controversy since its establishment, and there is no doubt that Dr Snowdon will prove to be a particularly interesting Convention Guest Speaker.

More detailed information relating to the 1984 VASA Convention at Ballarat will be distributed to affiliates in the near future.

## Jack Rae appointed Royal Show Ringmaster



Former VASA President and long standing Committee man Mr Jack Rae, "Granite Grove", Narre Warren, has been appointed Ringmaster for the Royal Melbourne Show.

Mr Rae's appointment was made at a meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria's Horse Committee on 17 January. He succeeds Mr W. McL. ("Mac") Greaves, who held the post for over 10 years.

When announcing Mr Rae's appointment, the President of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria, Mr G. R. Starritt, states that Mr Rae's long and varied experience in the organisation of Victorian Country Agricultural Shows, their arena programmes and equestrian events, in addition to his involvement with the Royal Melbourne Show, well suited him to the position.

Mr Rae was appointed to the R.A.S.V. Council in 1971, and is

currently the Chairman of the Society's Show Attractions and Entertainment Committee and an active member of the Horses, Catering and Other Animals Committees.

As Royal Show Ringmaster, Mr Rae will be responsible for the conduct and co-ordination of all activities on the Main Arena during the Show, including the appearance of major attractions.

## SESQUI Centenary Sub-Committee to Report to Convention

A special Sub-Committee set up by the 1983 VASA Convention, to ascertain ways in which country Agricultural Societies can be represented in the Sesqui Centenary Celebrations, will report on their deliberations at the 1984 Convention in Ballarat, (2nd, 3rd and 4th May).

Sub-Committee comprising Harold English (Neerim Agricultural Society), Andy Finin (Manager for Victoria, Commonwealth Development Bank), June Kerr (Whittlesea Agricultural Society), Judy McRobert (Toolleen), and Jack Rae, have considered a number of possibilities but will submit their thoughts on one unique suggestion.

Harold English will represent to the Convention, the Sub-Committee's suggestion of a parade of historical farm implements, through the streets of Melbourne — a parade which could be combined with the Royal Show's "City Parade" in September.

The parade idea is particularly appealing because it would present urban Victorians with a spectacle very few have ever experienced, in addition to being something identifiably agricultural/rural with real historic significance.



*Hutton Troutbeck (left), receives his Certificate of Life Membership from Gordon Clements, President of the Whittlesea Agricultural Society.*

Victoria's Country Show Scene lost one of its most colourful identities last month, with the death of Hutton Troutbeck.

Hutton Troutbeck joined the Whittlesea Agricultural Society in the 1950's, serving a number of years in the cattle section of the Show before being made Superintendent of the goat section; this he built up tremendously.

In the early 1960's he returned to the cattle section and became Superintendent, the position he held until he became President in 1976.

This was the beginning of the first two day show, and an enormous amount of work was involved in the preparation for that Show. His second year as President saw the building of the cattle pavilion with both Shows being a huge success.

Mrs Troutbeck and their family also have given great support to the Show Society with sons Edward and Gary now serving as Council Members.

Hutton Troutbeck was dedicated to the Whittlesea Agricultural Society, and the climax to his involvement came with the presentation to him of a Life Membership Certificate and Badge just prior to the 1983 Show.

He will be greatly missed by the Whittlesea Agricultural Society.

## Field Day Diary

A number of important Field Days are to be staged this month:—

# IRREQUIP '84

A major attraction at the Irrequip '84 field days at Elmore on 14th, 15th March, 1984, will be the operation of the Grundfos solar powered borehole pump.

With the rising costs of energy, this system offers a most important energy alternative and has a proven reputation for durability, long life and power efficiency.

Irrequip '84 is being organised by the Victorian Irrigation Research and Promotion Organisation in conjunction with the National Waterwell and Drilling Association and the Elmore and District Machinery Field Days Organisation. More than 60 firms from Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia will be staging exhibits and demonstrations of the latest irrigation equipment.

The development of groundwater resources for farm water supplies will be the main theme of Irrequip '84. A fully developed and tested production bore complete with casing and screens, will be constructed during the field days. Discussion sessions on groundwater together with commentaries on the work in progress will be features of this display.

Various types of travelling irrigators will be fully demonstrated and also a wide range of pumps, low flow irrigation equipment and laser controlled land grading.

Enquiries should be directed to Jim Murphy at the Agricultural Engineering Centre, Werribee (Phone 03 741 1300).



*The solar pumping system comprises three essential parts — an array of solar photo-voltaic cells, a DC to AC inverter and a Grundfos SP series submersible borehole pump.*

Gippsland and Northern "Western Star" Commercial Dairy Herd of the Year Award Field Day to be held on the property of the winners, Rob and Margaret Leishman, Jancourt East, on Thursday, 8 March, 1984. For further information contact Mr Don Dennis, R.A.S.V. (03) 376 3733.

V.A.B. Share Dairy Farmer of the Year Award Field Day, to be held on Tuesday, 20 March 1984, on the property of Peter Harris, Curdie Vale Road, Timboon. The winning Share Farmers are Ross and Dianne Burke.

For further information contact Mr Don Dennis, R.A.S.V. (03) 376 3733.