

The
Royal Agricultural
Society of Victoria



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

1961

(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 6th March, 1962, at 12 noon.

BUSINESS

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

Dated the 20th day of February, 1962.

H. T. C. WOODFULL,
Secretary.

For list of nominations see back.

LIST OF NOMINATIONS

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL (Eleven to be elected)

BOTT, J., "Naranghi," Yarrawonga.

CRESWICK, A. R., "Kent Park," Lower Ferntree Gully.

CUNNINGHAM, L. S. K., 5 Hollingsworth Avenue, Hawthorn.

HUNTER, Robert, "Northwood Park," Seymour.

JOHNSON, C. C., M.B.E., "The Camp," Whorouly South.

KELLY, J. W., Caramut North, Caramut.

MOORE, C. Owen, "Chechingurk," Mornington.

NICHOLAS, Lindsay G. C., "Cooring Yering," Lilydale.

SMITH, D. Sutherland, All Saints Vineyard, Wahgunyah.

STEELE, P. J. R., "Rossmoyne Park," Stud Road, Dandenong.

WARD, J. W. D., Mitford Estate, Flinders.

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

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria

To the Members—

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Council of this Society I have pleasure in submitting a report of the Society's activities during the year 1961.

ROYAL SHOW

It is my pleasant duty to record the fact that the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency Viscount De L'Isle officially opened our Royal Show on Friday the 22nd September. We count it an honour that he agreed to perform this ceremony on his first official visit to Victoria. Her Excellency the Viscountess De L'Isle was also present, together with their daughter the Hon. Miss Catherine Sidney. The Vice-Regal party spent a considerable time viewing several sections of the Show after the Official Opening and it was evident not only that both His Excellency and the Viscountess were intensely interested in our Show but were interested to meet and converse in an informal way with as many exhibitors as possible.

We were also pleased to have with us at the Official Opening the Premier, the Hon. H. E. Bolte and Mrs. Bolte, and the Lord Mayor, the Rt. Hon. Cr. Maurice A. Nathan, and Mrs. Nathan.

During the year of preparation for the Show members of the Council were somewhat perturbed as to the effect the economic recession which the country had been passing through might have on our Show. However I am gratified to be able to report that from the time entries in the first series of classes closed it was clear that, far from diminishing, interest in the Show in 1961 was immense, and increasing, and this culminated in probably the most successful and popular exhibition which we have ever staged.

ENTRIES

Strong entries were received for the Show in all sections and this led to a total and record entry of 25,948, with individual records also in no fewer than 17 sections. Record entries were received in Arabs, Saddle Horses, Riding Competitions, Novelty Horse Events, Poll Herefords, Angus, Dairy Shorthorns, Jerseys, Guernseys, Friesians, Cheviots, Poll Dorsets, Dairy Produce, Home Crafts, Dogs, Tobacco, Sheaf Tossing and Young Farmers' Competitions.

The Beef Cattle Section totalled 1,054 entries (including dual purpose cattle). This was a record number, the outstanding breed being Angus. Other breeds showing increases were Shorthorns, Poll Herefords and Dairy Shorthorns.

The Dairy Section was extremely well supported, with a total number of 1,738 entries. Jerseys led the field with a magnificent entry of 702 which is probably the largest entry ever received in this class anywhere in the world. The Guernsey Cattle Society celebrated its Golden Jubilee year with a very high record figure of 332.

Our Horse accommodation was stretched to bursting point with an all-time high figure of 5,183 entries.

There seems to be no limit to our Sheep entries and new records are being written up each year. The total entry of 1,285 provided a new record, the greatest Show of British Breeds Sheep in the World.

Poultry figures demonstrated an improvement on previous years and we were pleased that our Pig entries were so high, in spite of the danger of the possible spread of swine fever from New South Wales.

The Dog entry of 3,633 provided us with the largest Show ever held in the Southern Hemisphere and it is generally accepted as being our best Dog Show on record.

The Home Crafts Section is becoming larger each year and a total entry of 3,846 was the highest figure ever received in this section of the Show.

I am happy also to report that our Dairy Produce Section is attracting more entries and particular interest seems to be evident in the Butter and Cheese classes.

One particularly reassuring feature from an examination of our entries makes abundantly clear the increasing interest being taken each year by young people and children. As exhibitors and competitors they are manifesting at once a closer and a more intelligent interest every year and this I am certain ensures a sound foundation for the success of future Shows.

ATTENDANCES

Our attendances reached an all-time high figure of 714,715. This was no doubt assisted by the fine weather, but the strong interest in the Show was manifest before we opened our gates and the public obviously had a favourable disposition towards our activities.

The family tickets again proved popular: no fewer than 41,110 persons entered by way of family ticket (an increase of 6,510). Children on School Concessions also reached an unprecedented high figure of 20,522, again a matter for special satisfaction.

OTHER SHOW FEATURES

Perhaps it would serve a useful purpose if I were to mention a few of the features of our Show which were either new or in some way remarkable.

The Fat Cattle Section was revised and a distinguishing feature amongst the new classes was the inclusion of a Lot Feeding Competition, the 100 days of which reached their culmination at the Show. In this Competition, steers of different breeds and ages were fed identical rations under identical conditions. The results of carcase growth revealed a great deal of interesting and informative data for the record.

In the Beef Cattle Section, an Interbreed Beef Championship for the best male and female of any one breed proved a rewarding innovation.

The success of our Australian riders overseas has increased interest and competition in our jumping events. Results have proved that we have riders equal to the world's best and comparable conditions are now required to give our riders and horses the necessary experience. With this in mind we invited Mr. Eric Ixer, an English expert on Course-building, to construct our Show-jumping Courses. It is pleasing to report that Mr. Ixer accomplished this mission very ably and with satisfactory results; many gained experience in this somewhat unfamiliar subject.

Two overseas judges carried out the main task of judging the Dog Section and in this regard I would like to say how much we appreciated the services of Mrs. Thelma Gray of Surrey, England, and Mr. E. E. Ferguson of California, U.S.A.

During the year a building now known as the Sheep Club was erected for use by sheep exhibitors and members of Sheep Breed Societies. This building proved to be a great amenity for exhibitors and all were of the opinion that the facilities provided in the structure made conditions at the Show much more pleasant for exhibitors. I desire to express the appreciation of the Society to the Sheep-breeders' organisations which assisted the Society in financing this venture.

SUN SHOW GIRL, 1961

This award was competed for by finalists who had won their title at their Country Agricultural Show. There were 79 finalists and the award went to Miss Marridele McGavin, who represented the Croydon North Society. The prize of £250, sash and trophy, generously donated by The Sun News-Pictorial, were presented by Mrs. N. F. Mitchell. The Society had pleasure in giving a complimentary dinner to the finalists and representatives from their respective Agricultural Societies.

VISITORS

A gratifying feature of the Show was the number of prominent citizens who attended. Amongst these were the Hon. the Premier of Victoria and all the members of the State Cabinet. We were also happy to have with us the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. P. C. Stoneham, M.L.A., and the Leader of the Country Party, Sir Herbert Hyland. Other Parliamentarians present were the Hon. P. W. C. Stokes, M.H.R.; J. B. Holden, M.L.A.; S. Merrifield, M.L.C.; J. M. Tripovitch, M.L.C.; K. H. Wheeler, M.L.A.; P. V. Feltham, M.L.C., and J. B. McDonald, M.L.A. It was very pleasing for us to have with us so soon after his appointment the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor, Cr. Maurice A. Nathan and His Worship the Mayor of Essendon, Cr. A. H. Arvidson. The State Development Committee also made an official visit to the Grounds.

Overseas visitors included Mr. J. R. Evans of South Africa and Mr. Pfungst of Kenya. We welcomed also Messrs. Stevens and Hart, Nuffield Scholars from England, and approximately 200 Colombo Plan Students.

FINANCE

The Revenue and Expenditure statements together with the Balance Sheet for the year ended 30th December, 1961, will be found appended to this report. It is satisfying to note that notwithstanding the many improvements we made to the Grounds during the year that we were able to show a slight excess of revenue over expenditure. Many improvements are still required at the Show Grounds and with the high cost involved great difficulty is found from year to year in maintaining the Grounds and making the improvements which are necessary to keep the Grounds in first class order and condition.

BREED SOCIETIES

The administrative work of most of the Breed Societies has again been carried out in 1961 by this Society and we are pleased that we are able to subsidise the Societies financially in the administration of their affairs. It is interesting to note that the Jersey Herd Society has, under our careful administration, been able to amass a figure of several thousand pounds which they are now using to purchase land and erect offices of their own. We wish them well in the venture.

YOUNG FARMERS

The progress under our sponsorship of the Senior Section of the Young Farmer Movement, which has over the last few years maintained a steady growth, is a matter for mutual satisfaction. The Clubs now number 132, whereas in 1959 there were only 65 clubs in existence. It is clear that the movement has become a virile one and the members are applying themselves with marked purpose to the activity of the movement.

CHANGES IN OFFICE-BEARERS

During the year Messrs. G. P. H. Wilson, A. R. Creswick and L. S. K. Cunningham were elected Vice-Presidents of the Society. They and their wives rendered great assistance to my wife and myself in sharing the official duties of the Society, particularly during the Show period. I would like to say also how much I appreciate the services of Mr. J. Bott and Dr. F. G. Stephens during their terms of office as Vice-Presidents.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We have again been favoured by the good will of the Premier of Victoria and the members of his Cabinet, particularly the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. G. L. Chandler, C.M.G., M.L.C. All the members of the Cabinet have expressed great interest and willingness to assist the Society in every way. I must make special mention also of the activities of the officers of the Department of Agriculture and say how much we appreciate the assistance which they have rendered to the Society. During the year Mr. P. Ryan retired from his position as Director of Agriculture. On behalf of the members of this Society, I have pleasure in recording that at all times Mr. Ryan was most helpful and ready to assist this Society and that he was, throughout his tenure of office, an outstanding figure in

the development of Agriculture in Victoria. We welcome Mr. F. M. Read to the position of Director of Agriculture. Mr. Read's marked interest in the Society's activities was already evident as when the Show began to take shape the Department's Hall of Agriculture was a distinguished feature of the Show this year reflecting credit on the Department and the Show alike. To the Milk Board and its Chairman, Mr. O. R. Browne, we express our thanks for their co-operation and assistance in connection with our Dairy Industry Display Pavilion. Many other Government Departments and Boards presented displays in various ways. To the Wool Bureau, the Meat Board, the Department of Primary Industry, the Department of Territories, the Egg Board, the Country Roads Board and the Country Fire Authority we offer our thanks for their help and co-operation. I would also like to mention that throughout the year we have been in close co-operation with the Victoria Racing Club over various matters and at all times we have received friendly and willing support from them. Many other organisations and business houses generously assisted the Society in sponsoring competitions and donating prize money and to these firms I express the Society's thanks. It would be impossible to mention all these in detail but I would like them to know how much we appreciate their valuable support. The Shell Co. of Aust. Ltd. again sponsored our Pre-Show Tour, which this year covered the central area of the State. The Vacuum Oil Co. sponsored the Shearing Championships, the Commonwealth Banking Corporation sponsored the Farm Management and Improvement Competition and the Reserve Bank of Australia assisted in sponsoring the Fat Cattle Section. The Society is indebted to the service given by our Judges, Stewards and Stewardesses and other officials without whose valuable support we could not carry out our Show. Many of these devoted considerable time to the Show and we are thankful for the generous way in which they assisted.

During this year I feel that we have had outstanding publicity through the various media of public information and I would like to thank the Press, Radio and T.V. for the prominence to Show preparations which they gave and the exceptionally good coverage during the Show when they devoted large amounts of space and time to the various Show activities. Approximately 150 reporters, feature writers, newsmen, photographers, commentators, both Radio and T.V., and other news personnel attended the Show in a working capacity. I think this will give some idea of the large task of publicity which becomes necessary at Show time and perhaps give some idea of the wide interest given to the Society and its activities.

I do not think that this Annual Report to Members would be complete without some reference to the work of their Council. It would be difficult to experience a happier body of men dedicated to serve the members and the Society and who have done so with competence, energy and in the fullest spirit of co-operation.

I would like to conclude with expressing a warm tribute to the members of the Staff for the efficient and loyal performance of their duties under the leadership of Mr. H. T. C. Woodfull, whose many talents and great capacity have been applied with selfless devotion to the interests and welfare of the Society.

NORMAN MITCHELL,

President.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE,
FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1961.

EXPENDITURE		INCOME
ANNUAL EXHIBITION		ANNUAL EXHIBITION
To Wages	£40,970	By Admission:
„ Prize Money, Cups, Trophies	20,712	Turnstiles
„ Printing	12,011	Railways
„ Attractions	5,556	Grandstands
„ Catering	7,613	Woodchopping Arena
„ Advertising and Publicity	6,020	Motor Parks and Cloakrooms
„ Judges Expenses	2,876	Sales Rings
„ Police and Fire Services	2,625	„ Ground Rents
„ Cleaning	1,246	„ Entry Fees
„ Public Address Equipment	1,446	„ Premiums Refreshments and Catering
„ Wood Chopping	890	„ Catalogue & Programme Sales
„ Medical & Veterinary Officers' Fees	819	„ Commission Stock Sales
„ Cartage	533	„ Sundries
„ Fodder	229	<u>£205,086</u>
„ Kennel Control Council—Surcharge Refund	182	
„ Sundries	6,024	
<u>£109,752</u>		GENERAL INCOME
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION		By Rent of Showground and Buildings
To Wages, Salaries, Superannuation	£41,181	„ Donations
„ Repairs and Maintenance	25,911	„ Advertising
„ Interest & Bank Charges	9,962	„ Interest — Trotting Control Board
„ Insurance Premiums	9,689	„ Commission
„ Secretarial Services to Herd Societies	2,563	„ Motor Parks
„ Rates and Taxes	6,167	„ Sundries
„ Motor Vehicle Maintenance	2,104	<u>44,915</u>
„ Office Cleaning	1,088	SUBSCRIPTIONS
„ Telephone	1,615	By Members
„ Postages	1,434	„ Associate Members
„ Office Supplies	1,292	„ Ladies' Tickets
„ Long Service Leave	418	„ Junior
„ Catering	741	<u>20,368</u>
„ Service for Tenants	590	
„ Audit and Legal Fees	378	
„ Travelling Expenses	651	
„ Sundry Competitions	1,856	
„ Loose Tools	606	
„ Advertising	128	
„ Sundries (including Members' Medallions)	2,731	
„ Members' News Letter	485	
„ Depreciation	32,113	
<u>£143,703</u>		
253,455		
Balance Transferred to Accumulated Fund	16,914	
<u>£270,369</u>		<u>£270,369</u>

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1961.

LIABILITIES	ASSETS
Current Liabilities —	Current Assets —
Bank Overdraft £381,012	Cash on Hand £34
Sundry Creditors and Accruals 436	Secretary's Advance 200
£381,448	Prepayments 2,506
Short Call Deposits 99,483	Sundry Debtors 22,914
Deferred Liabilities —	Showground Stock on Hand at Cost 5,815
Dairy machinery & Fodder Conserva- tion 962	£31,469
Trust Accounts —	Short Call deposits —
T. H. Payne Memorial 250	Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney Ltd. 99,483
W. J. Dawkins Trophy 100	Deferred Assets —
Australian Pig Society 3,000	Trotting Control Board —
Capt. A. E. T. Payne £10,000	Original Advance 20,668
Income Accrued 283	Grandstand Advance 198,963
10,283	Deposit State Electricity Commission 1,141
13,633	220,772
Members' Funds —	Trust Investments —
Accumulated Fund —	T. H. Payne Memorial Bonds 250
Balance at 1/1/61 400,548	Capt. A. E. T. Payne Trust Inscribed Stock 10,000
Profit from sale of vehicle 187	A. F. McNaughton Ayrshire Trophy Bond 120
Stock Valuation Adjustment 4,800	W. J. Dawkins Inscribed Stock 100
Transfer from In- come & Expendi- ture Statement 16,914	Australian Pig Society Bonds 3,000
422,449	13,470
Reserves —	Fixed Assets —
Assets Revaluation 1,042,003	Showground Services and Utilities 233,563
Grandstand 242,123	Land at Cost 56,921
Buildings 31,820	Buildings and Im- provements at Valuation 1,557,439
1,738,395	Less Depreciation 26,851
	1,530,588
	Showgrounds
	Plant and Motor Vehicles at Cost 47,683
	Less Depreciation 4,772
	42,911
	Office Furniture at
	Cost 5,234
	Less Depreciation 490
	4,744
	1,868,727
£2,233,921	£2,233,921

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, 1961. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required, and, in our opinion, the above Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and fair view of the state of the Society's affairs and that the accompanying statement of Income and Expenditure is properly drawn up so as 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, as shown by the books of the Society.

Dated at Melbourne this 31st day of January, 1962.

A. J. COURT, F.C.A. }
L. R. GILLAM, A.C.A. } Chartered Accountants

H. T. C. WOODFULL, Secretary.

COMPARATIVE LIST OF ENTRIES

Section	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	Previous	Best
Clydesdales	122	129	130	154	120	124	271	1924
Farm and Lorry	16	24	8	25	22	16	75	1934
Arabs	24	22	27	32	31	54	34	1954
Trotters	52	52	44	46	42	44	112	1947
Galloways	66	72	68	69	57	85	72	1957
Ponies	201	245	256	273	290	289	290	1960
Saddle Horses, etc.	1,469	1,711	1,828	1,597	1,570	2,196	1,128	1958
Harness Horses, etc.	156	180	165	176	197	204	271	1947
*Riding Competitions	1,046	1,120	1,108	1,136	945	1,259	1,136	1959
*Novelty Horse Events	355	246	274	324	517	575	517	1960
*Jumping Competitions	1,226	1,175	898	861	694	980	1,226	1956
*Wood Chopping and Sawing	1,002	982	916	904	944	957	1,027	1955
Beef Shorthorns	140	144	137	140	180	165	180	1960
Poll Shorthorns	25	14	20	6	31	38	41	1955
Herefords	98	85	104	83	117	91	117	1960
Poll Herefords	117	128	116	115	113	143	133	1955
Angus	199	179	226	186	208	259	226	1958
Devons	16	18	19	16	17	15	19	1955
Santa Gertrudis	—	—	—	6	10	—	10	1960
Red Polls	63	59	44	35	39	52	159	1934
Dairy Shorthorns	164	187	133	168	181	204	190	1948
Fat Cattle	40	62	55	84	41	87	113	1926
Illawarra Shorthorns	200	176	101	121	163	140	235	1948
Ayrshires	221	205	187	172	211	225	503	1922
Jerseys	549	588	555	556	595	702	621	1955
Guernseys	163	159	240	264	268	332	268	1960
Friesians	246	213	195	263	289	339	289	1960
Lincolns	8	8	6	6	—	5	219	1918
English Leicesters	28	39	39	44	46	46	114	1947
Border Leicesters	144	149	198	163	189	187	229	1928
Romney Marsh	93	50	104	91	92	81	159	1949
Cheviots	81	130	132	194	207	208	207	1960
Southdowns	145	145	133	160	178	183	196	1938
Shropshires	7	5	12	16	9	7	92	1934
Suffolks	24	30	28	39	22	20	60	1937
Dorset Horns	225	229	254	228	236	241	254	1958
Ryelands	143	160	118	143	120	98	160	1957
Hampshire Downs	—	5	3	6	—	—	8	1952
Dorset Downs	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1950
Poll Dorsets	—	—	36	64	101	157	101	1960
Corriedales	69	56	40	69	42	52	124	1934
Fat Sheep	53	34	—	—	—	—	125	1934
Fleeces	350	162	195	348	394	347	394	1960
*Sheep Dog Trials	78	117	99	115	104	87	117	1957
Sheep Shearing Competitions	40	16	16	37	25	28	92	1953
Goats	147	166	170	145	154	109	170	1958
Pigs	561	590	541	557	784	739	801	1954
Poultry	2,058	1,691	1,917	1,974	1,984	2,059	2,195	1955
Pigeons	626	997	1,161	1,312	1,047	949	1,312	1959
Budgerigars, etc.	443	630	773	856	971	886	971	1959
Wines, etc.	637	663	657	707	696	685	707	1959
Dairy Produce	308	264	315	324	338	357	338	1960
Farm Produce	213	198	192	155	151	196	431	1930
Tobacco	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—
*Fruit Packing Competitions	114	96	108	120	90	102	120	1959
Apiculture	69	85	61	56	148	96	148	1960
Arena Contests	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,758	1953
Home Crafts	2,509	2,412	2,573	3,409	3,248	3,846	3,409	1959
Dogs	3,545	3,549	3,200	3,615	3,060	3,633	3,615	1959
†Young Farmers' Competitions	349	229	59	63	64	103	349	1956
*Trotting Races	542	717	546	535	342	432	717	1957
*Rodeo Events	70	—	—	—	—	—	70	1956
Sheaf Tossing	—	—	—	21	17	46	33	1958
Cats	—	—	—	—	427	375	427	1958
Total Competitive Entries	21,655	21,797	21,540	23,384	23,178	25,955		

* Previously shown as Arena Contests.

† Competitive Classes in Young Farmers' Pavilion discontinued after 1957 Show.