



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

RAS MOURNS PASSING OF INAUGURAL SHOWGIRL

Remembering the Lifetime Commitment of a Valued Councillor, Mrs Margaret Pennefather

The **Royal Agricultural Society of NSW** (RAS) is saddened by the sudden passing of **Mrs Margaret Pennefather**, RAS Councillor, at her home in Tamworth Monday evening.

Mrs Pennefather had a long association with the RAS, beginning with her father, Mr Ken Mackay, who was a member of the RAS Council for 45 years. She has also been an active member of the Tamworth and Dungog communities over many years.

Mrs Pennefather was named the inaugural Showgirl at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. In her mind she was 'just helping out' by entering the competition as it was in its first year. Little did she know that that decision would lead her to being named the very first Miss Showgirl at the 1962 Sydney Royal Easter Show!

"Margaret was an outstanding horsewoman and a dedicated member of the RAS Horse Committee," said **Rob Vickery, President, RAS**. "She competed with great success and participated as a judge at Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide Royals from 1959 to 1987, as well as the Johannesburg Show in South Africa."

"Margaret was elected to the RAS Council in 1997. She served on the Horse Committee and numerous subcommittees, including being Chairperson of the Judges Selection Subcommittee, over this 10 year period."

"Her dedication and persistence saw the introduction of the Show Hunter Classes and the Event Horse Challenge at the Sydney Royal, and her eye for detail was reflected in the way the ring was run during these events. Her input into our organisation will be sorely missed, as well as remembered and appreciated. Our sympathies go out to Margaret's family and friends."

Mrs Pennefather is survived by her partner Mr David Spence, and two children Fiona and Scott.

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