

RAS TIMES

AUTUMN 2023 | VOLUME 21-1

THE VALUE OF RURAL COMMUNITY CENTRES

Necessary infrastructure for
thriving communities

THE VALUES WE SHARE

The RAS & Urban Gen Z Community

PUTTING THE 'ROYAL' IN THE RAS

The original strategic partnership

SONG OF THE FUTURE

The glories which the
future brings!





*The glories which that future brings
Shall sing, indeed, a wondrous song.*

EXCERPT FROM: *SONG OF THE FUTURE*
ANDREW BARTON (BANJO) PATERSON (1864 - 1941)



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Sydney Royal
EASTER SHOW
6-17 APRIL 2023

42



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Aussie farmers are the backbone of our community. They have worked the land for generations, through the good and the bad. In the past several years, the global pandemic shutdowns seemed to pale in comparison to the local droughts, fires, floods, and more floods. Now with COVID-19 restrictions in the rear-view mirror, we are all ready to look forward with anticipation to the future.

The bicentennial celebrations also positioned us with eager hearts to look forward. From the original few founding members of the Agricultural Society of NSW in 1822, to the major organisation that we are now, we have much to be proud of. Even so, the mission continues as it has been from the beginning: to promote, foster and encourage the sustainable development of agriculture.

I invite you to join me in celebrating Australian agriculture and all those who make it happen—I'll see you at the Sydney Royal Easter Show!

mj mill

Michael Millner, President
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

all form the greater agricultural community that we value.

Amidst all the hard work that our farmers do every day of the year, celebration is not just a sidenote. Putting the literal fruit of those labours on display, everything from the District Exhibits to the baking competitions, each of the exhibitions and competitions engage, entertain and educate Showgoers. The Sydney Royal Easter Show always provides a unique celebration of agricultural excellence, recognising the leaders of today and the rising stars of tomorrow.

When our farmers do well, we all benefit—from the quality of our food and produce, to jobs and exports that help the whole nation thrive. In setting competition benchmarks, sustaining our industry, strengthening communities, and bringing us all together to celebrate excellence in Australian agriculture, the RAS seeks to ensure a prosperous future for all.

That's a big mission! At the heart of the RAS there are key players who make it all possible—our Members, Council, and staff. It is important to also be mindful of the crucial role that volunteers and donors play, and that of the regional show societies. Our industry partners, business relationships, and Government patrons each play a role in supporting what the RAS does every day. Without their support, the RAS could not achieve its goals. To all of them, I offer my heartfelt thanks.

I desire to invest as much energy and time as possible to bring awareness about real issues people of the bush face without sugar coating reality. Rural and remote Australia can be tough and unpretty and I believe many Australians have lost the connection and understanding that they once had with the bush.

I am committed to dedicating as much time and energy as I can to being an advocate for the bush."



SPOTLIGHT: EDWINA ROBERTSON

Edwina Robertson is an Australian Photographer & Advocate for the Bush who specialises in Country Wedding & Family Photography. The cover image of this issue is from her Family Session Photography portfolio. www.edwinarobertson.com

From Edwina, "I have travelled outback Australia for the last decade and it's been an amazing adventure with experiences of a lifetime. I love myself a great dress and a nice pair of heels as much as I love rocking my RM Williams Boots and Akubra. But I can't imagine myself anywhere without my camera and a story to be told. It's what gets me out of bed in the morning.

Finding my true passion and actually having the ability to make it my career, is something I am thankful for every day. I have met some amazing people through my travels, and I've visited some of the most beautiful places in Australia and overseas.

I now realise how important it is to give a voice to the people who live west of the Great Divide. The families, communities and lives who are often forgotten about, yet provide us with food, fibre and much needed life necessities.

I desire to invest as much energy and time as possible to bring awareness about real issues people of the bush face without sugar coating reality. Rural and remote Australia can be tough and unpretty and I believe many Australians have lost the connection and understanding that they once had with the bush.

I am committed to dedicating as much time and energy as I can to being an advocate for the bush."



The Vine

NEWS | UPDATES | EVENTS

THE 2023
SYDNEY ROYAL
EASTER SHOW
WILL RUN FROM
6-17 APRIL

Forging the Future of Agriculture

The mission: to forge the future of agriculture is fundamental to everything the RAS does. The time-tested approach of holding exhibitions for the display of livestock, agricultural produce, and arts and crafts, is more than simply a presentation of the fruit of farming labours. The displays and competitions themselves create new markets, challenge on-going innovation, and tangibly elevate product quality.

It all begins at the annual Sydney Royal Easter Show (SRES), the

largest ticketed event in Australia! The SRES is the showcase event purposed to engage, educate and entertain the community-at-large on the value of sustainable agriculture and award-quality produce.

The RAS values celebration—the celebration of excellence in Australian agriculture, the celebration of the sustainability of a nation for generations to come, the celebration of the Aussie way of life.

Come celebrate with us! We'll see you at the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show!





2023 Member Show Information

The 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show welcomes members and their guests. Make the most of your time at the Show by taking advantage of these exclusive benefits.

ASSISTANCE

MEMBERS INFORMATION TOWER

Pre>Show Dates: 27 March-5 April 2023

Hours: 8am-4pm (Mon-Fri)

During Show Dates: 6-17 April 2023

Hours: 8am-5.30pm Daily

Location: 1 Showground Road, Sydney Olympic Park

Service: RAS Membership card collection and general enquiries

MEMBER CUSTOMER SERVICE

DESK AND CLOAK ROOM

Dates: 6-17 April 2023

Hours: 8am-9.30pm Daily

Location: Members Stand

MEMBER PHONE ENQUIRIES

Hours: Office hours, Mon-Fri only

Telephone: 02 9704 1144

Service: General enquiries

MEMBER DRESS REGULATIONS

Whether you're enjoying a day watching events in the Stadium, or an evening in Charley Dining Room taking in the entertainment spectacular over dinner, your time in the Members Stand is special. Appropriate smart casual clothing is a key part of the experience for you, your guests and other Members.

Please read the RAS dress regulations before you visit, go to <https://www.rasnsw.com.au/membership/dress-regulations>



EVENTS

ARTS PREVIEW EVENING

This premiere gala showcases the stunning array of work entered in the Sydney Royal Arts & Crafts Competition. Live music will add to the air of celebration while you peruse exhibits including portraits, rural landscapes, photographs, sculptures, ceramics, silversmithing and more. Mix and mingle with distinguished Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Council members and be there as first place prizes are awarded to art exhibitors. Spot something you fancy? You can purchase artwork throughout the night.

Date: Tuesday 4 April 2023

Time: 6pm-9pm

Venue: Arts & Crafts Pavilion

Cost: RAS Members \$35, Standard \$49, Early Bird \$42 *Booking Fees Apply

Book: This is a ticketed event.

Tickets on sale 9 February 2023.

www.rasnsw.com.au/artspreview

RAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday 5 April 2023

Time: 5pm-5.45 pm

Venue: Hordern Café, Members Stand

DISTRICT EXHIBITS SNEAK PEEK

Date: Wednesday 5 April 2023

Time: 5.45pm-6.15pm

Venue: Woolworths Fresh Food Dome

Register: You need to register with the Membership Department for this event. Please call 02 9704 1144.

TYRRELL'S MEMBERS GALA PREVIEW NIGHT

Your exclusive preview of the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show evening entertainment will show you spectacular sights and unbelievable performances. You'll be the first to see the brand-new evening entertainment taking centre stage

in the GIANTS Stadium. This magical evening will end with the Show's spectacular fireworks finale. Book now to enjoy the show over drinks and cocktail-style food.

Date: Wednesday 5 April 2023

Time: 6.30pm-9.30pm

Venue: Members Bar, Members Stand

Cost: RAS Member \$75, Guest \$85, Children (4-15yrs) \$55. Ticket Price includes cocktail menu, beer, wine and soft drinks.

Book: Call 02 9704 1144 or online www.rasnsw.com.au/membership/members-events/tyrells-members-preview-night

Members wishing to attend the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 5 April 2023, please note the AGM begins at 5pm in the Hordern Café, Members Stand. Following the completion of the AGM, Members will be escorted to the Dome for a sneak peek of the District Exhibits display. Members who did not attend the AGM but are attending the Tyrrell's Members Preview Night, please note, the Preview will begin at 6.30pm.

PRESIDENT'S HIGH TEA

Meet RAS President, Mr Michael Millner, and enjoy a sumptuous afternoon tea prepared by Sydney Showground Executive Chef, Tim Browne.

Date: Thursday 6 April 2023

Time: 2.30pm-3.30pm

Venue: Hordern Café, Members Stand

This event is for Members and their permanent guest card holders only.



SHOW DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT

HORDERN CAFÉ

Casual dining in the Members Stand.

Dates: 6-17 April 2023

Hours: 7.30am - 9pm

Members receive a 10% discount.

CHARLEY DINING ROOM

Charley Dining Room is for Members and their Guests, providing a dining experience the whole family can enjoy. With stunning views of the Stadium through floor-to-ceiling windows, Charley Dining Room is a place of serenity and indulgence amid the excitement of the Show.

Dates: 6-17 April 2023

Hours: Lunch 11.30am-2.30pm, Dinner 5.30pm-9.30pm

BRAND NEW ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM LAUNCHED

Bookings can only be made by RAS members. Those members bringing guests, must have tickets for them. To book online visit www.rasnsw.com.au/members-dining

Dress: Smart casual dress code regulations apply in the Charley Dining Room. To ensure your day runs smoothly for both you and your guests, please avail yourself of the dress regulations. [https://www.rasnsw.com.au/membership/dress-regulations/](http://www.rasnsw.com.au/membership/dress-regulations/)

MEMBERS BAR

The perfect location for watching entertainment in GIANTS Stadium. Enjoy live music each night.

Hours: 11am-midnight

Venue: Members Stand

Members receive a 10% discount.

SERVICES

PARENTS' ROOM

An exclusive Parents' Room is available for Members and their guests.

Dates: 6-17 April 2023

Time: 8am-9pm

Location: On the upper concourse of the GIANTS Stadium opposite the Members Stand entrance.

MERCHANDISE

A variety of merchandise will be available during the Show from the Members Customer Service desk in the Members Stand.

BUGGY SERVICE

An eight-seater buggy operates during Showtime for use by elderly and less mobile Members. Destinations include P1 car park, Olympic Park Train Station, Accor Hotels and Bus Stop. These are set destinations and we do not pick up or drop off at other locations.

Dates: 6-17 April 2023

Time: 8am-9pm

Telephone: 02 9704 1144



FAREWELL AND HAPPY RETIREMENT, DONNA COTTER!

After 10 years as Membership Manager with the RAS, the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show will be Donna Cotter's final hurrah, as she takes a step into the life of retirement, officially saying goodbye in May.

Donna has made significant contributions to the RAS with her forward thinking and passion for customer service. She has made many friends along the way with her friendly, happy and helpful nature. Please join us in thanking Donna for her commitment and leadership. We all wish her the very best and hope to see her sometime soon, but as a visitor. Congratulations Donna! - your RAS family will miss you!

ABOVE Teresa Szoszkiewicz left, Donna Cotter right.

Welcome New RAS Councillors

The RAS is a membership-based organisation, governed by a Council of Members who are elected at the Society's AGM. This highly experienced management team volunteer their time, working in conjunction with exceptional staff and expert, industry-based Committees. The success of the RAS relies heavily upon the strong individual commitment of all Councillors and their ability to work together as a unified, purpose-driven team.

The RAS is pleased to welcome these new Councillors:

CHRISTOPHER EGGLETON

Having a long family association with the RAS, and a deep understanding of its core values, Mr Eggleton is an accomplished horseman in his own right, and is an existing, highly valued member of the Horse Section team. Mr Eggleton holds a Diploma in Horse Business Management and has extensive Equine Industry experience. In relation to the continuance of horse competitions at the Show, Mr Eggleton brings a wealth of strategic insight and vital, industry-relevant experience.

JAMES DORAHY

A proven leader, Mr Dorahy has excellent Event and Exhibition skills and a comprehensive understanding of event logistics, especially in relation to the Arts Community. Mr Dorahy is an experienced arts professional with proven, strategic analysis strengths. As General Manager, Mr Dorahy oversaw the transition of Pets in the Park from a State to a National Organisation. His impeccable knowledge in the field of Australian art and established network within the Arts Community, position Mr Dorahy as a stand out in his field.

JASON STRONG

An SRES Rural Achiever in 1993, Mr Strong has continued as an Official ever since. Now a beef cattle specialist, with extensive industry knowledge and experience in the red meat industry, Mr Strong is an outstanding addition to the Cattle Committee. With demonstrated expertise in building teams, implementing new strategies, business alignment, and expansion, Mr Strong's extensive corporate governance experience and leadership on Boards and Committees are well established.

Mr Strong has served on various bodies, including the Cattlemen's Union of Australia as a Councillor, NSW State Chairman and National Vice President.



DR JOSEPH MURPHY

A respected member of the regional southern NSW community, Dr Murphy is currently based at Young as the GP/Obstetrics Registrar at Young Hospital. Selected as an RAS Rural Achiever in 2018, Dr Murphy has since been an active member of the RAS Youth Group, serving as deputy chair in 2019 and 2020. He has also been active in the region as the Group 8 Representative on the ASC Next Gen, and as a volunteer-teacher at UNSW Rural Clinic School, Wagga Wagga campus. Dr Murphy's deep commitment to public sector values and leadership as a rural generalist was recognised by the Anthea Kerr NSW Premiers Award in 2021.

Enough rides to keep them dizzy for days.



Pre-purchase your tickets now and save.
eastershow.com.au

Sydney Royal EASTER SHOW
6 - 17 APRIL 2023



reach of all, and when a public spirit of agricultural improvement shall be implanted in the breast of all."

Today, the RAS continues in the purpose to promote, foster and encourage the sustainable development of agriculture for the benefit of all Australians—for generations to come. The RAS mission is to engage, educate and entertain our community on the value of sustainable agriculture and award-quality produce through events that support agricultural excellence and innovation. Two-hundred years of competitions have successfully improved the quality of agricultural produce and animal breeds, and we've only just started!

The RAS Educational Programs have been designed by teachers and educational professionals to ensure maximum learning – and fun.

These programs are engaging our next generation of school children, bringing practical knowledge and experience into classrooms around the country. Partnerships with Government programs are expanding our resource capacity and increasing our reach to new communities, rural and urban.

With the bicentenary celebrations and COVID-19 restrictions behind us, the entire RAS Team is looking forward into the future.

I am sure that the original founders of the RAS would have a hard time believing that their original exhibits for an emerging colony have become a full 12-day Show with international entrants and judges whose impact reaches far beyond the borders of our State. It is my sincere hope that this incredible trajectory that the RAS has taken over these last 200 years will continue in ways such that I, also, will have a hard time believing what the future holds.

The original Prospectus of the Agricultural Society of NSW, published in 1822, states: It is nothing to the prosperity of a Colony, that one or two individuals possess highly improved cattle or sheep, or can show a well-tilled field, or a meadow of English grasses; the plantation can only be said to flourish when the means of obtaining these advantages are placed within the

I am sure that the original founders of the RAS would have a hard time believing that their original exhibits for an emerging colony have become a full 12-day Show with international entrants and judges whose impact reaches far beyond the borders of our State.

SRES commercial advertising partnerships, continue to undergird the RAS. These are all bridge builders with professional community leaders and provide necessary, practical revenues. Collaborations, partnerships and naming-rights agreements not only mean practical dollars are invested into the mission to support agriculture, but also, they represent solid community relationships, which drive our mission potential forward.

The RAS genuinely cares about strengthening individuals and developing our communities. We are passionate and generous in our efforts to see our communities thrive. As we anticipate the next 200 years, I am wholly optimistic and look forward to all that lies ahead.

Brock Gilmour, Chief Executive, Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

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Find Your Happy Place

Smiles & Laughter, Fairy Floss & Chips-on-a-Stick, Clydesdales & Woodchopping – it's easy to find your happy place at the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show!

The largest ticketed event in Australia keeps getting better. The breathtaking action in the woodchop and sawing, the heart-pounding thrill of rodeo, the joy of the dog shows, the squeals and screams of delight in carnival, and the inspiration found in the Heritage and District Exhibits, the Sydney Royal Easter Show delivers on its promise to entertain and to inform. Showgoers learn and laugh through 12 amazing days of exhibits, demonstrations, competitions, displays, showbags, parades and fireworks!

Every day events include more than you could poke a Chip-on-a-Stick at! Here is just some of the fun awaiting you this year at the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show.

WOOLWORTHS AG DISCOVERY PAVILION

Discover everything you need to know about food and fibre at the NEW Woolworth's Ag Discovery Pavilion! Offering hands-on activities, interactive displays and educational fun, the pavilion exhibits explore the future of

farming with a range of new ag-tech exhibits, even six-foot drones! Don't miss this exciting pavilion experience happening every day of the Show!

THE RIVERINA FRESH WORKING DAIRY

The Working Dairy's proud sponsor – 100% Australian-owned Riverina Fresh – has been supplying premium fresh milk and dairy to Australians from Wagga Wagga, NSW since 1922 and was recently awarded Australia's Best Rated Fresh Milk Brand. Watch cow milking



demonstrations and learn how a modern dairy works with state-of-the-art equipment and technology. Join Riverina Fresh and hear from their farmers and other experts about the complexity, challenges, and rewards of dairy farming.

SYDNEY ROYAL CATTLE COMPETITION

Attracting the biggest and most beautiful beasts from across the country, the Sydney Royal Cattle Show is one of Australia's most prestigious beef and dairy competitions. A Sydney Royal Ribbon or Championship not only provides immense pride for exhibitors but also contributes to increased sale prices. Some of the trophies awarded annually at the Show date back to 1911, and the Hordern and Urquhart Trophies are the ultimate accolade in the cattle industry.

ALPA YOUNG AUCTIONEERS COMPETITION

Auctions and agriculture have gone together in Australia since the days of early settlement. This year on the first day of the Show, the Australian Livestock & Property Agents (ALPA) Young Auctioneers Competition will be held,

with the State and then National Finals taking place in front of a full Amphitheatre audience. The Young Auctioneers Competition is not just about who has the gift of the gab, it is a real live auction with each competitor selling prize winning Sydney Royal Purebred Steers and aiming to get the best price for vendors.

SYDNEY ROYAL ALPACA & FLEECE SHOW

The Sydney Royal Alpaca & Fleece Show is regarded as one of the most prestigious in Australia, showcasing both Suri and Huacaya Alpacas, and Fleece classes. Alpacas are assessed on their bone structure, proportion and balance, while their fleece is judged on density, lustre and character. Alpaca fleece is luxurious and silky, perfect for soft baby blankets and lightweight shawls. In addition to judging, there's lots to see and learn about Alpacas throughout the pavilion.

TALK & TASTE: CALLING ALL FOODIES!

Take a seat at the Producer's table and learn from some of Australia's finest food and beverage artisans at these delicious,

entertaining and interactive sessions. Hosted by Show favourites Lyndey Milan and Ed Halmagyi, each session will feature two award-winning producers who will share their expertise while leading you in a guided tasting. Products on offer will change daily and will be available for purchase after each session.

The judging of the Sydney Rock Oysters and Cooked Prawns is also back at the Show. Judging will be a public facing event, on Monday 17 April 2023. Come and watch the Sydney Royal judging process!

BEE-ZEEBO

How far do bees travel each day? How is a Queen bee introduced to the hive? Why do humans need bees to survive? You can find the answers to this and so much more at the Bee-Zeebo – a live action, interactive display, providing Showgoers with a close look at the inner workings of a beehive. Experienced beekeepers will be on hand to teach you how apiarists care for their bees and harvest their delicious honey, and to answer any questions buzzing around in your head. Once you've had your fill of fascinating facts, make a beeline for the nearby Honey Land stand to sample and purchase some liquid gold!



SYDNEY ROYAL NATIONAL HONEY SHOW

With over 40 different classes to compete in, the Sydney Royal Honey Show is open to beginners and experts alike. From liquid honey to honeycomb, honeybees to native stingless bees, and conventional to modern methods of extraction, all honey is judged in its respective class, with judges on the lookout for qualities such as flavour, aroma, colour and appearance. But they don't stop at honey, this national competition also assesses mead, candles, wax-moulds, pollen and beeswax. Winning entries are on display every day of the Show.

SYDNEY ROYAL GOAT SHOW

Attracting over 1000 entries every year, this is the Goat Show that butts all others out of the way! Judged across all 12 days of the Show, Dairy, Boer and Angora goats, as well as Mohair fleece, will compete in their respective breed classes.

As one of the oldest domesticated animals in the world, goats are bred for milk, fleece, fibre and meat production, depending on the breed. Each breed also has their own unique characteristics. Dairy Goats are intelligent enough to be

taught their name and come when called, while miniature goats are wonderful, affectionate creatures and make awesome pets! In fact, after such a successful debut last year, the adorable miniature goats are returning for two full days.

SYDNEY ROYAL PIG SHOW

After a brief hiatus last year, one of the largest and most prestigious pig shows in Australia is returning. First held at the 1858 Show, the competition showcases the best pure breed stud pigs in the country, with eight different breeds all competing for the ultimate title of Best Pig in Show. The 2023 feature breed is the 'Large White'. With their pale, hairless skin and distinctive prick ears, they are one of the cutest and most recognisable breeds around. Despite their reputation for mud wallowing, pigs are very clean and are among the smartest of all domesticated animals – even smarter than dogs! Stop on by the Pig Pavilion for NEW Pig Washing & Pig Handling Demonstrations!

DISTRICT EXHIBITS COMPETITION

The District Exhibits are an iconic feature of the Show, with five distinct

districts across NSW and South-East Queensland, each gathering the very best produce from their region to display in their own unique, creative and elaborate design. The displays include everything from apples, pumpkins and peas, to grains, wool and wine, with every item on display included in the judging.

Experts come from across NSW to participate in the judging process, awarding prizes for best display and best quality produce. A win here is considered ultimate bragging rights! There is also the highly regarded 'People's Choice Award', as judged by Showgoers. A visit to the District Displays is a must-do, and a great opportunity to have a chat with a farmer!

DISTRICT EXHIBITS PUMPKIN BOWLING

If you're at the Show early on Good Friday, be sure to come and experience a game of lawn bowls like no other! Using little blue pumpkins as bowling balls, and an onion for a jack, the District Court Members will engage in a competitive battle to take home the prestigious Pumpkin Bowling Trophy. Pumpkin bowling has been an

'unofficial' category of the District Exhibits competition since the 1980's. However, it is believed the tradition may have begun much earlier when the Show didn't open till lunch time on Good Friday and District Court members were looking for a way to pass the time! Bowling begins at 8.30am Good Friday only.

HERITAGE PAVILION - TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

This year the Heritage Pavilion will be 'vibing' its way back in time to the 1970s with flares and platforms, loud music, and even louder colours. Going for a motor down memory lane, we'll be focusing on how Showgoers made their way to the Show fifty years ago, showcasing antique buses, trains and cars. Immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of the '70s while you climb aboard the double decker Leyland Atlantean on loan from the Sydney Bus Museum. Just to mix it up, the horse drawn Caleche carriage which carried Queen Elizabeth on its maiden voyage for the RAS in 1970 will be on show, alongside a funky FC Holden taxi used to ferry more humble participants to the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

VINTAGE TRACTORS & LARGE STEEL ANIMAL SCULPTURE DISPLAYS:

The Davison Lawns will come alive with a range of exquisite animal sculptures created by amazing Australian artists. On display all 12 days of the Show, you can admire these hand-crafted masterpieces, many of which utilise recycled scrap metal materials to form life-size exhibits!

THE BLUEY LIVE INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE

See Bluey and her little sister Bingo during their daily Live Interactive Experiences. Catch this adorable duo and their friends on stage! Get ready to play Magic Asparagus, Magic Xylophone, Keepy Uppity and more with your favourite Heeler duo.

THE KANGAROO BEACH LIVE INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE

Surf's Up! See Pounce and Neville from the ABC hit series Kangaroo Beach during their daily Live Interactive Experiences. Don't miss two of your favourite junior cadets and their friends on stage. Get ready to explore the

familiar world of water play with us – just try not to get wet!

THERE'S ALSO DAILY:

- Sheep Shearing Demonstrations
- Butchery Demonstrations at The Meating Place
- Flower & Garden Displays, special displays this year include cacti & succulents.

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE: Sydney Royal Woodchopping & Sawing Competition – competitions and events throughout the day, every day of the Show!

Woodchopping is always a favourite at the Show, with stands full of enthusiastic spectators cheering on the mighty men and women who take up the axe. The competition in Sydney, long regarded as the Wimbledon of Woodchop, attracts competitors from across Australia and the globe, all eager to prove themselves as the woodchips fly and the blades destroy carefully chosen tree stump after tree stump. **5 World Title Events:** The Sydney Royal Woodchopping & Sawing Competition is the only competition in Australia to host five world title events including the crowd favourite 325mm



Tree Felling contest. **Sawing:** Single-handed or double-handed, technique is every bit as important as fitness and strength in a sawing competition. Don't miss the Jack & Jill Sawing, often it is husband and wife on each end of the saw! **Endurance:** Competing across three disciplines, competitors prove themselves in a 375mm single hand saw, a 300mm Underhand chop and a 300mm standing block chop!

LIVE NATIVE ANIMALS

Over all 12 days of the Show, you can get up close with some of Australia's iconic animals!

THE KING'S SCHOOL FARM EXPERIENCE

Students from The King's School will be showing off their best animals at a NEW School Farm Display. Students will be on hand every day of the Show to chat about what it takes to raise and care for their animals. This is one not to be missed!

Look out for more great events and exhibits, including the Festival of Dog Sports, the Fancy Dress for Horse, and the Pony Scurry Competitions! ●

2023 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

JUDGING TIMETABLE

Whether you attend the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show for one day or all 12 days, planning ahead helps you make the most of your visit. Here is an overview of the Judging Timetable.

| DATES | COMPETITIONS |
|----------------------|---|
| Wednesday 5 April | CATTLE Beef Paraders' Competitions - Junior (F000), School (F001), RAS/ASC (F002), Open (F003) & State Final |
| Thursday 6 April | ARTS & CRAFTS Perishable Cooking CATTLE Purebred Steers School & Open, Brahman, Red Angus, Purebred Steer, Australian Lowline, Other Recognised Breeds DOG Novice Obedience, Open Obedience, Utility Dog Excellent Obedience, Utility Obedience, Dual Title Obedience FLOWER & GARDEN Carnivorous Plants, Dahlias, Floristry Students, Gesneriads, Indoor Plants, National Floral Designer Competition, Schools Produce Competition, TAFE Floral HORSE Australian Stock Horses, Light Harness, Percherons, Shetland Ponies, Showjumping Juniors, Clydesdales, Heavy Horse Obstacle, Showjumping Young Riders, Ridden Heavy Horse and Ridden Utility Horse, Heavy Horse Barrel Race, Wrangler Federation Rodeo Challenge PIGEON & POULTRY Poultry & Pigeon RAT & MOUSE Rat and Mouse SHEEP & FLEECE Fleece Competition WOODCHOPPING & SAWING Woodchopping & Sawing Competition, 300mm Standing Block Handicap Final, 300mm Open Underhand Handicap Final YOUNG AUCTIONEERS ALPA Young Auctioneers Competition - State & National Finals |
| Friday 7 April | CAT Australian National Cat Association Inc. CATTLE Murray Grey, Red Poll, Trade Steer & Heifer, Limousin, Speckle Park Feature Breed, Shorthorns DOG Afghan Hound, Australian Terrier, Beagle, Borzoi, Chinese Crested Dog, Fox Terrier (Smooth), Fox Terrier (Wire), German Pinscher, Great Dane, Hungarian Vizsla, Hungarian Vizsla (Wirehair), Miniature Pinscher, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, Old English Sheepdog, Papillon, Poodle (Miniature), Poodle (Standard), Poodle (Toy), Pug, Samoyed, Schipperke, Scottish Terrier, Tibetan Mastiff, Tornjak FLOWER & GARDEN RAS Horticulture Young Judges Competition HORSE Australian Stock Horses, Shetland Harness and Light Harness, Showjumping Young Riders, Clydesdales, Showjumping Juniors, Heavy Harness, Junior and Senior Station Horse, Shetlands Ridden, Wrangler Federation Rodeo Challenge POULTRY & PIGEON Youth Poultry Showmanship Competition SHEEP Merino Sheep Show Judging - Pair & Group Classes WOODCHOP & SAWING Woodchopping & Sawing Competition, 375mm Ladies Double Handed Sawing Championship Final, 300mm Handicap Tree Felling Contest Final, 300mm Standing Block Championship Hard-hitting Contest - A Grade Final, 300mm Standing Block Handicap Final, 275mm Open Underhand Handicap Final, NSW Inter Association Relay |

| DATES | COMPETITIONS |
|---------------------|--|
| Saturday 8 April | CAT NSW Cat Fanciers Association CATTLE Charolais, Angus, Hereford, Simmental-Fleckvieh, Santa Gertrudis DOG Bouvier Des Flandres, Bracco Italiano, Bullmastiff, Chow Chow, Cocker Spaniel (American), Collie (Rough), Collie (Smooth), Curly Coated Retriever, Dachshund (Long), Dachshund (Miniature Long), Dachshund (Miniature Smooth), Dachshund (Miniature Wire), Dachshund (Smooth), Dachshund (Wire), Dachshund Kaninchen (Long), Dachshund Kaninchen (Miniature Long), Dachshund Kaninchen (Miniature Smooth), Dachshund Kaninchen (Miniature Wire), Dachshund Kaninchen (Smooth), Dachshund Kaninchen (Wire), Dobermann, Flat Coated Retriever, Jack Russell Terrier, Parson Russell Terrier, Pointer, Schnauzer, Schnauzer (Giant), Schnauzer (Miniature), St.Bernard, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Tatra Shepherd Dog FLOWER & GARDEN Bridal, Cacti and Succulents, Children's Classes-General & Decorative, Decorative, National Floral Designer Competition, Roses, TAFE NSW Floral HORSE Light Harness, The RAS/Australian Stock Horse Society Australian Stock Horse Young Judges Competition State Final, Shires Led and Ridden, Showjumping Junior, ASHLA Senior Riders, ASHLA Junior Riders, Showjumping Young Riders, Australian Stock Horses, Australian Stock Horse Junior Time Trial, Australian Stock Horse Senior Time Trial, Heavy Harness, Shetland Harness, Wrangler Federation Rodeo Challenge POULTRY & PIGEON The RAS Poultry Young Judges State Final SHEEP Merino WOODCHOP & SAWING Woodchopping & Sawing Competition, 300mm Ladies Single Handed Sawing Championship Final, 250mm Standing Block Handicap - Fourth Division Final, 375mm World Championship Sawing Contest (Single Handed) Final, 300mm Underhand Handicap - Second Division Final, 300mm Underhand Handicap - Third Division Final, 300mm Underhand Elimination Championship |
| Sunday 9 April | CAT Cats NSW CATTLE The RAS/AgShows NSW Beef Cattle Young Judges Competition State Final, Beef Championships Breeders' Group Interbreed, Beef Championships Urquhart Trophy, Beef Championships Supreme Interbreed Heifer, Beef Championships Hordern Trophy DOG American Staffordshire Terrier, Anatolian Shepherd Dog, Azawakh, Basenji, Bedlington Terrier, Belgian Shepherd Dog (Groenendael), Belgian Shepherd Dog (Laekenois), Belgian Shepherd Dog (Malinois), Belgian Shepherd Dog (Tervuren), Canadian Eskimo Dog, Caucasian Shepherd Dog, Central Asian Shepherd Dog, Dandie Dimont Terrier, Deerhound, Finnish Spitz, German Hunting Terrier, German Spitz (Klein), German Spitz (Mittel), Glen of Imaal Terrier, Golden Retriever, Greyhound, Ibizan Hound, Irish Terrier, Italian Greyhound, Keeshond, Kerry Blue Terrier, Lakeland Terrier, Pharaoh Hound, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Weimaraner, Weimaraner (Longhair), Welsh Terrier HORSE ANSA Led, Light Harness, Shetland Harness, Heavy Harness, Showjumping Junior Grand Prix, ANSA Ridden, Showjumping Young Rider Grand Prix, Wrangler Federation Rodeo Challenge PIG Stud Pig RURAL ACHIEVER R.M. Williams RAS Rural Achiever Award Public Speaking Showcase SHEEP Merino Grand & Supreme Classes, The RAS/AgShows NSW Merino Sheep Young Judges Competition State Final, The RAS/AgShows NSW Merino Fleece Young Judges Competition State Final WOODCHOP & SAWING Woodchopping & Sawing Competition 275mm Standing Block Handicap - Third Division Final, 600mm World Championship Double Handed Sawing Final, 300mm Handicap Tree Felling Contest - First Division Final, 275mm Ladies Underhand Championship Final, 275mm Underhand Handicap - Fourth Division Final, 300mm Standing Block Handicap - Second Division Final, 325mm Underhand Handicap Final, Interstate Relay Heat 1 YOUNG FARMER CHALLENGE Young Farmer Challenge, Young Farmer Challenge - State Final YOUNG WOMAN The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Presentation |
| Monday 10 April | AVIARY BIRD African Lovebird, Budgerigar, Canary, Finch, Parrot, Tame Bird CATTLE RAS Youth Show DOG Affenpinscher, Akita, Akita (Japanese), Australia Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog, Australian Cattle Dog, Australian Kelpie, Australian Silky Terrier, Bassett Fauve De Bretagne, Bearded Collie, Bloodhound, Border Collie, Dutch Shepherd, English Setter, English Toy Terrier (Black and Tan), Gordon Setter, Grand Basset Griffon Vendeen, Griffon Bruxellois, Griffon Bruxellois, Irish Red & White Setter, Irish Setter, Kuvasz, Newfoundland, Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen, Russian Toy (Long Haired), Russian Toy (Smooth Haired), Saluki, Shiba Inu, Shikoku, Siberian Husky, Tenterfield Terrier, Tibetan Spaniel, Whippet FLOWER & GARDEN Cacti and Succulents, Dahlias, Decorative, Floristry Students, Orchids, TAFE NSW Floral GOAT Angora Goat Mohair Fleece HORSE Miniature Ponies, Heavy Harness, Light Harness, Standardbred Led and Ridden, Miniature Ponies In Harness, Showjumping Section 1, Judges and Stewards Riding Class, Entertainment Showjumping Round 1, Wrangler Federation Rodeo Challenge PIG The RAS Pig Show Young Judges Competition State Final, Pig Handler Competition WOODCHOP & SAWING Woodchopping & Sawing Competition, 375mm Jack and Jill Championship Double Handed Sawing Contest Final, 325mm Sydney Royal Easter Show Championship Standing Block Final, 275mm Sydney Royal Easter Show Standing Block Handicap Final, The Les Slee Memorial 300mm Underhand Open Handicap Final, Interstate Relay Heat 2 |

| DATES | COMPETITIONS | DATES | COMPETITIONS |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------|---|
| Tuesday 11 April | <p>DOG Bernese Mountain Dog, Bichon Frise, Bolognese, Boxer, Cane Corso, Chihuahua (Long), Chihuahua (Smooth), Cocker Spaniel, Coton De Tulear, Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, Havanese, Irish Wolfhound, Kangal Shepherd Dog, Lowchen, Maltese, Pyrenean Mountain Dog, Russian Black Terrier, Yorkshire Terrier</p> <p>FLOWER & GARDEN The RAS/AgShows NSW Grain Young Judges Competition State Final, The RAS/AgShows NSW Fruit and Vegetable Young Judges Competition State Final</p> <p>GOAT Angora Stud, Angora Goat Paraders</p> <p>HORSE Hunter Hacks, Hunter Ponies, Hunter Galloways, Leading Rein, Showjumping Section 2 – Judging, Riding Classes Senior Boy, Showjumping Section 3 – Judging, Riding Classes Junior Boy, Showjumping Section 1, Hunter Galloways, Tentpegging Round 1, Entertainment Showjumping Round 2, Wrangler Federation Rodeo Challenge and Presentation</p> <p>SHEEP AWEX Wool Classing</p> <p>WOODCHOP & SAWING Woodchopping & Sawing Competition, 375mm Jack and Jill Double Handed Sawing Handicap Final, 325mm Sydney Royal Easter Show Championship Underhand Final, 300mm Standing Block Championship Elimination Contest, 275mm Ladies Underhand Handicap Final, 375mm Handicap Single Handed Sawing Contest Final, 275mm Sydney Royal Easter Show Underhand Handicap Final</p> | Saturday 15 April | <p>ALPACA Alpaca Halter</p> <p>CAT Australian Cat Federation</p> <p>CATTLE The RAS/AgShows NSW Dairy Cattle Young Judges Competition State Final, Semex Dairy Youth Challenge</p> <p>DOG Cairn Terrier, Dogue De Bordeaux, French Bulldog, German Shepherd Dog, German Shepherd Dog (LSC), Japanese Chin, Landseer ECT, Leonberger, Mastiff, Neopolitan Mastiff, Pekingese, Peruvian Hairless Dog (Large), Peruvian Hairless Dog (Medium), Peruvian Hairless Dog (Small), Rottweiler, Sealyham Terrier, Shar Pei, Skye Terrier, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Spanish Mastiff, West Highland White Terrier</p> <p>GOAT Boer Goat - Group of Three Scanning & Visual Assessment</p> <p>HORSE Ladies Riding Classes, Pony Hacks, Welsh Classes Section C and D, Galloway Hacks, Polocrosse Round 1, Showjumping Section 3, Welsh Mountain Ponies, Junior Girl Riders, Polocrosse Round 2, Showjumping Section 2, World Championship Campdraft Round 4, Entertainment Showjumping Round 3</p> <p>SHEEP Meat and Dual Purpose</p> <p>WOODCHOP & SAWING Woodchopping & Sawing Competition, 275mm Handicap Tree Felling Contest - Second Division Final, The Manny McCarthy Memorial 375mm World Championship Underhand Final, 300mm Standing Block Handicap Final, Parent & Child, 275mm Underhand and Standing Block Combination Relay Handicap Final, 275mm Veterans Underhand Handicap Final, Under 21yrs Relay Heat 2</p> |
| Wednesday 12 April | <p>DOG Basset Hound, Beauceron (Berger de Beauce), Bergamasco Shepherd Dog, Black and Tan Coonhound, Bluetick Coonhound, British Bulldog, Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Cirneco Dell' Etna, Dalmatian, English Springer Spaniel, German Shorthaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer, Hamiltonstovare, Irish Water Spaniel, Japanese Spitz, Karelian Bear Dog, Lhasa Apso, Maremma Sheepdog, Murray River Retriever, Norwegian Buhund, Otterhound, Shih Tzu, Sussex Spaniel, Tibetan Terrier, Welsh Springer Spaniel, Wirehaired Slovakian Pointer, German Shorthaired Pointer Society of NSW Inc Specialty Show</p> <p>FLOWER & GARDEN Bonsai, Bridal, Decorative, Miscellaneous Cut Flowers, Roses, TAFE NSW Floral</p> <p>GOAT Angora Production Class Shearing, Angora Schools Wether - Group of 3, Angora Goat & Mohair Fleece YJC, The RAS Angora Goat and Mohair Young Judges Competition State Final</p> <p>HORSE Gentlemen Riders, Riding Ponies Led and Ridden, Hunter Galloways, Mount, Rider and Equipment, Hunter Ponies, Showjumping Section 2, Hunter Hacks, Novice Hacks, Hunter Galloways, Showjumping Section 3, Horse Show Fancy Dress, World Championship Campdraft Round 1, Tentpegging Round 2</p> <p>RABBIT Rabbit Show, Rabbit Hopping</p> <p>WOODCHOP & SAWING Woodchopping & Sawing Competition, 500mm Handicap Double Handed Sawing Contest Final, 275mm Handicap Tree Felling Contest Final, 300mm Sydney Royal Easter Show Underhand Handicap Final, 275mm Standing Block Open Handicap Final, Interstate Relay Final</p> | Sunday 16 April | <p>ALPACA Alpaca Halter, Young Judges Competition, The RAS Alpaca Fleece Young Judges Competition State Final, The RAS Alpaca Young Judges Competition State Final</p> <p>CATTLE All Breeds Youth Class, Brown Swiss Heifer Classes, Guernsey Heifer Classes, Holstein Heifer Classes, Jersey Heifer Classes, Ayrshire Heifer Classes, Illawarra Heifer Classes, World Championship Campdraft Round 5</p> <p>DOG Gundog Group, Hound Group, Non-Sporting Group, Terrier Group, Toy Group, Utility Group, Working-Dog Group, Canine Hero Awards, Best Baby Puppy in Show, Best Breeders Group in Show, Best In Show, Best Neuter in Show, Best Puppy in Show</p> <p>FLOWER & GARDEN Bridal, Decorative, Four Day Floral, Fruit & Vegetables (Non-Commercial), Orchids, Roses, TAFE NSW Floral</p> <p>GOAT Boer Goat Doe</p> <p>HORSE Galloway Hacks, Welsh Section B Led, Senior Girl Riders, Showjumping Mini Prix, Polocrosse Round 3, Champion Pony, Galloway and Hack, Parent and Child Riders, Showjumping Grand Prix Round 1, Welsh Ridden, Polocrosse Round 4, Childs Hack, APSB Young Judges, The RAS/Australian Pony Stud Book Young Judges Competition State Final, Showjumping Grand Prix Round 2, Shetland Scurry</p> <p>FROG & REPTILE Snakes, Frog and Geckos</p> <p>SHEEP Meat and Dual Purpose, The RAS/AgShows NSW Meat Breeds Sheep Young Judges Competition State Final</p> <p>WOODCHOP & SAWING Woodchopping & Sawing, Junior Development Program Finals, 250mm Under 18yrs Standing Block Championship Final, 300mm Underhand Championship Hard-hitting Contest – A Grade Final, Under 18yrs 250mm Underhand Handicap Final, Under 21yrs Relay Final</p> |
| Thursday 13 April | <p>CAVY Cavy</p> <p>DOG Airedale Terrier, Alaskan Malamute, American Hairless Terrier, Australasian Bosdog, Border Terrier, Brittany, Canaan Dog, Cesky Terrier, Clumber Spaniel, Estrela Mountain Dog, Eurasier, Field Spaniel, Italian Spinone, Lagotto Romagnolo, Manchester Terrier, Norfolk Terrier, Norwich Terrier, Polish Lowland Sheepdog, Pomeranian, Portuguese Water Dog, Puli, Pumi, Pyrenean Mastiff, Pyrenean Sheepdog Longhaired, Shetland Sheepdog, Spanish Water Dog, Swedish Lapphund, Swedish Vallhund, White Swiss Shepherd Dog</p> <p>GOAT Miniature Goat</p> <p>HORSE Australian Saddle Ponies Led, Working Hunter Classes, Arabian Derivatives Led, Show Thoroughbreds, Australian Saddle Ponies Ridden, FL Crane Trophy, Skill At Arms Round 2, Col AV Pope Cup, Showjumping Section 1, World Championship Campdraft Round 2, Tentpegging Round 3</p> <p>WOODCHOP & SAWING Woodchopping & Sawing Competition, 250mm Veterans Standing Block Handicap Final, 275mm Underhand Handicap - Fourth Division Final, Endurance Event Final, 275mm Handicap Tree Felling Contest - Second Division Final, 350mm Underhand Handicap - First Division Final, 300mm Standing Block Handicap - Second Division Final, 300mm Underhand Handicap - Second Division Final, 350mm Standing Block Handicap - First Division Final, 500mm Standing Block Team of Two Butchers Block - Second Division Final</p> | Monday 17 April | <p>ALPACA Youth Paraders and Showmanship & Stockmanship Competition</p> <p>AQUACULTURE Aquaculture</p> <p>CATTLE Ayrshire Milk Classes, Guernsey Milk Classes, Holstein Milk Classes, Jersey Milk Classes, Brown Swiss Milk Classes, Illawarra Milk Classes, Interbreed</p> <p>DOG Breed Stall Day, Excellent Agility Class, Excellent Gamblers Class, Excellent Jumpers Class, Masters Agility Class, Masters Gamblers Class, Masters Jumpers Class, Novice Agility Class, Novice Gamblers Class, Novice Jumpers Class, Open Agility Class, Open Jumpers Class</p> <p>FROG & REPTILE Lizards, Frogs and Geckos</p> <p>GOAT Boer Goat Buck & Best in Show, Boer Goat YJC, The RAS Boer Goat Young Judges Competition</p> <p>HORSE Australian Ponies Led, Part Bred Welsh Led, Pony Club Sporting, Pony Club Team Showjumping, Pony Club Zone Teams of 4, Pony Club Riders, Part Bred Welsh Ridden, Australian Ponies Ridden, Pony Club Pairs, Greencoat Presentation, World Championship Campdraft Round 6 and Presentation</p> <p>SHEEP Meat and Dual Purpose Interbreed</p> <p>WOODCHOP & SAWING Woodchopping & Sawing Competition, 300mm Team of Three Combination Contest Final, 250mm Under 18yrs Underhand Championship Final, 375mm World Championship Standing Block Final, 300mm Restricted Standing Block Handicap - Second Division Final, 600mm Standing Block Team of Two Butchers Block - First Division Final</p> |
| Friday 14 April | <p>ALPACA Schools Competition, Alpaca Halter</p> <p>CAT Australian Cat Federation</p> <p>CATTLE Dairy Paraders' Competitions</p> <p>DOG Biewer Terrier, Boston Terrier, Briard, Bull Terrier, Bull Terrier (Miniature), Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Finnish Lapphund, Foxhound, Harrier, King Charles Spaniel, Komondor, Labrador Retriever, Norwegian Elkhound, Portuguese Podengo (Large Smooth), Portuguese Podengo (Large Wire), Portuguese Podengo (Medium Smooth), Portuguese Podengo (Medium Wire), Portuguese Podengo (Small Smooth), Portuguese Podengo (Small Wire), Prague Ratter, Welsh Corgi (Cardigan), Welsh Corgi (Pembroke), Xoloitzcuintle (Intermediate), Xoloitzcuintle (Miniature), Xoloitzcuintle (Standard), Boston Terrier Club of Metropolitan NSW Inc Specialty Show</p> <p>FLOWER & GARDEN Australian Native Plants, Dahlias, Decorative, Four Day Floral Display, TAFE NSW Floral</p> <p>HORSE Show Hacks, Junior Equestrian Showcase, Arabian Derivatives Ridden, Showjumping Section 3, Showjumping Section 1, Pony Hacks, Showjumping Section 2, World Championship Campdraft Round 3, Tentpegging Round 4</p> <p>POULTRY Schools' Commercial Egg, SHEEP Schools Classes, Handlers Classes</p> <p>WOODCHOP & SAWING Woodchopping & Sawing Competition, 500mm Veterans Handicap Double Handed Sawing Contest Final, 325mm World Championship Tree Felling Contest Final, Under 21yrs 275mm Underhand Handicap Final, 350mm Underhand Handicap - First Division Final, 250mm Standing Block Handicap Final, 300mm Underhand Handicap - Third Division Final, Under 21yrs Relay Heat 1</p> | | |

The Values We Share

The RAS & The Urban Gen Z Community

Much has been written about Generation Z. Born between 1995–2010, our “Next Gen” has come of age. Like every generation before, they have a unique perspective on the world, highly influenced by the major issues of the days-of-their-youth.

Gen Z are digital natives and social activists who reject profits-first retailer mentality and embrace diversity, authentic tribe community, and a save-the-planet priority.

Perhaps not since the 1960’s Flower Power Woodstock Generation, has an age-group impacted politics on a global scale like Gen Z.

Commercial Brands ask the question of how to reach a generation that looks past a label and past a price-point, placing their focus on the origin of the fabric, and the working conditions at manufacturing plants. They are brand-loyal, willing to pay more to support a values-based start-up or social cause they believe in. They love vintage brands, entrepreneurial influencers, Tik-Tok and Instagram. They are economic and social disruptors, and proud to be so.

At first glance, our urban Gen Z may seem to be the antithesis of a very traditional organisation like the RAS, which represents rural and regional agriculture. So how do these two communities, the urban Gen Z and the rural agriculturalists, stand together? The answer, interestingly enough, is easily! The Values Statement of Gen Z, most of whom are urbanites, is surprisingly similar to what a Values Statement of rural Australians might be: a focus on sustainability of food and community, the embracing of innovation and technology, a love of authentic relationships, and a push for meaningful, governmental policies.

These Values We Share are the essential ones—the ones that can overcome the demographic differences that unavoidably exist between age

groups, generational culture, political perspectives, and urban/rural locality.

The Values We Share are inter-generational bridge builders.

They form ties that bind rural and city cousins together, aligning them in authentic community, empowering them with joint vision.

SUSTAINABILITY OF FOOD & COMMUNITY

In terms of forging sustainable food and community, the RAS has long been involved with sustainable agriculture. The on-going mission since 1822 has been to serve as an influential force in the direction and development of Australian agriculture through competitions, education and events. This purpose served the first society members who needed to ensure not only the short-term survivability of the new colony, but also the long-term viability of the nation.

Looking forward to the future of sustainable food, which is the backbone of sustainable communities, the RAS is presently and actively engaged in these specific initiatives:

INNOVATION IN PLANT BASED & SPECIALITY FOOD PRODUCTS

In 2021, a plant-based section was added to the Sydney Royal Fine Food Show. The entries and Champions throughout the seven individual competitions all reflected the rise in both quality and market demand for plant-based and specialty

foods, such as gluten-free products.

In just the second year of competing as a category, Plant-Based Foods took the first overall Champion Medal with the “Shroomi Burger”, by Alexandria’s ‘Made by Kade’.

Gluten-free products have also significantly increased in popularity. According to grandviewresearch.com, the global gluten-free products market was valued at USD 5.9 billion in 2021 and is expected to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.8% from 2022 to 2030.

The RAS can attest to this compounding annual growth with the trend it has seen in its Fine Food competitions. In the bakery-section, gluten-free products stole the show! Wholegreen Bakery first made history in 2021 with its gluten-free Chocolate Éclair. This was the first-ever gluten-free product to claim the coveted Champion Pastry award. In 2022, the Waverley-based bakery again won the Champion Pastry award, this time with a savoury offering of a gluten-free pork and fennel sausage roll.

INNOVATION IN FOOD QUALITY – CONFIDENTIAL PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT & COLLABORATION

The Sydney Royal Cheese & Dairy Produce Show has a non-medal Research and Development category specifically purposed to provide confidential feedback to exhibitors on the quality of their product.

While all exhibitors to the Sydney Royal Cheese and Dairy Produce Show receive feedback on their products, they may also contact the Chair of Judges to discuss their showing. The criterion of judging covers all aspects of production from the packaging and product presentation right through to consumption.

Through these initiatives, the RAS continues both in its centuries-old mission to prioritise quality improvements, while also forging the



GEN-Z VALUES:

- Sustainability of food and community,
- Innovation and technology,
- Authentic relationships
- Meaningful governmental policies.

advancement of the agriculture-food sector. The specific inclusion of plant-based and gluten-free products, and the hosting of community/relational-based product development interactions, are ways in which the RAS and the urban Gen-Z movement may find a place together at the table.

SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION IN TECHNOLOGY—AGRICULTURE

The RAS also works closely with companies who are pushing the boundaries of technology in agriculture. Two examples are the “Air-Seed” and “Farm-Bot” innovations.

Air Seed is a drone-based re-seeding program developed to re-seed red gum populations that have been severely impacted by fire and flood. Using drones, not only is the ecological ground impact minimised, but also the drones have the capability to fire seed pellets at such a velocity that they are instantly planted deep in the soil.

Farmbot is an Australian agritech company providing remote monitoring solutions for the agriculture industry. These remote solutions are designed to solve water challenges and to safeguard the long-term availability of water.

For Gen-Z, who regard tech-innovation as pivotal for future sustainability and viability of

environmental issues, they will find in the RAS, a partner in pursuit of excellence in these fields.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO GEN Z VOICES – ENVIRONMENT POLITICAL POLICY INFLUENCERS

The RAS Foundation offers many different scholarships, including a Journalism scholarship. Officially it is the JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications, and while geared toward rural students, it provides the Gen-Z demographic a significant platform and net-working opportunity. Recipients to date have grown up in regional areas but moved to the city for university and career opportunities. They are highly vocal in the Gen Z demographic, bringing attention to environmental issues and the real-life, long-term impact of governmental policies.

AN EYE TOWARD THE FUTURE

The RAS celebrated its Bicentenary last year. Today it is looking to the future, to the next 200 years. It is with optimistic anticipation that the RAS embraces the Gen-Z community, both rural and urban, and looks forward to all the ways in which the two communities can align to support each other and to share a voice in the common values we share.



Interview: Lachlan Sands

Recipient: JB Fairfax Award for Rural and Regional Journalism and Communications

Lachlan, you are the 2023 Recipient of the JB Fairfax Award for Rural and Regional Journalism and Communications. This is a \$10,000 award plus a suite of internships, including media interning at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. What does this scholarship award mean to you?

Lachlan: Receiving this scholarship is an enormous assistance, and not just in financial terms but also through the development of networks that will practically assist in my career aspirations.

Journalism is a trade, and while I have greatly enjoyed my studies and the skills I have developed while at university, I know there is no replacement for learning on the job and putting those skills into action.

The pipeline for students to enter the journalism profession is not as clearly delineated as it is for many other fields, and this can pose a barrier for many graduates. The contacts I will be able to make through the internships offered as part of the Award will be fantastic. The financial component of the scholarship also means that I can afford to participate in the internship opportunities during the Sydney Royal Easter Show. I will also be able to upgrade my dated study equipment and undertake professional development opportunities.

This journalism scholarship is very specific in terms of being targeted

for rural and regional journalism. What is your particular connection to regional Australia?

Lachlan: My family have been graziers in north Queensland for over a century, so I grew up intimately connected with the land and the people who work it. I've lived in regional areas all my life, and my family is connected to regional communities in many ways, including as beef cattle producers, agribusiness consultants, equine breeders, and cotton growers. Because of this, I am very familiar with the complexities, challenges and enjoyments that come with a life spent outside the major cities.

Journalism is the trade of telling the stories that relate to the important issues of the day. What are the stories that you want to tell?

Lachlan: I am passionate about rural and regional communities because I strongly believe that they remain under-utilised and under-serviced. These communities have incredible potential to contribute to the country and its economic output, not just through agriculture but through clean energy, tourism, and manufacturing. Telling those stories and having them heard is one of my key career goals.

You have previously completed a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy & Economics, which you completed with Honours. Since then, you have been working in the public service. What is your career experience so far?

Lachlan: Throughout my career and studies, I have had a focus on rural and

I have returned to complete my Bachelor of Journalism at UQ after finishing a previous degree because I believe strongly in the importance of an independent and informed media corps as a pillar of our democracy. However, these important services are currently being diminished through cuts to regional newsrooms and a declining public trust in mainstream media institutions. I want to play a part in reversing those trends.

regional affairs. I have previously been a member of the RNA Future Directions Committee and have been published in several regional publications, including the North Queensland Register and Stock Journal.

Most of my research in my previous degree was focused on agricultural policy issues, including water policy within the Murray-Darling Basin and the economic impacts of drought relief policy. Additionally, my first job after leaving school was as a cadet rural property valuer, working across central Queensland in diverse country and with a broad range of stakeholders.

You have specifically returned to school to complete a Bachelor of Journalism. What will you do after you graduate?

Lachlan: I will be undertaking my honours year in 2023, with an intention to focus on innovations in regional journalism. After graduation, I plan to transition into a career in regional journalism or policy communication, with a focus on agricultural public policy.

Why is this career goal so important to you, and what do you hope to achieve?

Lachlan: I understand the critical role of journalism in connecting and informing people living outside metropolitan areas, and I believe that having journalists who understand the issues that matter to regional communities and can effectively communicate them is equally important.

I have returned to complete my Bachelor of Journalism at UQ after finishing a previous degree because I believe strongly in the importance of an independent and informed media corps as a pillar of our democracy. However, these important services are currently being diminished through cuts to regional newsrooms and a declining public trust in mainstream media institutions. I want to play a part in reversing those trends.

Importing news coverage for regional communities from metropolitan publications often runs the risk of homogenising or dismissing regional communities, when in fact they have incredibly diverse and specific issues that they want discussed, often concerning the impacts of climate



change, health, Indigenous issues and infrastructure development. This does a disservice to these communities, and it is something I want to rectify.

I believe I can use my existing knowledge in politics and economics, and the skills developed through my journalism studies, to be an informed

advocate for regional communities. Lachlan, the RAS is pleased to support civic minded people like yourself, and I can see why you were selected as the Recipient of the 2023 JB Fairfax Award for Rural and Regional Journalism and Communications. Congratulations!

Lachlan Sands is a Policy Officer at the Attorney General's Department, providing policy advice on issues closely tied to regional concerns. In a prior position as Education Officer with Queensland Parliamentary Service, Lachlan developed education programs for school students and public servants, liaising with Members of Parliament, schools, and stakeholders to deliver high-quality, large-scale regional workshops and events. Prior to his foray in the Public Service, Lachlan had already earned a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Hons Class I). He has now returned to UQ to complete a Bachelor of Journalism (Hons). Lachlan desires to use his existing knowledge and experience in politics and economics, and skills developed through journalism studies to strengthen his ability to be an informed advocate for regional communities.



Regional University Hubs

Universities are urged to invest in students to safeguard the future of regional communities.

For many young people from rural and regional areas, the choice between their education and their community is often an impossible one. Those who wish to pursue higher education to improve their career prospects are often forced to uproot themselves, leaving friends and family behind for the major cities. This trend, termed 'youth outmigration' by researchers, is well established and has potentially major negative consequences for Australia's regional areas.

Approximately only around one-third of these young people return to live and work in their communities.

However, there is reason for optimism with the success of initiatives like the Country Universities Centre (CUC) network. One such Centre was opened in 2021 in Roma, to service the Maranoa region, and it provides an excellent model for universities to invest in domestic regional students and give them greater control over their education and future careers.

Essentially, the CUCs are dedicated

study and learning spaces in regional towns across Australia, which enable students to pursue higher education without having to move to a metropolitan area. The Centres are funded through the Commonwealth Government's Regional University Centre program and are available to students enrolled at any higher education institution.

The Maranoa Centre provides wraparound support with study skills advisors, fast and reliable internet, and study spaces, while also creating a



collegial, campus-like environment for students. Maxine Thomas, a director of the CUC Maranoa board, says that the Centre provides a lifeline for students who might otherwise be forced to move away from their hometowns and livelihoods to pursue tertiary studies. "The CUC Maranoa has the potential to be a really positive example of how we can upgrade infrastructure in regional Australia to allow our young people equitable access to opportunities that urban students might take for granted", said Ms Thomas. "We hope that it will show that there are opportunities here in regional communities, and [for] young people who want to live here, they just need the infrastructure to do so without being forced to choose between their homes and their education."

For agribusiness student James Murphy, living just outside Roma on his parents' cattle property, the Centre has been life changing. "It's really helped me out a lot, because I can go into town and study and watch all my lectures without worrying about the slow internet at home or getting distracted," he said. "When I left school last year, Mum and Dad were a bit worried how they would go without an extra pair of hands around to help, because it's impossible to get any workers at the moment." "But now I can go straight home and help out, and I can

The Hub model demonstrates the benefits of investment in rural communities.

be there on weekends and still see my mates."

For some students, however, the university experience is not just about access to the internet. Michaela Jones, a 21-year-old Yirandhal woman from a cattle property near Charters Towers in north Queensland, currently lives in Canberra to study medicine. She says it's just as important to be around people doing similar studies and have face to face contact with tutors. "I think the [CUC] idea is really good, but for lots of degrees they're just not feasible when you need a lot of interpersonal contact with your tutors and you want to get the social aspect as well," she said. "I really wish I could have stayed closer to my friends and family and country, I think that would have helped a lot to have my support networks so close. "I think for rural women especially, it's so important that there is a choice around our education, and the only opportunities aren't two thousand kilometres away in the big cities."

Dr Ian Hardy, an associate professor at the University of Queensland who researches educational policy, says there is a strong social licence for greater regional investment. "Most Australian

universities are publicly owned, and therefore have a social obligation to provide for domestic students. There is definitely some scope for the government to place some conditionality on funding for universities, requiring them to be investing a certain amount in regional domestic students each year," he said.

Dr John Champion, Professor of Organisational Studies at the University of Sydney, said there was some ability for universities to have it 'both ways'. "With the skills crisis that we're seeing at the moment, it absolutely makes sense for Australian universities to invest in regional communities and help them to be upskilling wherever possible, putting those skills back into the community," he said.

There is hope that the continued success of the CUC model will demonstrate the benefits of investment in Australia's rural and regional communities. For a new generation of young people coming of age outside metropolitan areas, it will make the already-daunting prospect of moving into adulthood slightly easier if they will not have to choose between their education and where they live. ●



Woolworths Summer Trade Show

Combining goodwill with outstanding event execution, Sydney Showground and Woolworths recently joined forces to run the organisation's annual Woolworths Summer Trade Show and give back to regional and rural Australia.

Transforming The Dome, Hall 2 and Hall 3, the Woolworths Summer Trade Show welcomed 1,500 guests to take part in a 2-day conference, internal trade event, dinner and welcome event, while also generously donating to the RAS Foundation's (the Foundation) community and educational grants and scholarship programs.

As a part of Sydney Showground's unique incentive to donate a percentage of the venue funds to the Foundation on

behalf of new clients, Woolworths took this one step further by matching the venue's donation. In total, thirteen thousand dollars will be directed to the Rural Scholarships programs, providing funding to assist students in regional and rural areas to achieve their career goals through higher education.

Sydney Showground General Manager, Darryl Jeffrey said it is fantastic to see clients getting on board with the venue's incentive.

"Most people aren't aware of Sydney

Showground's history and connection to regional and rural NSW through the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW. So we decided to work with the RAS Foundation to create an incentive that not only gives back on behalf of our clients but also links to our organisation's vision and purpose," Darryl Jeffreys said.

"Woolworths is a very important client to us and one we respect greatly. They always deliver a strong event and reinforce their values in everything they do – from events to philanthropy." ●

What's on

AT SYDNEY SHOWGROUND | SYDNEYSHOWGROUND.COM.AU

Here are other great events on at the Sydney Showground. When you attend, you too are giving back to agriculture in rural and regional NSW!

JAY CHOU 4 MARCH

The Jay Chou Carnival World Tour celebrates Mando-pop King Jay Chou's more than 20 years of achievement in the music industry. This will be his first Australian concert to be performed at an outdoor stadium. With his return to the live stage, fans can expect a visually energising representation of his much-loved songs. G.H.Y looks forward to reuniting fans with a phenomenal live concert experience and celebrating Jay Chou's music together.

teglive.com.au/events/jay-chou

PALM TREE MUSIC FESTIVAL

10 MARCH

Sydney, get ready for the hottest festival of the summer as global DJ superstars Tiesto and Kygo hit Australian shores to headline Palm Tree Music Festival in March 2023.

With past events in The Hamptons New York, Cabo Mexico and Novalja Croatia, ready your crew and get set to make your own memories with this one-of-a-kind music event.

teglive.com.au/events/palm-tree-music-festival

WESTERN SYDNEY CAREERS EXPO

22-24 JUNE

The Western Sydney Careers Expo provides resources and information for tertiary courses, career and employment options, the HSC, study strategies, the gap year and much more. A feature of The Expo is the seminar program with presentations on course, career and study advice, employment opportunities and key HSC subjects.

westernsydneycareerexpo.com.au

SYDNEY CRAFT & QUILT FAIR

28 JUNE - 1 JULY

Australia's biggest and best craft events supporting all types of crafts and skills. It's an opportunity to see, learn and buy!

If you're into craft or would like to be, the fair is the place to see what's possible and to find the latest products for knitting, crochet, quilting, papercraft, weaving, jewellery making, sewing, art and many more crafts.

craftfair.com.au/wp/Sydney

NATIONAL 4X4 OUTDOORS SHOW

14-16 JULY

Following its huge success last year, the National 4x4 Outdoors Show is back 14-16 July 2023! Located at the Sydney Showground, thousands of products will be on show from the industry's leading outdoor lifestyle brands and retailers.

Off-road camper trailers, caravans and tents, new model 4WDs and aftermarket accessories, camping gear and so much more – all in the one spot. 4x4show.com.au/sydney

SYDNEY DISABILITY EXPO

4-5 AUGUST

The Sydney Disability Expo will link thousands of people with a disability to hundreds of product and service providers, as well as presenting a range of informative and interactive presentations delivered by industry experts.

sydneydisabilityexpo.com.au

SYDNEY'S ANNUAL WEDDING EXPO

6 AUGUST

Our Sydney Annual Wedding Expo is the largest Annual Wedding Expo in Australia, with over 120 vendors from the greater Sydney region. We love the local, creative and trendy vibe that our Sydney Bridal Expo brings. Full of colour, inspiration, fun and great live entertainment – our Sydney Annual Wedding Expo is an event not to be missed.

weddingexposaustralia.com/sydney-wedding-expo

DOG LOVERS SHOW

26 - 27 AUGUST

Love Dogs? Then join us to celebrate, connect and learn more about our best friends at one of the greatest festivals in the world dedicated to Dog lovers. Australia's favourite fur-festival makes a triumphant return to Sydney Olympic Park this August with more than 800 dogs representing over 120 breeds. Visitors are in for a paw-packed weekend full of action and excitement.

dogloversshow.com.au/sydney

2023 GWS GIANTS SEASON

GWS GIANTS VS ADELAIDE CROWS

19 March - 1:10pm

GWS GIANTS VS CARLTON

1 April - 4:35pm

GWS GIANTS VS ST KILDA

21 May - 4:40pm

GWS GIANTS VS FREMANTLE

4 June - 1:10pm

ADVANCE™
is backed by
Australian scientific
nutrition for all pets

Expert Pet Nutrition™ **ADVANCE**™



Omega 3 and 6 Plus Zinc

Enhanced levels of natural Omega 3 and Omega 6 fatty acids support a healthy skin and coat and help reduce coat scale. Other nutrients including high quality protein, Zinc and Vitamin A further support skin and coat health.



Fermentable Prebiotic Fibre

Helps support a balanced gut microbiome plus a highly digestible formula promotes healthy digestion, ideal stool quality and reduce stool odour.



Antioxidant Vitamin C and E

Clinically proven to increase antioxidant level. Helps provide a natural defence against Australia's climate.



Spotlight: **Craig Gile**

International Cheese Judge

The 2023 Sydney Royal Cheese & Dairy Produce Show is thrilled to announce the return of international judges! COVID affected so many different areas, including the ability for international guests and judges to attend events.

We were fortunate enough to sit down with one of the International Judges, Craig Gile, Cheesemaker, Sensory Specialist & Judge, from Wisconsin, USA.

On behalf of the RAS, welcome to the 2023 Sydney Royal Cheese & Dairy Produce Show! It must be an amazing job to work in the cheese industry, what is your favourite aspect about this field?

Craig: I am thrilled to accept the invitation to be here! My favourite part of this job is being able to travel and interact with so many cheese professionals because I have access to their vast amount of knowledge. Every time I speak to a farmer, cheese maker, cheese monger, or cheese enthusiast, I know I'm going to learn something new, from a new perspective.

You are a sensory specialist on cheese grading teams. What does that entail?

Craig: My career has been with Cabot Creamery, which is known for producing long aged cheddar, so there are always millions of kilos of cheese aging across numerous warehouses. Sensory specialists and graders evaluate the cheese every 3-4 months and assign specific product profiles. Each profile has an age range, specific flavour profile, and body requirements like slice-ability.

Research and development of cheese is obviously more than just tasting and eating and loving cheese. What aspect is a primary focus in R&D?

Craig: Cheese cultures and rennet are key to creating new flavours. A great deal of time is also spent on improving cheese body for specific cutting needs.

What key components do you look for when judging a gold medal winning cheese?

Craig: Understanding what the unique characteristics of a particular cheese should be, and what the body should look and feel like. It is also understanding which defects are common to that cheese type and which defects should remove it from gold medal running.

What Australian cheeses are you familiar with?

Craig: I was able to spend a few days sampling Australian cheeses before the competition to be more familiar with your offerings. I have tried some amazing Australian aged cheddars, memorable blue cheeses, and some of the best raclettes I've ever tasted!

If you could give one piece of advice to someone wanting to start a career in cheese, what would it be?

Craig: Try to understand as much about the different areas of cheese as you can. Each area has a world of knowledge that can affect other cheese focuses. Try to learn about milk production, cheese making, cheese aging, distributing

cheese, customer wants, and cheese shop needs.

And most importantly, what is your all-time favourite cheese?

Craig: I do not have a single favourite cheese. Luckily, I've been fortunate enough to try so many memorable ones, it's hard to just name one! ●



Craig Gile has been with Cabot Creamery for 20 years, a farmer-owned cooperative specializing in the production of cheddar cheese and cultured products. He is a quality auditor, cheesemaker, sensory specialist, and R&D team-leader. Craig passionately works with the American Cheese Society, Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association, and is a regular judge at international contests.



Making Tracks to the Show

As it expanded into the regions, the Railways played a vital but now largely forgotten role in the development of agriculture in New South Wales. In its heyday, the organisation touched everyone's lives as it moved goods, livestock, people and produce around the State. And the Sydney Royal Easter Show couldn't have done without it.

On the Railways, Easter Thursday was known as Black Thursday. Every piece of rolling stock in the State was pressed into use. Bigger than Christmas, the Easter weekend meant thousands of freight and

passenger movements into, around and out of the city as visitors flocked to the Show, and all the other holiday activities held concurrently. For weeks in advance, the Railways' bureaucracy was busy, sending out notices of special Show trains for the transport of exhibits,

advising of reduced fares, and instructing staff on everything from changes of scheduling to the provision and cleaning of extra carriages for stock attendants. Orders for the safe return of everyone and everything that went to the city were just as important.

WORDS VICKI HAISTRICH



For most of the twentieth century, the Railway was indispensable to the running of the Show, but the link between the organisations was forged earlier. In 1859 when the Agricultural Society of NSW revived to hold its first Show in decades, the newly opened railway to Parramatta was key to its success. Reporting on the occasion, the Sydney Morning Herald said the 'Sydney train came flying down shortly before 11 o'clock, at which hour the grounds of the Society... at the back of the Government Domain... already presented a very gay and attractive aspect, hourly becoming one still more animated and pleasing as visitors continued there to congregate from the metropolis – from Newtown, Petersham, Ashfield and all along the line to the east.'

The convenience of a line directly to the park, complete with a specially constructed landing platform, was highly praised; as was the Commissioner of Railways' decision to allow stock to be conveyed to the ground and brought back at a single charge.

When the Show moved into the city nine years later, the site of Cleveland Paddocks (later known as Prince Alfred Park) was chosen because of its proximity to the railway.

During the 1870s there was a clamouring from agricultural districts



For most of the twentieth century, the Railway was indispensable to the running of the Show

for the expansion of the railways so agricultural and mining products could get where they needed to go, and to facilitate growth, which was stunted for want of efficient transport. 'Build the railways to speed the plough,' became

the catchcry.

When the Show moved to its long-term home at Moore Park in 1882 there was no direct rail link, but a tramline run by the Railways was already in place. This was the first tramline to extend beyond the city centre and it tells us a lot about ourselves and politics in New South Wales to note it was built to service Randwick Racecourse. A balloon loop out to the SCG provided access to the new Showground.

On the Easter Monday of that first Moore Park Show 30,000 people packed onto trams. Cars meant to hold only 90 passengers had 200 and 300 people onboard; one car collapsed with the weight. Astonishingly the only casualty of the day seems to have been a wobbly drunk who failed to hang on. Exhibitors also used the trams, and it was not uncommon in subsequent years for dogs, cats, poultry or pot plants to ride alongside Showgoers. Most exhibits, however, were freighted to the Ground via the sprawling goods terminal that developed at Darling Harbour.

ABOVE Poster advertising the use of public transport to get to the Royal Easter Show, 1936. **MEDALLION** Royal Easter Show Services 1998, City Rail Commendation. **OPPOSITE** Visitors arrive by tram to the Moore Park Showground.



Families particularly loved the model railway displays that regularly featured at the Show.

Show trains with mixed wagons, vans and carriages were put together for each country line and carefully scheduled to allow for pickups of exhibits at stations along the route. Journeys of 36 hours and more were not uncommon. Cattle might come all the way from Victoria, detraining at Albury to reboard a NSW train, which ran on a different gauge. Though the Railways tried to look after the attendants who accompanied the valuable stock, the epic adventure was sometimes an uncomfortable ride.

In the early days stock was herded up through the city from Darling Harbour to the Showground, but in later times this last leg of the journey was completed by lorry. Stories of runaway steers and hair-raising captures down at the goods yard have become part of the Show's folklore.

Poultry and District Exhibit items were specially labelled for diversion to Central, where the Station Master would ensure they got to their ultimate

destination. Woodchop logs also came by rail to the Show – usually twelve railway truckloads!

By the 1920s motor transport was making a dent in Railway revenues and the Department began making direct appeals to farmers for continued support. In the RAS Annuals of that period, the Railways published open letters addressed to 'Mr. Primary Producer'. The few shillings that might be saved by road was a false economy, it was argued. In times of drought or flood the Railways helped out, shifting stock to safer pastures and back at reduced rates, or even for free. The Government accepted these losses as a service towards the future prosperity of the State; likewise, it continued to extend and maintain unprofitable lines as a public good, while noting that private land values increased for every mile a property lay closer to the railway. And only the Railways could provide cost effective cartage for the ever-growing

wool and wheat industries. The recent introduction of bulk handling for wheat required an enormous investment in infrastructure with construction of a network of silos throughout the State and new terminals at ports; modifications to rolling stock were also needed. As taxpayers, primary producers owned a stake in the railways and any freight paid helped reduce interest on capital. Furthermore, the Railways performed a broader social function, connecting people and businesses; in 1928 alone over 148 million passengers were carried, along with seven million items of general merchandise.

That year saw the winding-up of another initiative the Railways undertook to help the agricultural sector – the Better Farming Train. This was a kind of mobile agricultural college, a train with carriages fitted out with displays and staffed with instructors that went from town to town to spread information about modern

ABOVE Model Railway Exhibit at the Royal Easter Show 1959. **OPPOSITE** Non-Perishable District Exhibits goods were transported by train from all over NSW to Sydney to the RES.

The Railways: 6000 miles of track, 700 stations, 1160 locomotives, 300 passenger cars, 1400 freight cars.

scientific farming methods. The program ran for 18 months reaching more than 350,000 people.

When the Railways wanted to communicate with the general public, they inevitably turned to the Royal Easter Show, mounting tourism displays to encourage people to holiday by train, and putting on largescale exhibits to explain their wider operations. Families particularly loved the model railway displays that regularly featured at the Show.

The early 1950s saw the Railways at its peak. By then it was a behemoth, owning 6000 miles of track, 700 stations, 1160 locomotives, 300 passenger cars and 1400 freight vehicles. Two and a half million tons of freight from the country went through Darling Harbour each year, a figure that included half of Australia's annual wool clip. The Railways generated electricity in four power stations, not just for its own use but also for outside customers; it owned and operated metal quarries, telegraphs, testing laboratories, a laundry, a tarpaulin factory and a printing office. It also managed 52 refreshment rooms as well as kiosks and dining cars, serving over two million meals a year (it was even possible to order a picnic hamper for pickup when one arrived at a station). Mail and parcel delivery was another essential service connecting country to city, and the Railways had dedicated vans known as Travelling Post



Offices attached to trains where mail could be sorted and delivered en route.

To do all these jobs the Railways had a workforce of over 60,000, making it the biggest employer in the state. Comparatively, staff numbers today sit at around 13,000.

Though the importance of the Railways gradually declined, its close relationship to the RAS was re-established when the Show moved to its new headquarters at Sydney Olympic

Park in 1998. The old rail lines to Homebush abattoir and the brickworks were demolished and a new link constructed. A state-of-the-art station was specially designed to handle high-volume traffic and the safe and efficient flow of visitors – up to 50,000 an hour. All of them deposited right at the gates of the Showground.

Though there's no romance of steam as there was back in 1860 at Parramatta, the train still remains a big part of any day out at the Show. And we wouldn't be where we are now if the country sidings where weeds now grow didn't once thunder with passing locos. ●



Be sure to check out the Heritage Pavilion at this year's Show where there will be a display of 1970s and '80s transport.

For more historical information about railways, talk to the experts at the Australian Railway Historical Society or visit their bookstore <https://arhsnsw.com.au>.

The ARHS Archives is a collection of National Significance as recognised by the National Library of Australia,



Spotlight: Lynelle Smith

Head of Entertainment, Sydney Royal Easter Show

What do six-year-old girls dream of? Horses! Riding, jumping, showing - horses!

As a 6yr old, Lynelle Smith was having all these dreams, but not only was she dreaming about horses, she was actually showing them, as a horse exhibitor, at the Royal Easter Show - Moore Park, and she's been in shows and fairs ever since!

What began in those early years, continued through high school. In years 10 and 11, Lynelle helped in the Horse Section at the Sydney Royal Easter Show,

26 October 1986, she began a full-time position at the RAS as Assistant to the Horse Section Manager – and she hasn't left the RAS since.

Lynelle has worked her way through the ranks, leaving her mark everywhere from Assistant to the Horse Coordinator, to Registrar for Breed Societies, then Horse Manager, Livestock Events Manager (for all livestock), and even Special Events Manager. In 2003, Lynelle took up the position of Head of Entertainment, where she remains solidly at the helm today.

Lynelle has a sensibility about her that makes you feel comfortable because of her confidence. She knows what she's doing. This isn't her first rodeo. Perhaps it is that quiet confidence common to

those with horsemanship – what works with horses works with people too. She has a strong, steady approach, her eye on the goal, with a quick, friendly smile that instantly welcomes you in.

Early in her career, Lynelle earned the Certified Fair Management Executive certification and is one of only three people in Australia to have done so. And then, last year Lynelle did something exceptional, she graduated from the Institute of Fair Management (IAFE), in Indianapolis, USA, and is the only person outside of the USA to hold this degree.

It took Lynelle four years to complete the study courses, and then she waited two more just to walk at graduation because COVID travel and social distancing restrictions barred her way to

the States. This degree came after many years association with the IAFE, with whom she has travelled to Trade Shows for Artists and Unusual Acts since the late-1990's. In fact, her first connection with the IAFE was in 1996 when the RAS was building the Showground at Sydney Olympic Park, and Lynelle went to visit all equestrian venues in the States in order to come back and build the facilities here. The Horse Section Stables are apparently based on the prototype at the American Royal, Kansas City, and the Schmidt Arena was designed based on the West World in Scottsdale, Arizona, USA.

While there are event-oriented education courses in Australia, they focus solely on venue management, there are no degree courses in fairs and shows – educating how to put on a fair. The IFM course enhances the professional development of employees involved in the fair industry with training in areas necessary for operation of today's fairs, large and small. Courses include management, risk management, marketing, programming, operations, and year-round facility usage.

It was important to Lynelle to get this degree for several reasons, not the least of which is continued personal development, but also to be sure that the teams and departments at the RAS are still on trend with Fairs and Exhibitions around the world. Becoming part of a world-wide network has also provided an unparalleled avenue of support and collegiality.

Lynelle acknowledges that while the SRES is the biggest ticketed event in Australia, and ranks 17th in the world, it is small potatoes next to the size of events in America. The Texas State Fair alone draws 2.7million attendees! Even so, what surprised Lynelle, a lot, is that the processes employed by the RAS and SRES in terms of biosecurity and risk management surpass what even the biggest US-based shows engage. The rules and regulations followed by the RAS/SRES are not only up to speed with the rest of the world, they are in fact leading the pack.

When asked what her favourite course was, it became evident that COVID effected more than her graduation. Being a fairs and entertainment professional means that Lynelle works around people, a lot of people, but the isolation of COVID lockdowns rendered her, and her USA-



based classmates, very alone. In response to lockdown regulations on both continents, the IAFE added to its regular webinars and on-line classes, its "Thirsty Thursday Therapy" at 4pm on the last Thursday of each month.

Lynelle, however, was sitting in her home in Sydney, Australia, so she joined the "Thirsty Thursday Therapy" session, from her home at 7am on a Friday, with an orange juice in hand.

As COVID did for many web-based classes and conferences, it changed the nature of everything. Instead of simply viewing an on-line video, classes became zooms, and conference calls became more interactive--conversational, personal. For Lynelle during COVID, these zoom calls were the main avenue of interaction with other people and quickly became more than professional education, they became personal survival tools.

During the course of her tenure with the SRES, Lynelle has been in charge of decades of entertainment. If you ask what her favourite production has been, she is quick to answer, the 2000 Man from Snowy River production.

Performed in the main arena, it took SRES entertainment to the next level. Based on the movie (not the poem), using crack-riders and stockman (not actors) it deeply resonated with audiences who identify with the core roots of Australians living off the land.

With all these achievements, you might think that Lynelle is ready to sit back and take a break from education. Surely all

those early 1am and 4am Sydney-times to attend USA-based afternoon and evening classes would have been enough. But no. Lynelle is embarking upon a Graduate Program, another 4 years' worth of leadership, risk management and entertainment thesis courses, all to be published on the IAFE website.

Lynelle also represents the RAS on various committees, including as Chairman of the International Entertainment Committee (2020), and as Member on the Safety & Security Committee, the Agriculture Exhibits Committee, and the Annual Convention Committee.

It seems that she won't be slowing down anytime soon.

So, what drives her? What does Lynelle love most about her job as Head of Entertainment at the Sydney Royal Easter Show? Well, that's easy, she says, *seeing people leave the arena with a smile on their face*.

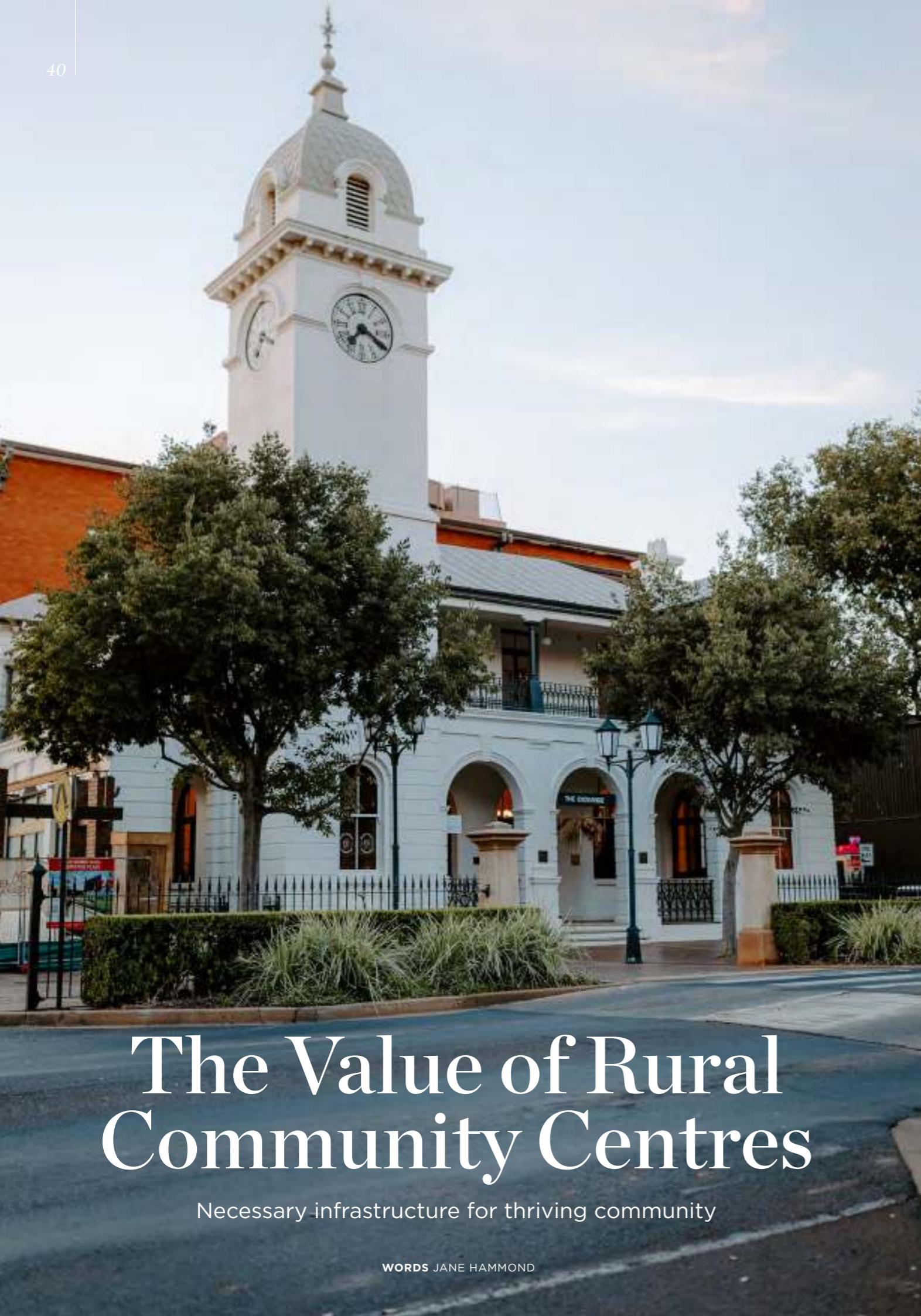
So this year, when you come to the Sydney Royal Easter Show, and enjoy all the entertainment along the avenues and especially in the main arena, as you leave the arena - with that big smile on your face - look up to the top of the stands where the control booth is, and wave your hands in wild appreciation, because that, I'm sure, will return the favour and put a smile on Lynelle's face! ●

OPPOSITE Lynelle Smith at the Horse Marshalling yards during the 2000 SRES Man from Snowy River Production.

The Value of Rural Community Centres

Necessary infrastructure for thriving community

WORDS JANE HAMMOND



Country town halls are a mainstay of communities across New South Wales. These humble buildings have been utilised by regional, remote and rural Australians for hundreds of years.

We've all seen them, the wood cladding, the casement windows, maybe a wraparound veranda and an accessible ramp. The quintessentially Australian building is an integral part of the community it serves. But often, to the untrained eye, they may seem to sit dormant like monuments to the past.

When day-trippers and visitors amble through New South Wales' quaint towns, can they truly appreciate the critical importance of the town hall, or do they see a remnant of a bygone era?

As someone who has lived in some of the world's largest cities and one of the smallest and most remote towns in Australia, it strikes me that not everyone is familiar with the town hall's unique role.

We're spoilt for choice in the city, and our style of living is comparatively convenient. Sure, there's traffic and congestion. But on the flip side, everything is at our fingertips. We have countless choices of where to eat, where to get our coffee, where to meet, and who to seek medical advice from.

But as soon as we leave the city, amenity and convenience dwindle along with the population.

In most rural, remote and regional towns, there'll be a bakery, a pub or two and, if you're lucky, a restaurant. But other than that, social connection is left to individuals to facilitate.

Rural communities like to congregate. It's essential to get together and share wins, heartaches, ideas and even jokes. Because when you're faced with another flood, fire or drought, each other is often what gets the community through.

For this reason, town halls have been the backbone of communities across New South Wales. As you drive across the State, the rural and remote towns are peppered with the all too familiar town hall. But some of these town halls have seen better days.

Someone who knows the importance of a town hall and communal space is Jillian Kilby. Exchange CEO and



"Rural, regional and remote community comes together for many reasons, and having the appropriate infrastructure is an integral part of the community."

Founder says she approaches life optimistically with the logical thinking of a civil engineer, the roll-up-your-sleeves attitude of a farmer's daughter from Coonamble, and an altruistic passion for driving change.

Her current business endeavour, The Exchange, is a social impact organisation supporting a diverse and, at times, geographically isolated community of members and founders. It provides world-class co-working desks, private offices, meeting rooms and event spaces in formerly dormant historical buildings in Dubbo and Narrabri.

It also facilitates much-needed networking events, educational programs, and sponsorship initiatives to empower regional Australian businesses, invite investment in regional Australia, and act as a hub for innovation.

Jillian also worked as a Director at the RAS Foundation ten years ago, delivering grants to communities who needed support updating their town halls. Jillian can still remember when she sat on the interview panel over ten years ago, and says it was the people she met who had the most impact.

"It was an absolute privilege, we often met passionate community champions who were seeking funding to bring their much-needed town hall back to life.

"How they described the importance of their town halls, reminiscing about the good old days when they enjoyed significant use was heart-warming. But it was heartbreaking to hear them talk about how the lack of investment in the facility had led to less usage over time.

"Rural, regional and remote community comes together for many reasons, and having the appropriate infrastructure is an integral part of the community. And I don't mean just any old shed, but a dedicated space that is comfortable, accessible and attractive becomes essential for gatherings.

Those who live in country towns know the value and benefit that public halls and community facilities bring to residents. But many people in cities may not fully appreciate and understand the

ABOVE World class working spaces and private offices. The Exchange, Narrabri, NSW.

OPPOSITE The exquisitely renovated Narrabri Town Hall, home to The Exchange.



Town Halls are crucial to keep the community connected and to foster a sense of belonging.

vital role that they play. These halls provide a central gathering place for residents to come together for events, activities and social interactions. They serve as an essential space for community groups and organisations to meet. They are also often used as a place for local government to hold information sessions and meet with residents.

In many country towns, the community hall is the only venue for larger gatherings. It is crucial in keeping the community connected and fostering a sense of belonging. However, many of these halls are falling into disrepair and require maintenance or upgrading.

Community halls are much more than just a building. They're a place for people to celebrate, socialise and come together. They can also be used in times

of emergency for purposes such as disaster evacuation centres. Or they can host important life events and much-needed entertainment and respite.

Next time you drive through regional New South Wales, take the time to stop in at the town hall, maybe think about how you could utilise the space, or take advantage of some country hospitality. ●



IMAGE Mattingly



COMMUNITY FUTURES GRANTS SPOTLIGHT Ungarie War Memorial Hall

At the heart of the RAS is the RAS Foundation, the charitable arm through which grants, scholarships and redevelopment opportunities flow to hard-working people and hard-worn communities.

The RAS Foundation's Community Futures Grant (CFG) program prioritises projects that involve the collaboration of townspeople and that deliver sustained, broad community benefits. The town of Ungarie, in NSW's Central West region was just such a recipient.

A small town of only 400 people, Ungarie War Memorial Hall is its only community centre. Despite surviving the onslaught of drought and the horrific mouse plague, the hall faced another battle with a leaking and severely ravaged roof. While a community working bee was planned to bring the town together and kickstart internal repairs to the hall, without a new roof, internal renovations couldn't begin. Utilising the support and financial assistance of the

RAS Foundation's CFG program, the Ungarie War Memorial Hall roof was replaced. Ungarie is now back in business hosting weddings, school groups, local Show societies and fundraising functions.



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What's in your Showbag?

Showbags! Showbags! Showbags!

They have been iconic to the Sydney Royal Easter Show for over 100 years, and still the question at the top of every child's mind is, What's in your showbag?

Lollies, food, toys, trinkets, games and mementoes – all the favourite things for kids and adults alike. But there's one show bag that has so much more.

When you buy the RAS Foundation's AG Bag, the answer to the simple question, What's in your showbag? – is: The Future of Australian Agriculture!"

#DidYouKnow every dollar raised by AG Bag sales is donated to the future of Australian agriculture through the RAS Foundation's Community Futures

Grants (CFG) program?

CFG is a practical initiative that fiscally supports rural and regional community projects and delivers strong community benefits. Projects that involve collaboration between townspeople and that deliver broad, sustained community benefits are the priority.

From updating community hall kitchens with new refrigeration systems, to providing new mobile BBQ's for local fundraising, rebuilding Show clubhouses and even re-roofing community halls, these Grants are making a real difference. Where once there was frustration with broken equipment, or overwhelm with flood damage, now there are smiles and renewed hope.

Enabling regional sustainability – that's the kind of real assistance that the RAS is all about!

Proudly sponsored by SunRice, the AG Bag is packed-full of product donations from generous Australian owned-and-made products. With more than 50,000 items packed into 2,600 AG Bags, this Showbag is a brilliant reminder of what can be achieved when we come together for a great cause.

There are only 2,600 AG Bags and they sell out every year! If you want to buy the Showbag that gives back and ensures a vibrant future for Australian Agriculture in rural and regional communities – be sure to get yours early.

What's in your showbag? The Future of Australian Agriculture!"



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Putting the *Royal* in the Royal Agricultural Society

The original strategic partnership

There had been 70 years of annual exhibits and shows before the “Royal” was officially put in the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS). Under the original mission to band together, to help each other, the Agricultural Society of NSW had been hosting displays of livestock and produce, transacting business, and exchanging innovative ideas since 1823.

The early years of the Agricultural Society of NSW emphasised agriculture and food provision for the emerging colony that was struggling to adapt to the new environment—facing worrying problems with crops and farming. Over the course of those first 70 years, the Agricultural Society of NSW became a vibrant community of agricultural leaders and breeders.

It wasn’t until 1891 that petition was

made for the use of the prefix “Royal”. Petition for the grant referenced that the Agricultural Society of NSW was, in fact, the oldest agricultural society in Australia. Then Governor, Lord Carrington, to whom the Petition was made, also happened to be Patron of the Agricultural Society of NSW. Thus, Petition was conveyed to London and laid before Queen Victoria. Confirmation of the Royal Grant stated *Her Majesty*

has been graciously pleased to comply with the prayers of the petition. When a formal announcement was made at the NSW Vice Regal Luncheon in April 1891, it was communicated that this hopefully showed the interest which *Her Majesty took in agriculture throughout the whole of the British Empire.*

The newly branded Royal Agricultural Society of NSW was encouraged by Governor Lord Jersey to *be the leading example to all other societies, and to make a duty in trying to set a good example and show the agriculturalists of this country what they ought to do.*

Ties between the Agricultural Society of NSW and the Royal Family began even before the 1891 granting of the ‘Royal’ prefix. In 1870, Queen Victoria’s second son, Prince Alfred, visited the Show in an unofficial capacity. Newspapers report that he was so impressed by the exhibition that he allowed his pet elephant, Tom, to be shown there for a period, “as an additional wonder for the public.”

Since then, the RAS and the Sydney Royal Easter Show have enjoyed visits

from the Royal Family on 11 different occasions.

Notably, in 1965 Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, was the first Royal to officially open the Easter Show. Interestingly, Prince Henry had been serving as Australia’s Governor General in the years 1945-47 but had never opened a Show due to the military occupation of the Showground during this time.

Senior Members of the modern Royal Family have visited the show in official capacities for three different bicentennial events:

Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and Princess Anne, Princess Royal, all visited together in 1970 as part of their Tour of Australia in connection with the bicentenary of Captain James Cook sailing up the east coast of Australia.

In 1988, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne officially Opened the Easter Show in connection with celebrations around the nation’s bicentenary. Most recently, last year in 2022, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne again officially opened

the Show in recognition of the bicentenary of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW.

The significant contributions and leadership of the first members of the Agricultural Society of NSW forged agricultural success amongst the early colony, ensuring its viability. Interestingly in terms of influencing other similarly-minded agricultural societies, the breadth of their influence reaches way beyond the borders of their time and beyond the borders of Australia herself, reaching all the way into modern Commonwealth agricultural societies.

In her speech at the 2022 Bicentennial Opening Dinner, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne confirmed that the concept of the Royal Agricultural Societies – Commonwealth, was born out of an idea advocated by RAS



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President Sam Hordern in 1956, and was wholly supported by her father, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

In recognition of the role the RAS played, the first overseas conference of the Royal Agricultural Societies – Commonwealth, was held in Sydney, Australia, which Prince Philip personally attended. He is quoted as saying that the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW “played probably the most important part in the foundation of the Commonwealth body.” Princess Anne now serves as the President and Patron of the RAS – Commonwealth.

The original grant of the prefix ‘Royal’ by Queen Victoria was then and remains today, an honour. It was perhaps one of the early strategic partnerships



The original grant of the prefix ‘Royal’ by Queen Victoria was perhaps one of the early strategic partnerships of the RAS.

that undergirded what has become an enduring, ever-present, grass-roots organisation purposed to ensure the vibrant sustainability of a nation.

As history has unfolded, the contributions of the RAS beyond its own state borders, reciprocally impacting the Commonwealth as a whole in the way Prince Philip revealed, is also an honour. Our inaugural Society members would surely be proud of the ongoing fulfillment of their early mission. The purpose of the early shows was stated as: *to educate and inform the people of the colony, and to come together to transact business and exchange ideas. Early competitions were held to excite in proprietors an ambition to excel each other.*

In her speech at the 2022 Bicentennial Opening Dinner, Princess Anne recognised the necessity for rural and urban community members “to continue to support each other.” Commending the Sydney Royal Easter

Show specifically, Princess Anne said, “The Show not only brings country and city together, but it also celebrates rural traditions and proudly showcases the Australian way of life, a way of life supported by the RAS for 200 years.”

As the Royal Agricultural Society looks beyond its first 200 years, there is much to be proud of and yet there remains the underlying purpose from the original mission: *to band together, to help each other.* The RAS is positioned with strength of vision and strength of new strategic partnerships to continue its vital mission to forge the future of agriculture and ensure the vibrant sustainability of our great nation. ●

ABOVE Prince Alfred’s elephant, Tom, at the 1870 Agricultural Society of NSW’s Show.
LEFT Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, and Princess Anne, Princess Royal, riding in the caleche carriage at the 1970 Sydney Royal Easter Show.



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