



MELBOURNE
ROYAL
WOODCHOP CHAMPIONSHIPS

2026 **Schedule**

Celebrating Australia's toughest axemen and women for over *100 years*

The Melbourne Royal Woodchop Championships has featured at the Show for more than 100 years, providing champion and handicap woodchoppers an opportunity to compete across more than 25 events including tree-felling, standing block, underhand, sawing and teams relay.



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Trophies and Awards

“GOLDEN AXE” GRAND AGGREGATE TROPHY

The competitor gaining the highest number of points shall be declared the winner.

The “Golden Axe” Grand Aggregate Trophy will be awarded to the competitor who receives the greatest number of points from all finals except Under 15, Under 18, Women’s and Team events.

The points awarded to each competitor are as follows:

- 1st: 5 points
- 2nd: 3 points
- 3rd: 2 points
- 4th: 1 point

In two person events, the points shall be shared. In the event of a tie, the winner will be declared on a count back of the most wins in finals. If a tie still exists, a similar count back will take place in semi-finals.

CHAMPION AXEMAN TROPHY

The competitor gaining the highest number of points shall be declared the winner.

The Champion Axeman Trophy will be awarded to the competitor who receives the highest points in all Championship events.

The points awarded to each competitor are as follows:

- 1st: 5 points
- 2nd: 3 points
- 3rd: 2 points
- 4th: 1 point

In the event of a tie, the winner will be declared on a count back of the most wins in finals. If a tie still exists, a similar count back will take place in semi-finals.

HANDICAP AGGREGATE TROPHY

The competitor gaining the highest number of points shall be declared the winner.

The Handicap Aggregate Trophy will be awarded to the competitor who receives the greatest number of points in all open Handicap events.

The points awarded to each competitor are as follows:

- 1st: 5 points
- 2nd: 3 points
- 3rd: 2 points
- 4th: 1 point

In two person events, the points shall be shared. In the event of a tie, the winner will be declared on a count back of the most wins in finals. If a tie still exists, a similar count back will take place in semi-finals.

UNDER 21 AGGREGATE TROPHY

Open to all competitors under 21 years of age. The competitor gaining the highest number of points shall be declared the winner.

The Under 21 Aggregate Trophy will be awarded to the competitor under the age of 21 who receives the highest number of points in finals (or heats for classes where no under-21-year-olds progress to the finals), excluding double handed sawing or team events.

The points awarded to each competitor will be based on their placing relative to other competitors who are under 21, as follows:

- Highest placing under-21-year-old: 5 points
- 2nd highest placing under-21-year-old: 3 points
- 3rd highest placing under-21-year-old: 2 points
- 4th highest placing under-21-year-old: 1 point

In the event of two person events, each competitor under 21 will receive half the value of points.

Trophies and Awards

THE “TAS PICKETT” MEMORIAL TROPHY – TEAMS RACE

Each team to comprise of 7 competitors, including a captain.

Melbourne Royal welcomes the opportunity to conduct the Victoria versus ‘The Rest’ Teams Race this year. Teams will be announced at the Melbourne Royal Show and posted in the Competitors Tent beside the Woodchop Pavilion.

Important Information for *Exhibitors*

DATES

Melbourne Royal Show: Thursday 24 September –
Sunday 4 October 2026

Woodchop Championships: Thursday 24 September
– Sunday 27 September

ENTRIES OPEN

Tuesday 24 March 2026

ENTRIES CLOSE

Wednesday 20 May 2026

ENTRY FEES

Entry fees are listed against each event.

DELIVERY AND COLLECTION OF AXES/AXE BOXES

If you are using a vehicle to deliver or collect your axes/axe boxes, this must be highlighted on the Competition Entry Form.

A Melbourne Royal Vehicle Access Pass will be issued and must be displayed on the vehicle dashboard at all times. Please note there will be no exemptions to this rule.

Further details, including access times on Delivery and Collection days will be provided to exhibitors during the entry process.

Delivery

Wednesday 23 September 2026

Collection

Sunday 27 September 2026, upon completion of competition.

CATALOGUES

Catalogues to be pre-purchased via the Competition Entry Form.

GOVERNING RULES

The Melbourne Royal Woodchop Championships will be conducted under the guidance of the Australian Axemen's Association Inc. (AAA) Rules. These can be found at the AAA's website: www.australianaxemen.org.au

PROCEDURE

Read the schedule

Information in this Schedule contains conditions of entry, events and prizes awarded.

Finalisation of entry forms and fees

Once all competitor entries have been confirmed and finalised, an Entry Confirmation and Tax Invoice will be sent.

Registration of event

The Melbourne Royal Woodchop Championships are registered with the Central Victorian Axemen's Association Inc.

HANDICAPPER

Melbourne Royal's official Handicapper is Allan Draper.

SUPPORTER PRIZES

Prizes are provided by third parties and Melbourne Royal advises that any such prize may be subject to change or amendment occurring at any time, thereby making the original information published incorrect.

Important Information for Exhibitors

ENTRY TERMS

All exhibitors must abide by the Melbourne Royal General Regulations, and the Melbourne Royal Woodchop Special Regulations. These can both be found online at www.melbourneroyal.com.au/woodchop/competition-info/

ENTRY FEES AND MELBOURNE ROYAL MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT

As a member of Melbourne Royal you can receive discount entry fees in the Melbourne Royal Show Woodchop Championships. In order for exhibitors to claim the Melbourne Royal member discount on entry fees for this competition, membership must be joined or renewed and fully paid before entering this competition, and membership details must be provided during the competition entry. No adjustments will be provided after the entry has been submitted. Members who are not financial at the time of submitting their entry will not be eligible for the entry discount.

Join now! Visit www.melbourneroyal.com.au/membership to join or renew your membership online. For more information, call 03 9281 7444.

Competition entry discounts only apply to Full Members. Junior and Restricted Members are unable to receive entry discounts to the Melbourne Royal Woodchop Championships.

Draft *Timetable*

The draft timetable is subject to alteration and fees will not be refunded for events that are moved. In particular, any classes with fewer than four entrants will be cancelled or altered. The official timetable of events will be available in the Catalogue. Log sizes are subject to change depending on timber supplied.

The events are listed in numerical order. Tree Felling events will be held over multiple days. The following events will begin and finish on:

Day 1: Thursday 24 September		
Event 2 (Heat 1)	300mm	Tree Felling Handicap
Event 3	300mm	Standing Block Championship
Event 5	275mm	Standing Block Handicap
Event 12	275mm	Underhand Handicap
Event 16	450mm	Double Handed Sawing Championship
Event 19	450mm	Double Handed Sawing Handicap
Event 27	250mm	Veterans Standing Block

Day 2: Friday 25 September		
Event 2 (Heat 2)	300mm	Tree Felling Handicap
Event 7	250mm	Standing Block Handicap
Event 8	325mm	Underhand Championship
Event 10	300mm	Underhand Handicap
Event 15	375mm	Single Handed Sawing Championship
Event 17	375mm	Jack & Jill Double Handed Sawing Championship
Event 18	375mm	Single Handed Handicap
Event 20	375mm	Jack & Jill Double Handed Sawing Handicap
Event 26	275mm	Veterans Standing Block

Day 3: Saturday 26 September		
Event 2 (Final)	300mm	Tree Felling Handicap
Event 6	275mm	Standing Block Handicap
Event 9	300mm	Underhand Championship
Event 11	300mm	Underhand Handicap
Event 21	250mm	Under 18 Underhand Championship
Event 22	250mm	Under 18 Underhand Handicap
Event 23	250mm	Under 15 Underhand Handicap
Event 26		Tas Pickett Team Relay

Draft Timetable

Day 4: Sunday 27 September		
Event 1	300mm	Tree Felling Championship
Event 4	300mm	Standing Block Handicap
Event 13	275mm	Underhand Handicap
Event 14	300mm	Underhand Hard Hitting Championship
Event 24	275mm	Women's Underhand Handicap
Event 25	325mm	Women's Single Handed Sawing Handicap

Events

Championships are limited to the best 12 competitors by handicap, unless otherwise stated.

With the exception of Tree Felling, if an event has eight or fewer competitors, all competitors will go straight to the final, and only the top three places will receive cash prizes.

For events with more than eight competitors, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the final will receive cash prizes (amounts vary by competition), and 4th–6th place will receive a refund of their entry fee.

OPEN TREE FELLING EVENTS

No trimming of board holes will be permitted. Competitors must put three spring boards above each other and cut out the front scarf, then descend removing the three spring boards to the ground and put the same three spring boards in on the other side and cut out the back scarf. (Logs must not be cut off from one side.) Any competitor chopping in a previously cut board hole will be disqualified.

The events are limited to experienced axemen and they must state on the entry form whether they are left- or right-handed.

EVENT 1: TREE FELLING CHAMPIONSHIP (300MM)

Axemen nominating in this championship event must enter the Tree Felling handicap event to qualify. Restricted to the best eight axemen by handicap.

Total prize money: \$2,280

Prize: 1st \$1,200, sash; 2nd \$600, sash; 3rd \$300, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$45.00 Member, \$60.00 Non Member

EVENT 2: TREE FELLING HANDICAP (300MM)

The Tree Felling Handicap is limited to 16 competitors by handicap.

Total prize money: \$1,930

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$45.00 Member, \$60.00 Non Member

OPEN STANDING BLOCK EVENTS

EVENT 3: STANDING BLOCK CHAMPIONSHIP (300MM)

Axemen nominating in this championship event must enter in at least two Standing Block handicap events to qualify.

Total prize money: \$2,244

Prize: 1st \$1,200, sash; 2nd \$600, sash; 3rd \$300, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$37.00 Member, \$48.00 Non Member

EVENT 4: STANDING BLOCK HANDICAP (300MM)

Total prize money: \$1,885

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$34.00 Member, \$45.00 Non Member

EVENT 5: STANDING BLOCK HANDICAP (275MM)

Total prize money: \$1,885

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$34.00 Member, \$45.00 Non Member

Events

EVENT 6: STANDING BLOCK HANDICAP (275MM)

Total prize money: \$1,885

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$34.00 Member, \$45.00 Non Member

EVENT 7: STANDING BLOCK HANDICAP (250MM)

Total prize money: \$1,885

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$34.00 Member, \$45.00 Non Member

OPEN UNDERHAND EVENTS

EVENT 8: UNDERHAND CHAMPIONSHIP (325MM)

Axemen nominating in this championship event must enter in at least two Underhand handicap events to qualify.

Total prize money: \$2,271

Prize: 1st \$1,200, sash; 2nd \$600, sash; 3rd \$300, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$43.00 Member, \$57.00 Non Member

EVENT 9: UNDERHAND CHAMPIONSHIP (300MM)

Axemen nominating in this championship event must enter in at least two Underhand handicap events to qualify.

Total prize money: \$2,271

Prize: 1st \$1,200, sash; 2nd \$600, sash; 3rd \$300, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$43.00 Member, \$57.00 Non Member

EVENT 10: UNDERHAND HANDICAP (300MM)

Total prize money: \$1,885

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$34.00 Member, \$45.00 Non Member

EVENT 11: UNDERHAND HANDICAP (300MM)

Total prize money: \$1,885

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$34.00 Member, \$45.00 Non Member

EVENT 12: UNDERHAND HANDICAP (275MM)

Total prize money: \$1,885

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$34.00 Member, \$45.00 Non Member

EVENT 13: UNDERHAND HANDICAP (275MM)

Total prize money: \$1,885

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$34.00 Member, \$45.00 Non Member

OPEN HARD HITTING EVENTS

The event to be completed by each contestant within 90 secs or at the discretion of Melbourne Royal. In the event of a dead heat, time will be the deciding factor.

The check starter is not permitted to inspect logs before full time allowance for each chop has expired. During the chop the time keeper may call the elapsed time of 15 second intervals. Standard Axes are to be used in these events, and are not to exceed 3kg overall weight and 180mm cutting edge. The Axes shall be weighed prior to the commencement of the event.

EVENT 14: HARD HITTING STANDING BLOCK CHAMPIONSHIP (300MM)

Total prize money: \$2,271

Prize: 1st \$1,200, sash; 2nd \$600, sash; 3rd \$300, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$43.00 Member, \$57.00 Non Member

Events

OPEN SAWING EVENTS

AAA Special Regulations 123 and 124 apply. The saw may rest on the top of the log to start. No saw cuts permitted prior to start. These events are open to any style of crosscut saw. The bottom of the log will be 500mm above ground level.

Competitors in Double Handed Events must enter individually for those Events. Nominations for pairs must be lodged with the Handicapper at the time of the Show.

EVENT 15: SINGLE HANDED SAWING CHAMPIONSHIP (375MM)

Total prize money: \$1,526

Prize: 1st \$800, sash; 2nd \$400, sash; 3rd \$200, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$32.00 Member, \$42.00 Non Member

EVENT 16: DOUBLE HANDED SAWING CHAMPIONSHIP (450MM)

Total prize money: \$2,388

Prize: 1st \$1,200, sash; 2nd \$600, sash; 3rd \$300, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$37.00 Member, \$48.00 Non Member

EVENT 17: JACK & JILL DOUBLE HANDED SAWING CHAMPIONSHIP (375MM)

Total prize money: \$2,352

Prize: 1st \$1,200, sash; 2nd \$600, sash; 3rd \$300, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$32.00 Member, \$42.00 Non Member

EVENT 18: SINGLE HANDED SAWING HANDICAP (375MM)

Total prize money: \$1,526

Prize: 1st \$800, sash; 2nd \$400, sash; 3rd \$200, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$32.00 Member, \$42.00 Non Member

EVENT 19: DOUBLE HANDED SAWING HANDICAP (450MM)

Total prize money: \$2,352

Prize: 1st \$1,200, sash; 2nd \$600, sash; 3rd \$300, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$32.00 Member, \$42.00 Non Member

EVENT 20: JACK & JILL DOUBLE HANDED SAWING HANDICAP (375MM)

Total prize money: \$2,352

Prize: 1st \$1,200, sash; 2nd \$600, sash; 3rd \$300, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$32.00 Member, \$42.00 Non Member

UNDERREPRESENTED EVENTS

EVENT 21: UNDER 18 UNDERHAND CHAMPIONSHIP (250MM)

Restricted to Competitors between 9 and 18 years of age on the first day of the Show. Proof of age may be requested. Competitors must be born between 26 September 2006 and 25 September 2016 inclusive.

Total prize money: \$1,828

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$26.00 Member, \$26.00 Non Member

EVENT 22: UNDER 18 UNDERHAND HANDICAP (250MM)

Restricted to Competitors between 9 and 18 years of age on the first day of the Show. Proof of age may be requested. Competitors must be born between 26 September 2006 and 25 September 2016 inclusive.

Total prize money: \$1,828

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$26.00 Member, \$26.00 Non Member

Events

EVENT 23: UNDER 15 UNDERHAND HANDICAP (250MM)

Restricted to Competitors between 9 and 15 years of age on the first day of the Show. Proof of age may be requested. Competitors must be born between 26 September 2009 and 25 September 2016 inclusive.

Total prize money: \$1,828

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$26.00 Member, \$26.00 Non Member

EVENT 24: WOMEN'S UNDERHAND HANDICAP (275MM)

Total prize money: \$1,828

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$26.00 Member, \$26.00 Non Member

EVENT 25: WOMEN'S SINGLE HANDED SAWING HANDICAP (325MM)

Total prize money: \$1,526

Prize: 1st \$800, sash; 2nd \$400, sash; 3rd \$200, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$32.00 Member, \$42.00 Non Member

VETERAN UNDERHAND EVENTS

Competitors must be **60 years of age or older as of the first day of the Show**. Proof of age may be requested.

EVENT 26: VETERANS UNDERHAND HANDICAP (275MM)

Restricted to competitors 60 years of age and over on the first day of the Show. Competitors must be born on or before 24 Sep 1966.

Total prize money: \$1,885

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$34.00 Member, \$45.00 Non Member

VETERAN STANDING BLOCK EVENTS

Competitors must be **60 years of age or older as of the first day of the Show**. Proof of age may be requested.

EVENT 27: VETERANS STANDING BLOCK (250MM)

Restricted to competitors 60 years of age and over on the first day of the Show. Competitors must be born on or before 24 September 1966.

Total prize money: \$1,885

Prize: 1st \$1,000, sash; 2nd \$500, sash; 3rd \$250, sash; 4th–6th entry fee refund

Entry fees: \$34.00 Member, \$45.00 Non Member

THE "TAS PICKETT" MEMORIAL TROPHY

EVENT 28: THE "TAS PICKETT" MEMORIAL TROPHY-TEAMS RACE

Each team to comprise of 7 competitors, including a captain.

Melbourne Royal welcomes the opportunity to conduct the Victoria versus 'The Rest' Teams Race this year. Teams will be announced at the Melbourne Royal Show and posted in the Competitors Tent beside the Woodchop Pavilion.

Prize: 1st–2nd sash

Prize: 1st trophy supported by **The Pickett Family & TPA Shows**

Prize: 1st \$5,000 supported by **The Pickett Family & TPA Shows**

Entry fees: Entry in this event is by invitation only. Teams will be selected after the close of entries.

Become a member and save up to 30% on your entry fees!



Become a Melbourne Royal member in 2026 for exclusive member discounts on your entry fees and enjoy up to 11 days free entry to the Melbourne Royal Show, which includes access to member dining areas, free guest passes, discounted parking and more.

To join today visit melbourneroyal.com.au
or call 03 9281 7444



Melbourne Royal Woodchop Championships *Schedule* 2026

**Melbourne Royal® is a registered trademark of
The Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria Limited
ABN 66 006 728 785 ACN 006 728 785
Melbourne Showgrounds
Epsom Road, Ascot Vale 3032
www.melbourneroyal.com.au**

List of Office Bearers	As at 28/10/2025
Patron	Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC – Governor of Victoria
Board of Directors	Matthew Coleman (President) Kate O’Sullivan (Vice President) Dr Catherine Ainsworth Jane Brook Darrin Grimsey Dr Peter Hertan Robert Millar Tina Savona
Chief Executive Officer	Brad Jenkins
Company Secretary	Darryl Ferris
Competition Manager	Shannon Snowdon woodchop@melbourneroyal.com.au



MELBOURNE ROYAL WOODCHOP CHAMPIONSHIPS



For more than 175 years, Melbourne Royal has been inspiring excellence in agriculture and food production.

In this pursuit of excellence, Melbourne Royal conducts a range of world-class agricultural and leisure events throughout the year.

For more information, visit melbourneroyal.com.au

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