

RAS TIMES

SUMMER 2023 | VOLUME 21-3

**YOUNG FARMER
BUSINESS PROGRAM**
RAS Supporting DPI Initiative

GOOD TIMES
50 Years of RAS Member
Newsletters

**SYDNEY ROYAL
FINE FOOD SHOW**
2023 Champion Winners



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

RAS Community Impact

*It is Christmas in the heart that
puts Christmas in the air.*

W. T. ELLIS



MAKING A DIFFERENCE
RAS Community Impact

Primarily to the mission of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS), are the Sydney Royal competitions held at the Sydney Royal Easter

Show across animal breed, produce, art & craft, perishable cooking, and sporting platforms, as well as in the Wine, Dairy and Fine Food competitions throughout the year.

In preparation for this issue, I had the privilege of speaking with several fine food competitors who were always quick to say how impactful a Sydney Royal win has been for them. They enter Sydney Royal competitions so that they can benchmark their product against other producers in their respective industry in real time. The feedback they receive from our independent, expert Judges provides relevant and insightful guidance, which informs their future product development and direction.

In this way, the impact of Sydney Royal competitions remains vital and relevant not only to individual competitors and industries, but also to

consumers who benefit from ever-increasing award-quality products. The future of Australian agriculture, from farmers' paddocks to farmers' markets, is practically impacted and advanced by Sydney Royal competitions.

This Summer issue includes a list of the Champion Winners at the 2023 Sydney Royal Fine Food Competitions, as well as articles about recent initiatives and advances of the RAS Foundation, RAS Education department, and the RAS Youth, whose impact upon regional and rural agriculture communities is indelible.

Your membership and partnership with the RAS contribute to our ability to host competitions, to offer scholarships and grants, and to continue pioneering initiatives that bolster agricultural communities. As you read this issue, I trust you discover new ways in which your support is making a difference through community impact.

Elizabeth A Nixon JD
Editor, RAS Times
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



Elizabeth A Nixon JD serves as the Editor of the RAS Times magazine, and as Content Manager for the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW.

Elizabeth holds a juris doctorate law degree from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, USA, and was licensed to practiced law in both California and before the United States Supreme Court. As co-owner of a media production company, Elizabeth has been writing in law and media for over 20 years.

Having returned home to Australia, Elizabeth considers her current work with the RAS to be a highlight of her career to date.

Join Elizabeth on LinkedIn

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ON THE COVER

Daniel & Jane Maroulis, Owners of Boydell's Boutique Wines. Boydell's Vineyard in East Gresford, Cellar Door in Historic Morpeth, Hunter Valley, NSW.

In 1828, James Busby brought grapevine cuttings from the most celebrated vineyards of France, Spain and Germany to New South Wales. He established both a vineyard at Kirkton and his reputation as the father of the Australian wine industry. The James Busby Perpetual Trophy for Best NSW Wine at the Sydney Royal Wine Show is named in his honour.

Busby gave clippings to Charles Boydell and Henry Lindeman, who were neighbours in East Gresford, Hunter Valley. From those vines, Boydell's vineyard is believed to be one of the first in the Hunter Valley. Ruins of Charles Boydell's original estate home remain on the vineyard property today.

Daniel & Jane Maroulis have revived Boydell's name on their label, growing the same varieties on the same land as Boydell did in 1826 from Busby's European clippings.

Sydney Royal Winners three years in a row, Daniel & Jane's small batch production is emblematic of the difference a Sydney Royal win can make. Among other gold, silver and bronze medals, Boydell's won the Perpetual Trophy for Best Small Producer Wine, Reserve Chardonnay, 2021. boydells.com.au



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Vicki Hastrich is a Sydney writer, with a special interest in history and archives.

She is a novelist and essayist, and is currently working on a biography. The RAS has been privileged to have Vicki write for the RAS Heritage Department for 15 years.



Jim Pratley AM, is a Research Professor of Agriculture, and Foundation Dean of

Science & Agriculture at Charles Sturt University. Former President of the Australian Society of Agronomy, he presently serves on the RAS Foundation Board.

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new role. Also welcome to new Vice President, Mr David Davidson, who joins Ms Alison Renwick and Dr Mark Schembri, to complete our Council leadership.

The RAS vision is for a community that understands and values sustainable Australian agriculture and award-quality produce. This vision frames how we assess our previous year and plan for the next. Sustainability of agricultural production is vital to Australia's future, and we all have important contributions to bring to the collective table. I am proud of the various RAS initiatives that encourage sustainability, product quality and provenance transparency. I know the RAS has a lot to offer in this space in the years ahead.

As we wrap up one year and head into the next, I

A lot has unfolded already in my first five months as President. Thank you so much to everyone who has welcomed me with such warmth.

The RAS has wrapped up its end of financial year and related committee reports. This was a very informative process as we reviewed all the programs and initiatives purposed to engage both rural and metropolitan communities. I look forward to sharing the Annual Report with you, which will be delivered with the next RAS Times issue.

I would like to thank our previous Treasurer, Mr Grahame Sharpe, and the RAS Finance team for all their work in achieving a pleasing result. I would also like to welcome our new Treasurer, Dr Sam Walker, who has already hit the ground running in his

thank our CE, Mr Brock Gilmour, and all staff at the RAS for their dedication and commitment. It has been a pleasure getting to know many staff much better in my new role and to see first-hand the enormous contributions they make. Thank you also to my fellow Councillors and their families for their on-going passion and gracious generosity to the RAS.

From all of us here at the RAS, we wish you and your family a heart-felt Merry Christmas season and a Happy New Year! I am excited for all that the New Year holds, especially the 2024 Sydney Royal Easter Show!

John C. Bennett OAM, President
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Sustainability of agricultural production is vital to Australia's future, and we all have important contributions to bring to the collective table. I am proud of the various RAS initiatives that encourage sustainability, product quality and provenance transparency.



SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

PEFC: PROGRAMME FOR THE ENDORSEMENT OF FOREST CERTIFICATION
The RAS Times is printed on recycled PEFC certified paper.

PEFC certified wood and paper products come from environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of forests.

PEFC is an international certification programme promoting responsible forestry, which assures consumers that a forest product can be tracked from a certified, managed forest through all steps of processing and production in the supply chain by a Chain of Custody process.

In 1999, small and family forest owners from Europe came together to create a forest certification system that would enable them to demonstrate their excellence in sustainable forest management. 20 years on, PEFC is the largest forest certification system in the world.

Forests play a critical role for the global environment and economy. They represent some of the richest biological areas on Earth and provide food and renewable raw materials.

PEFC is a leading global alliance of national forest certification systems. As an international non-profit, non-governmental organization, they are dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification.

New RAS Councillors

The RAS Council is comprised of a highly experienced management team that works in conjunction with exceptional staff and expert industry-based Committees. The RAS is proud to announce our newest Council Members:

LINTON BATT

PIG & ALPACA COMMITTEE

With over 30 years of agricultural experience and an impressive business background, Linton Batt's extensive technical skill and experience span cattle, pig and sheep production, abattoir management, livestock transport and export, dryland and irrigation cropping, hay production, and feedlot-for-export construction and management. His hallmark enthusiasm, backed by government regulation and compliance experience in regard to meat production and export, make Linton a valuable RAS Councillor.

Joining the Pig & Alpaca Committee, Linton brings extensive state and national industry network connections from both his business background and his recent role as President of the Australian Stud Pig Breeders Association. Linton's understanding and active scientific interest in breeding underpins the core role of the RAS in promoting excellence in agriculture.

MICHAEL BULLEN

FINE FOOD COMMITTEE

With broad Chief, Senior Executive and Board experience, Michael Bullen brings significant experience in leading varied teams and working with multiple diverse stakeholders to the RAS.

Michael's professional career has focused on natural resource management, sustainability, commercial water, and forestry organisations. Michael's most recent roles saw him establish the highly successful Global Ag Tech Ecosystem (GATE) in partnership with SparklabsCultiv8 at Orange, NSW, and drive the initial work for the AgriBusiness Precinct at the new Western Sydney Airport.

Michael's expertise in developing business plans, annual budgets,

management reporting, financial statements, and establishing Audit & Risk Committees are important to the Councillor position. His focus on sustainability and how it can underpin future business operations and opportunities, combined with his experience providing strategic and policy advice to Executive Government, are of significant value to the RAS.

Michael brings his passion for excellence to everything he does,

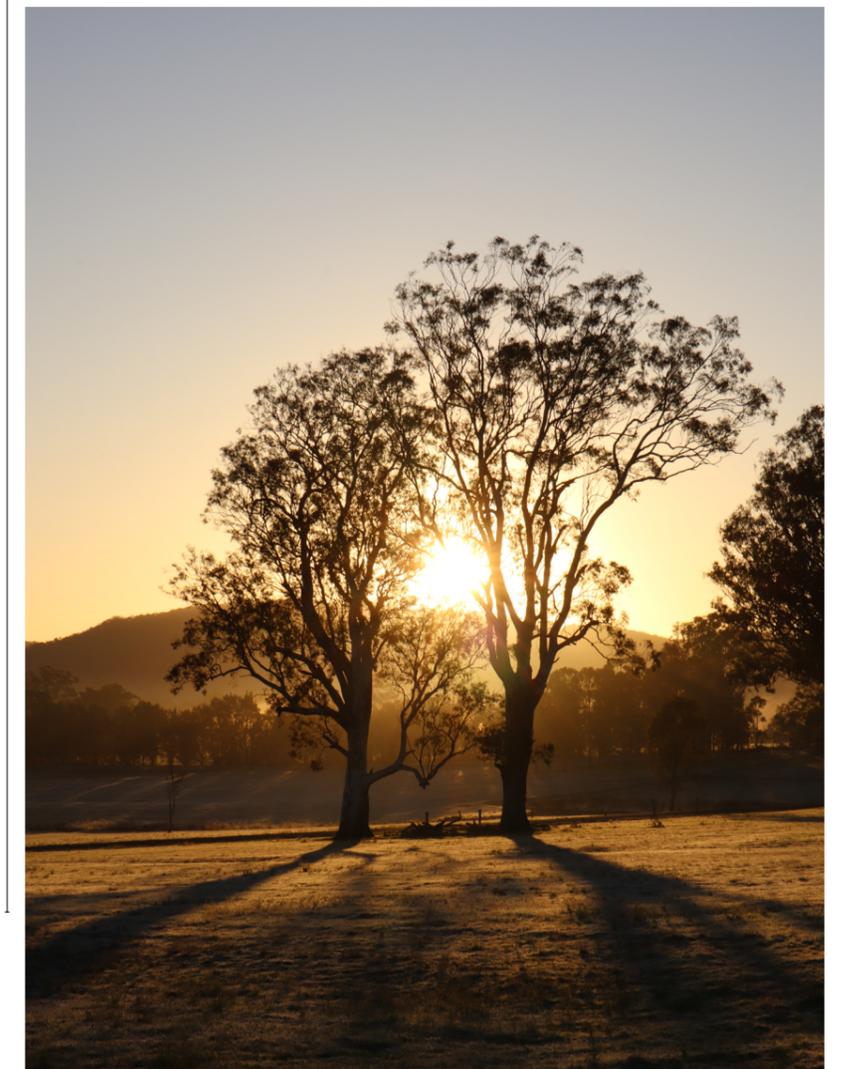
including serving as an RAS President's Medal judge for the past 9 years.

SARAH HANLON

GOAT COMMITTEE

From the Riverina in NSW, Sarah Hanlon returned to the area where she grew up after attending university to study Agriculture and Veterinary Science. She now owns and runs a mixed veterinary practice providing services to a large surrounding area. Sarah was an inaugural recipient of the RAS Youth Medal in 2022 and a Champion of the RAS in 2023.

Sarah has been involved in various competitions from a young age, from showing horses and livestock to exhibiting at local shows. Her affiliation with goats began in High School, attending the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Over the years she has officiated in many different competitions and roles within the goat section, becoming a highly valued member of the team. Having a long association with the RAS she understands its core values and brings a wealth of strategic insight to the goat section. ●





is lots of planning going on, lots of surprises in store, and lots of joy as we undertake our mission once again—to celebrate our uniquely Australian way of life, and to engage and educate the community on the core industry that keeps food on our plates and clothes on our back.

Agriculture is the industry sector that impacts all Australians and here at the RAS, we are committed to continue to drive sustainability and award-quality produce across the board.

RAS councillors, members, staff and volunteers alike, value the history and tradition of the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Many of us have generational family ties to show societies throughout regional and rural New South Wales and look forward every year to the family gathering and

tradition that going to the Show-in-the-City brings.

As you and your family gather around the traditions of the Christmas season, all of us here at the RAS wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you in the New Year at the 2024 Sydney Royal Easter Show!

Brock Gilmour, Chief Executive, Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



INTRODUCING THE MICHAEL ARNOTT PERPETUAL TROPHY

AWARDED TO THE HIGHEST SCORING DISTRICT DISPLAY Commissioned by the Agriculture Committee, and fashioned by renowned museum-piece and limited-edition glass artist Peter Crisp, the Michael Arnott Perpetual Trophy is an oval shaped glass shield featuring two-colour gold and platinum design, embellished with 31 Australian cabochon sapphires. The blue sapphires are set exquisitely in white pate-de-verre glasswork.

The glass shield sits atop a wooden stand, also forming part of the trophy, made by artisanal woodworker Scott Mitchell.

Thoughtfully chosen words engraved across the shield speak to both the essence of the District Exhibits and the foundation of Agriculture. Hidden on the underside of the glass, under "Display" is the depiction of a Jatz biscuit, Michael Arnott's favourite biscuit. A flourish of wheat engravings in both the glass shield and the wooden stand unites them with the harvest theme.

Mr Michael Arnott AM joined the RAS Council in 1986. A highly respected Councillor, he was Chairman of the Agriculture Committee that oversaw the District Exhibits for 13 years. Mr Arnott also served as Chairman of the Dome Committee for 10 years, and served on additional Committees such as the Rare Breeds Survival Trust, the Wine Committee, and the Scholarship & Education Committee. He has served on the Board and as a Vice President of the RAS.

The proposal to use Michael Arnott's name to honour this trophy was endorsed by District Exhibit volunteers, judges, stewards and Councillors alike.

Christmas is the time for family gatherings and celebrations. Full of tradition, it is a time of recounting together the past year and plans for the new.

Here at the RAS, plans for the New Year have already begun. There is a concentrated focus on the 2024 Sydney Royal Easter Show, scheduled for 22 March – 2 April 2024, and I can feel the anticipation in the air.

Planning the largest annual ticketed event in Australia has an element of anticipation that is very similar to the Christmas season. There

Planning the largest annual ticketed event in Australia has an element of anticipation that is very similar to the Christmas season. There is lots of planning going on, lots of surprises in store, and lots of joy as we undertake our mission once again—to celebrate our uniquely Australian way of life.

It's kind of a pig deal!

FIND YOUR HAPPY PLACE!



Mark your calendar!
The 2024 Show is coming.
eastershow.com.au





To Our Valued Members

Being a Member of the RAS means being a member of a community that understands, values and supports agricultural producers, agribusiness, and regional communities who are dedicated to sustainability, agri-technology and excellence in agriculture. We also take pride in promoting award-quality agricultural produce and animal breeds through competitions.

Your membership entitles you to a number of benefits, both during Showtime and year-round.

MEMBERS CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF:

- **25% discount** on entry fees and other transactions for select competitions and classes,
- **Exclusive member access** to the Members Stand, Members Dining, Bar and Café,
- **10% discount** on select catering outlets and stores across the Show,
- Opportunity to attend **Member events** at Showtime, and

- **Unlimited entry** for all 12 days of the Show.

IN 2024, WE LOOK FORWARD TO SUPPORTING OUR MEMBERS WITH:

- Opportunities to apply to attend agricultural seminars and conferences with the RAS,
- Complimentary tickets to events at Sydney Showground throughout the year,
- Young farmer development programs and events in regional NSW, and
- An expanded agricultural program for our school-age Members.

Our Members say they love being Members because it's "more than just the Easter Show", it's everything that the Easter Show stands for.

SAVE THE DATES FOR 2024

- Bookings open for Members Dining Room & Member events: **8 January 2024**
- Members AGM: **21 March 2024**
- Tyrrell's Member Preview Night: **21 March 2024**
- Presidents High Tea (Bookings only): **22 March 2024**
- Easter Bunny at Members Stand: **31 March 2024**

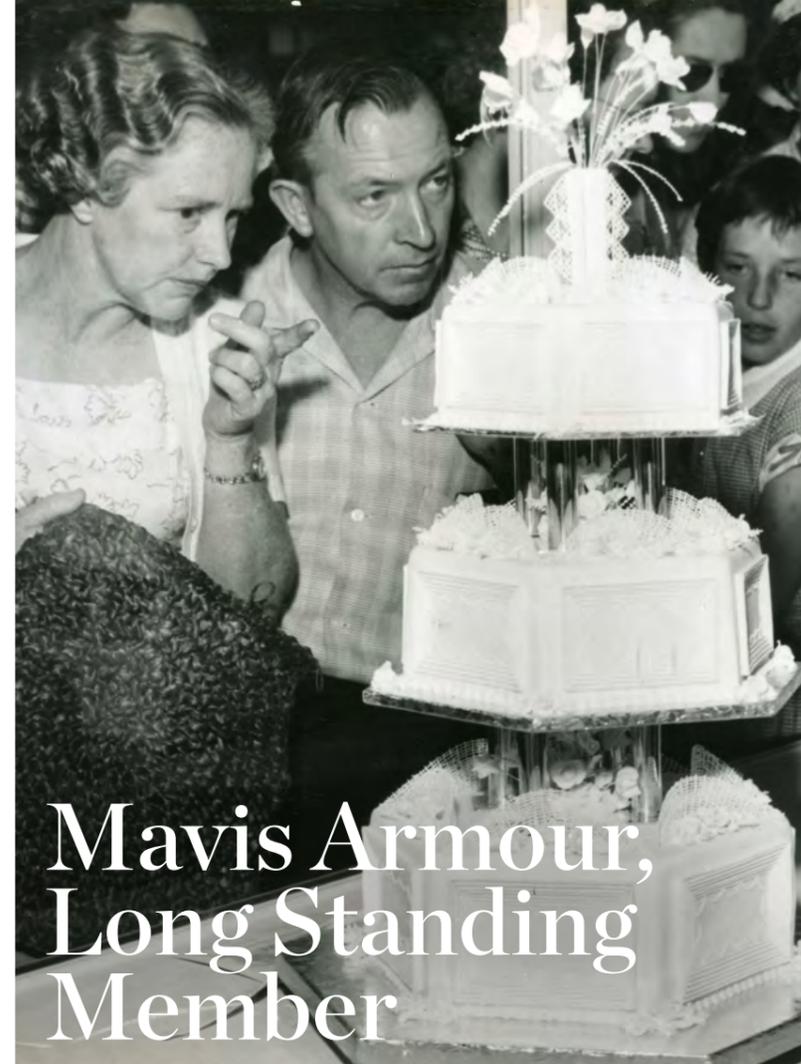
If you have not received your Renewal Notice, please contact the Membership Team via email at membership@rasnsw.com.au or by calling 02 9704 1144.

Your ongoing support is vital to all that we are able to do!

IT'S TIME! IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

We highly value you, our RAS Members, because your membership represents your heart-felt support and willingness to contribute financially to the iconic, on-going Mission of the RAS. You should have received your Membership Renewal, which entitles you to all RAS Membership Benefits, including exclusive reciprocal club benefits that are available, year-round, to RAS Members.

Full details of all exclusive reciprocal members' benefits, are available at: www.rasnsw.com.au/membership/



Mavis Armour, Long Standing Member

Membership involvement is a tradition for many of our families who, for generations, have been Show-goers and exhibitors. It's quite remarkable to be part of an organisation that has this kind of unique, generational involvement.

The RAS is just over 200 years old. That's impressive, but what is even more impressive is that for 73 of those 200 years, Mavis Armour has been a continuous RAS Member.

Mavis and her late-husband, Bernard, were married in 1950, and as soon as they were married, made their way to the RAS to become members together. From that day forward, the RAS has been an integral part of their family.

RAS President John Bennett and Membership Manager, Paige Cape, visited Mavis, who has recently moved to an aged care home. Of this visit, John said:

"I have only been President for a very short time but without question the visit to Mavis Armour is my standout highlight so far. After a 3 1/2 hour Board Meeting that day, it was a pleasure to re-focus for

an hour or so out of the office. Meeting with Mavis, I was reminded of our why—why we all do what we do as current care takers of this, our treasured organisation."

Just like all families, the RAS values the importance of family and of creating and sharing memories.

Mavis's memories of those bygone years are as sharp as ever. She can describe all her favourite sights, sounds, tastes and smells at the Show, especially the smells of the hot chip shop. Mavis still loves hot chips.

She talked joyfully about going to the Show, and it's the details that she can still see in her mind that make these memories so relatable, the Minties Stand and the huge tube of mint that was used to make them; taking the sample bags home to her children and then as the years went by to her grandchildren; sitting in the stands watching the cattle

parading classes, and of course the Grand Parade.

Her favourite memories are more personal and there's a glint in her eyes when she talks about her own experience exhibiting. Mavis loved to make cakes and had been learning the art of cake decorating from then-famous cake decorator, Dorothy Evans.

Mavis is immensely proud of her three Highly Commended awards for cake decorating. Frankly, she's just thrilled that someone else thought her work was good enough to even enter! Now, 55 years later, Mavis can describe, with meticulous detail, not only her cakes on display but also the other cakes around them in the cabinet. When you watch her talk about it, it's almost as if she can still hear what people were saying to her about her cakes at the time.

MAVIS ARMOURS' THREE HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARDS ARE:

- 1966, Class 278, Entry #2319** – Birthday Cake (Iced),
- 1967, Class 280, Entry #2928** – Wedding Cake, and
- 1968, Class 296, Entry #2475** – Christening Cake.

At 94 years old now, Mavis no longer comes to the Show, but her continuing joy is that her grandchildren and great-grandchildren do, continuing the legacy of creating the same wonderful memories that she has from all these years.

John Bennett said, "Hanging on the wall in her new room, Mavis's great-grandson's artwork is proudly displayed. Mavis thinks it's a winning piece of artwork, and we do too. We'll be sending her the Arts and Crafts schedule for 2024 and hope to see an entry from her grandson." ●



Good Times

Happy birthday to the *RAS Times*! For 50 years the RAS members' magazine has been keeping you – the Society's stalwart supporters – informed. Looking back over past issues is an education in change.

New magazines are always born out of optimistic times. And that's how it was in December 1973 when the first *RAS News*, as it was then called, hit members' letterboxes around the state. Just twelve months before, the Whitlam Labor government had been elected and with it came a great wash of modernising energy that surged through Australian society at all levels.

Reflecting the vibe, the first editorial of the *RAS News* declared it would be an experimental paper. 'The R.A.S. is a dynamic organisation looking to the future. Its history is one of keeping pace with change.' The newsletter would keep the Society's 10,000 members informed, but the conversation would be two-way, encouraging greater involvement and providing members with a forum to express opinions.

The *News* wasn't the first publication for members in RAS history, but it has been the most long-lived by a big margin. The first, the *Journal of the Agricultural Society of New South Wales*, ran over a ten-year period from 1868, usually at the rate of three issues per year. It too came out of a vigorous period as the Society reconstituted itself, full of ambitious plans for the advancement of agriculture. Having moved its operations from Parramatta to the city, the organisation was acutely aware of the need to keep contact with its far-flung members and bind them together, essentially so everyone could learn from each other. Importantly, the reliable

delivery of communications was at last possible, thanks to the recent expansion of the railways.

The *Journal* contained reports from the Society's various scientific committees as well as commissioned articles from experts, and in the letters section members shared knowledge and news of innovations based on their own hard-won experience. The *Journal* sought to become the most valued benefit of membership, thus strengthening the Society through increased subscriptions.

A membership drive was the reason behind the next members' publication in 1906, when the *RAS Annual* emerged. Council initiated the idea, but a newly appointed Secretary, H.M. Somer, was the go-ahead bloke behind the production. Somer was an ex-journo with great organisational skills, and his flair, humour and professional expertise is stamped all over the *Annuals*.

Less scholarly than the *Journal*, the *Annuals* still contained informative articles on diverse rural topics, but were designed to have broad appeal, and especially concentrated on providing a

comprehensive record of each Show. Packed with photos for members to pour over in the not unrealistic hope of seeing themselves, they were handsome volumes.

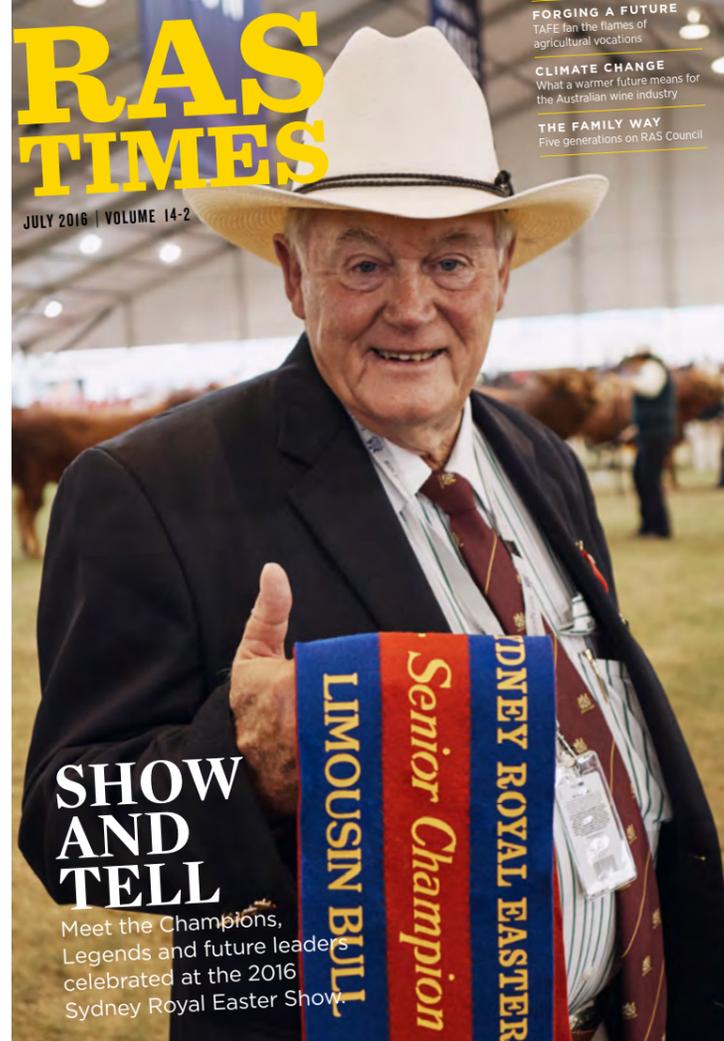
Somer tragically died in 1924 but the *Annual* kept going until 1929 when the economic depression saw it off. Faced with tough times, Council could not risk the high production costs.

Ironically another economic downturn almost nobbled the *RAS News* shortly after it started almost 50 years later, forcing a temporary reduction in pages, but nothing could dampen the enthusiasm of the 1970s: the appetite for change was everywhere apparent. When colour TV arrived in Australia in 1975 the impact was enormous. 'Colour arrives in '75', was the theme of the Show, but it seemed as if all of society relaxed and brightened. Accordingly, the look of the *News* changed and a groovy new orange logo lit up the masthead, along with pops of highlight colour on other pages.

Proudly the little magazine wrote about cultural shifts, noting the increased participation of women at the

Reflecting the vibe, the first editorial of the *RAS News* declared it would be an experimental paper. 'The R.A.S. is a dynamic organisation looking to the future. Its history is one of keeping pace with change.' The newsletter would keep the Society's 10,000 members informed.

WORDS VICKI HASTRICH





Show and the inclusion of multicultural elements. Increasingly, too, the beauty of the environment also mattered. Previously, most Showgoers had thrown their rubbish in the gutter as they roamed the ground. But now the *News* reported on a uniquely 1970s solution to the Show's staggering litter problem: get children to pick it up. Give them a bag, make it a game and reward them with a free Coke or ice-cream. 'Don't throw It, Stow It', was the campaign slogan, but picking litter up after it was dropped was the only way to get paid.

Throughout the '70s we can see the growth in leisure industries via *RAS News* reports on the out-of-Show events that were held: caravan and camping shows, boat shows, better living exhibitions and spring fairs all drew big crowds. This is also the time when the Hordern Pavilion hit its heyday. The *RAS News* gave members the inside info on upcoming concerts by acts like AC/DC, Jethro Tull, Suzi Quatro, Cat Stevens, the Supremes, and Frank Sinatra. And Paul McCartney. (Some things never change!)

In the late '90s the magazine went through a corporate-looking phase that mirrored the further professionalisation of the organisation's administration, but by the early 2000s more colour and a relaxed atmosphere returned to its pages. Then, after another makeover in 2003, the *RAS News* became the *RAS Times*.



The 1970s also saw the big issue of what to do about the decaying state of the Showground arise regularly in the *News*. Redevelopment was needed. Members were told of a plan to build a marine park on the ground; later a temporary casino was mooted. Rumblyings about a move to Homebush in the 1980s became deafening by the early '90s. The *News* played a vital role during this period, explaining the benefits of the move to members and introducing them to the new facilities.

In the late '90s the magazine went through a corporate-looking phase that mirrored the further professionalisation of the organisation's administration, but by the early 2000s more colour and a relaxed atmosphere returned to its pages. Then, after another makeover in 2003, the *RAS News* became the *RAS Times*.

From about 2007 the look of the *Times* has remained fairly stable – good design, plenty of photos and interest, with the same mix of Show previews, Show reporting and general RAS news. The move to Sydney Olympic Park was about looking to the future, but after 10 years there we finally felt comfortable about celebrating our rich past again, and heritage articles also became a regular feature.

Fifty years on since the *RAS Times* started, and 155 years after the first *Journal*, the mission is pretty much the same: to make the RAS members' magazine an inclusive, instructive publication that members value as an important part of belonging. ■



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Champions of the RAS

Serving behind-the-scenes and making a difference, year after year after year.

Being a Member of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) means being a member of a community that understands, values and practically supports regional and rural agricultural families and communities.

This community-centric vision comes to life through the heart and soul of those who work alongside the vision, making a difference at the individual level. Those who volunteer their time, their expertise and their passion to the common cause of Australian agriculture, are the true Champions of the RAS.

Being for agriculture really means being for the people in agriculture, whether they are out on a rural property, based regionally, or working in the city in agriculture-related industry.

The Champions of the RAS award is one of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW's most prestigious awards, recognising outstanding service and dedication not only to the RAS but also to the broader agriculture community.

These Champions bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the planning and execution of the annual Sydney Royal Easter Show. They serve behind-the-scenes, making a difference, year after year after year.

This year, the RAS selected fourteen worthy Champions to publicly acknowledge their long-standing commitment and dedication to their

chosen field, and to thank them for their generous contribution in helping to make Australia's largest, annual, ticketed event, the Sydney Royal Easter Show, all that it is.

Then RAS President Michael Millner said on presenting the awards,

"The Sydney Royal Easter Show is a celebration of community, drawing attention to the importance of Australian agriculture and the integral role it plays in our society. Through their various roles, our 2023 Champions of the RAS have become advocates for this too; dedicating their time and expertise to help grow the Sydney Royal competitions and their individual sectors".

Honoured at the special awards event hosted at the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show, the 2023 Champions of the RAS, and the areas in which they have served the Show, are:

BRAD WALKER

EAST KURRAJONG
25 years assisting the Australian Wildlife display. Longest standing reptile and amphibian judge in Australia.

The Champions of the RAS Award is one of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW's most prestigious awards, recognising outstanding service and dedication not only to the RAS but also to the broader agriculture community.

CHRISTOPHER TAN

COOGEE
29 years as an RAS Veterinarian, beginning in 1996 as a volunteer veterinary student, supporting the health and wellbeing of our most important guests.

DALE ASHTON

MURRUMBURRAH
50 years serving as judge, steward and exhibitor at the Sydney Royal Poultry Show, providing expertise to help grow the competition.

GEOFF BUSH

COOTAMUNDRA
46 years involved in the Sydney Royal Beef, Dairy Cattle, Sheep Fleece, and Poultry Shows, as well as the Rural Achiever program.

IAN LANCASTER

BINDA
12 years instrumentally involved in growing the specialised art form of saddlery in the Sydney Royal Saddlery competition; prominent supporter and



Judge of the Sydney Royal Arts & Crafts Show.

LEO BLANCH

WOLLUN
20 years serving as a sheep steward in the Sydney Royal Merino Sheep Show; involved in the sheep stud industry for 67 years having followed in his father's footsteps.

LESLIE & MAUREEN ROBINSON

BIRRONG
A passionate husband and wife team who have devoted 13 years to volunteering for the Sydney Royal Horse Show, assisting in the office and running the Horse Office Information Booth.

LYNETTE SKEOCH

SYDNEY
15 years judging preserves in the District Exhibits, which involves tasting and evaluating over 200 exhibits. Assists with judging the District Exhibits and Sydney Royal Wine, Dairy and Fine Food Shows.

SARAH HANLON

WYALONG
Involved in the Sydney Royal Goats

Show for 24 years. Began exhibiting Angora Goats with her school Show team before becoming a Chief Steward and Announcer for many of the Goat Competitions. Sarah was also awarded an RAS Youth Medal in 2022.

WAYNE MCCAULEY

JILLIBY
40 years total, beginning with 21 years exhibiting in the Sydney Royal Alpaca Show, followed by 19 years volunteering in the alpaca section.

WILLIAM WILSON

SYDNEY
10 years integrally involved with the Sydney Royal Wine and Beer & Cider Shows. Chief Steward of the Beer & Cider Show, ensuring competitions run smoothly.

ERIC WHITBY

ENGADINE
17 years stewarding for the National Honey Competition. Works tirelessly every year until judging is complete.

To all the 2023 Champions of the RAS, thank you!



GILBERT BROGDEN OAM

NARRABEEN
Of special mention is Gilbert Brogden OAM, who at 90 years of age, is our oldest Champion of the RAS! Gilbert Brogden's name is renowned in the volunteering community, and he recently received an OAM for his many years of dedication to volunteering and charitable fundraising. Gilbert has devoted 22 Easters to his personal mission of ensuring that the public have the best possible experience at the Show.



NSW Department of Primary Industries is maximising outcomes for NSW primary industries, the communities they support and the resources they rely on, both today and for the future



dpi.nsw.gov.au

18435 10/23



RAS Youth Initiatives

The RAS and RAS Foundation are proud supporters of the DPI Young Farmer Business Program.

The DPI Young Farmer Business Program (YFBP) is focused on enhancing both business knowledge and confidence for young farmers and fishers in NSW (aged 18-35). It has proven to be a powerful way for emerging rural leaders to join forces and pave the way for the future of Australian agriculture.

Paige Cape, RAS Manager of Membership & Regional Engagement said, "The RAS and RAS Foundation are committed to the development of our future agricultural leaders through education and networking, so we are very excited to support these unique and highly beneficial initiatives."

In October, the RAS joined 200 young farmers for two YFBP on-site workshops. First at Springfield Farm, Spring Ridge, NSW, where the young farmers heard from owner, Mick Hockey, about his experiences adopting technology into his everyday farming practices, including

water saving irrigation systems and wheat varietal trials.

In Wagga, at the Charles Sturt University Global Digital Farm, young farmers learnt of the latest technologies being developed for pasture management. Research Fellow, Jon Medway, took the group through a range of devices being trialled at CSU, including understanding automated livestock recordings from new technologies and pasture analysis using drones.

The group was also fortunate to step 2.5m underground to see the Rhizolysimeter, one of the largest root growth and soil water research facilities in the Southern Hemisphere, that explores the relationship between root development, soil and water dynamics, and plant growth.

The RAS Foundation contributed by providing travel and accommodation subsidies to RAS Alumni members, transport between venues, and supporting the evening panel discussion

where the RAS 2023 Young Woman Award recipient, Florence McGufficke, spoke on Data Driven Decisions.

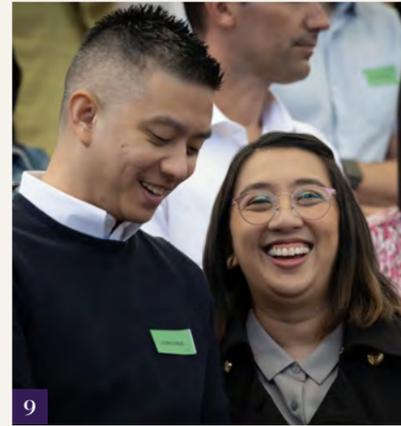
While farmers may already possess the practical skills to undertake the challenging task of running a farming or fishing business, the Young Farmer Business Program has provided more opportunity for those in the industry to develop the business skills and technical insights required, to run a successful agricultural business".

These thought-provoking networking opportunities for the next generation of Australia's agricultural leaders, are a fantastic way for Young Farmers of NSW to join forces and pave the way for the future of Australian agriculture. ●

Learn more about RAS Youth Initiatives at <https://www.rasnsw.com.au/youth-details/>



2023 SRES IN REVIEW



FROM TOP LEFT: (1) Volunteers Keep it Fun! (photo credit: Salty Dingo); (2) 2023 Little Hands on the Land (photo credit: Monde Photo); (3) Big Red (photo credit: Josh Nixon); (4) Kids Arts & Crafts Activities (photo credit: Monde Photo); (5) Stephanie Clancy, RAS Youth Group member (photo credit: Monde Photo); (6) All Smiles in the Sheep Pavilion (photo credit: Monde Photo); (7) Main Arena Crowds Cheer! (photo credit: Monde Photo).

FROM TOP LEFT: (8) Chair Swing Ride, Carnival (photo credit: Monde Photo); (9) 2023 Australian Citizenship Ceremony (photo credit: Monde Photo); (10) 2023 Young Farmers (photo credit: Monde Photo); (11) The moo-vers and milk-shakers at Dairy Cattle (photo credit: Monde Photo); (12) Carried away at Pat-a-Pig (photo credit: Monde Photo); (13) Sydney Royal Trophy (photo credit: Monde Photo); (14) Flower & Garden beauty (photo credit: Monde Photo); (15) Winning Ribbons (photo credit: Elizabeth A Nixon).



RAS Foundation Initiatives

Building strong, vibrant and skilled rural communities through scholarships and community development grants.

NUFFIELD SCHOLAR

Awarded by Nuffield Australia, the Nuffield Farming Scholarships are designed to provide innovative agricultural leaders with the opportunity to travel internationally, develop their skills, and connect with experts as they research ideas to improve their business and industry.

This year, the RAS Foundation proudly supports macadamia researcher, Leoni Kojetin, as part of the renowned Nuffield Australia Scholarship program by investing \$35,000 to aid her vital research that could advance the Australian Macadamia industry.

Leoni, a current industry development manager for the Australian

Macadamia Society, will be exploring the effects of climate change on macadamias, as well as sustainability practices from around the world that can provide solutions for Australian growers. Visiting macadamia producing countries such as South Africa, Kenya and Brazil, she hopes to discover new and viable practices that will allow Australian macadamias to be more competitive on the international market.

RAS Foundation Manager, Cecilia Logan says the Foundation is delighted to continue to help fund such important research. "The RAS Foundation focuses on investing in people and projects in regional and rural areas. As our world

continues to change and exporters are consistently dealing with external pressures, research like Leoni's is vital to the advancement of the industry."

"I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to be able to pursue solutions for our industry and would like to thank the RAS Foundation for supporting me in this Nuffield scholarship."

Leoni Kojetin, 2024 Nuffield Scholar.

STAND TALL

Stand Tall is the largest youth event of its kind in Australia, in which student cohorts from a range of schools (generally years 8 to 11), gather at the ICC Sydney Theatre to hear messages of



hope from speakers who have either faced major adversities, or who set themselves incredible goals and have gone on to great accomplishments.

This past year, 44 students from Mount Austin High School, Wagga Wagga, were supported by the RAS Foundation to attend the Stand Tall Australia event in June.

One student commented that the event was "life changing" and "gave him hope" for the future. Another stated that Stand Tall speaker Michael Crossland significantly impacted her life, reminding her that she is capable and worthy even with her mental health battles.

This was the first time many of these students had ever been to Sydney, so they were given the opportunity to visit the Opera House, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and even enjoy Vivid.

The students were also able to tour Sydney Showground and attend a workshop that provided information about the RAS Foundation's scholarships available for rural and regional students, how to pursue career pathways into Agriculture, and the various opportunities agriculture brings young people. They also eagerly learned of the work opportunities for them at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

GOOD360 CHRISTMAS DISTRIBUTION

The RAS Foundation was proud to partner again with Good360 Australia and the Agricultural Societies Council of NSW (ASC) for the annual Christmas Distribution.

On Friday, 13 October, the RASF team, along with two RAS volunteers, two AgShows NSW volunteers, and a Good360 representative, picked and packed 20 pallets of Christmas toys, books and useful items for show societies, including 10-litre urns, new glassware, RAS wine glasses, and curtain fabric.

In all, over \$120,000* worth of items was delivered for 20 show societies on the south coast and tablelands areas, including: Albion Park, Bemboka,



Queanbeyan, Cooma, Braidwood, Nimmitabel, Taralga, Eurobodalla, Batlow, Tumut, Bega, Milton, Cobargo, Camden, Dalgety, Moss Vale, Nowra, Robertson, Bombala and Canberra. (*Funds used for this project are raised through events hosted annually by the RAS Foundation at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.)

Show societies use the toys and books for distribution at local Christmas events, often in coordination with local Lions Clubs, Rural Fire Services, Women's and Children Resource Centres, Homelessness Support Services, and other local charities that assist families in need. Each society extended their heartfelt thanks to the RAS Foundation for such practical and generous support, especially at this time of year.

This is the 6th year the RAS Foundation has organised this initiative, and during that time has brought Christmas cheer to 158 rural and regional showgrounds and community halls in NSW.

COMMUNITY FUTURES GRANTS

The RAS Foundation provides funding, up to \$25,000, to support vital projects that deliver strong community benefits in rural and regional NSW. Past grant recipients have been able to build new community playgrounds, gardens and workshops, enabled long-overdue upgrades of shared facilities including showgrounds, and vital restorations of community halls and kitchens. This work enables rural communities to thrive and become independently sustainable for years to come.

The RAS Foundation invites ideas that deliver strong community benefits and result in enhanced economic and social outcomes for rural communities. Projects that involve collaboration between townspeople, and that deliver broad, sustained community benefits are highly regarded. Both small and ambitious projects are welcome to apply. For more details, go to www.rasnsw.com.au/CFG



UPDATE: EUGOWRA COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Since the devastating 2022 floods, described as an inland tsunami, that resulted in a total loss for the Eugowra Community Children's Centre (ECCC), the ECCC has been operating at a reduced capacity from the Eugowra Public School. However, in the next month they are hoping to open their new temporary centre at the Eugowra Showground. This will be their temporary home for the next 3-6 years and will allow them the extra space to return to pre-flood enrolment capacity.

The RAS Foundation's "Help us Help Eugowra Community Children's Centre" fundraiser in the lead-up to the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show and at the RAS Foundation Charity Brunch hosted at the Show, raised over \$58,000 for new playground equipment, shade structures and educational play items for the children of ECCC.

To join the RAS Foundation in supporting more projects like ECCC, or to be part of the RAS Foundation's support of rural communities through scholarships and grants, you can donate here:





The Agri-Tech Revolution

The big picture in agriculture right now is that we are on the leading edge of a technological frontier. The agri-tech-frontier is a reference to the big data innovation, which for all intents and purposes is equal in scope and effect to the Industrial Revolution.

While the Industrial Revolution impacted the mechanical way in which operations were carried out, the new Agri-Tech Revolution impacts the digital way in which we manage how operations are carried out.

The radical exponential growth of information-based technology innovation, as it applies to agriculture, is as near a revolution as we have seen in our lifetime.

Information-based technology is coined by industry as “big data” and it is the driver of the revolutionary ability for deep-dive operations analysis. It has significant impact because big data reveals patterns and trends, and is especially useful in forecasting. This availability of big data facilitates a higher level of management—the mantra of “if you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it” is ever true. Today’s farmers have more data for use in management than ever before.

This kind of technology gives agriculture the ability to track real-time data and forecast scenarios, which is a real game changer in farming practices. Practical elements such as rainfall patterns, stock movement, fertiliser needs and soil characteristics can now all be managed by technology, with smart-phone apps delivering the data directly into the hands of farmers.

Big data’s tracking ability also offers supply chain efficiency through tracking and optimising delivery needs. This

benefits not only the farmer’s ability to efficiently get product to market but also it fulfills the consumer attraction to the paddock-to-plate experience. Consumers have developed a heightened interest in knowing where their food comes from, and trends show that consumers love to support farmers and small batch producers who provide provenance transparency. Agri-tech affords granular-level provenance data beneficial to farmer, supply chain and end-user alike.

The pace at which the agri-tech frontier is revolutionising agriculture means that there are more jobs in agri-tech than there are people to fill the roles.

Professor Jim Pratley, AM, is a Research Professor of Agriculture, who has held various academic positions at Charles Sturt University since 1972. He was Foundation Dean of Science and Agriculture from 1990 until 2006 when he was accorded Emeritus Professor of the University. He completed a Ministerial Review into Agricultural Education and Training in NSW (2012-2013) and is a former President of the Australian Society of Agronomy. He presently serves on the RAS Foundation Board.

In a recent interview, Professor Pratley told me that the current needs for agriculture graduates to fill the positions available right now are 1,000 per year across the metropolitan areas of Australia. The daunting reality is that there aren’t even that many agriculture graduates annually across the whole country.

HERE IS A SLICE OF THE CONVERSATION I RECENTLY HAD WITH PROFESSOR PRATLEY:

Q: Professor Pratley, there is a national conversation happening around agriculture and technology. Can you shed some light on what the primary issues are right now?

A: It is well understood in the agriculture communities across Australia that there are more jobs than there are people to fill them. And it’s not just for on-farm-jobs that are traditionally associated with agriculture.

There are 7 jobs for every graduate in what would be considered the retail-end of agriculture, the companies that service agriculture such as processing and national distributors of ag products (machinery, equipment, fencing,



herbicides, fertilisers, etc.).

Further, there is a massive demand within service institutions, such as banking and finance, and the international marketing scene.

As for the agri-tech sector itself, more than 100 jobs in the past year were advertised. There are jobs available in every area of interest, from ag-centric sectors such as agronomy and livestock specialists to ag-related industries of marketing and education. Especially education.

Q: What is it about agriculture education that is critical right now?

A: In Australia nationally, there is a shortage of agriculture-trained teachers. In fact, there are over 100 vacancies with not enough agriculture-trained or trainee teachers in the system to fill the vacancies.

Q: When you say, “agriculture-trained teachers” what is that referring to?

A: Right now, across the country, we depend on many teachers who have little to no training or education background in agriculture. These

may be the math teachers, sport teachers and science teachers as well as primary school teachers. I am so grateful for these teachers who are willing to step outside their particular expertise. They are important right now for the future of agriculture and for the future agriculture leaders that we need to encourage. Fortunately, they are able to call on the resource and professional development programs provided by the Primary Industries Education Foundation of Australia (PIEFA) and the RAS Education Programs. But we really need to equip our schools with the right resources and key to those resources are agriculture educated teachers.

Many of us as adults can look back on our formative school years and point to particular teachers who inspired us and whom we consider to be the catalyst to our success. They may be the very reason why we pursued a particular course in life.

Where we have teachers whose primary focus in education, and whose passion beyond the classroom, is for agriculture (in its broadest sense), we will be able



who do this and they are always willing to share their experiences and expertise.

Q: That is such an important understanding, and leads me to my next question. The RAS Foundation, of which you are a Board Member, has just launched a brand-new scholarship that seeks to target people who already have an agriculture related degree, but who may be ready for a change. Someone who wants to pursue a passion for teaching, or someone who is already in agriculture but may be looking for a career pivot.

Can you talk to me about this Scholarship?

A: Of course, it's the RAS FOUNDATION MASTER OF TEACHING SCHOLARSHIP FOR AGRICULTURE GRADUATES.

There is a big opportunity right now for those with a passion for agriculture to grab this vision to be the kind of teacher who can make a difference.

The goal of this scholarship is to

target agriculture graduates who are committed to their local, rural communities, and who have an interest in either being re-skilled in education or who are ready for a career pivot, still within agriculture but perhaps from a new position.

Q: Professor, thank you for shedding light on this issue and for introducing the new RAS Foundation scholarship. It is an important scholarship initiative. Can I ask the difficult question though, is it achievable to meet the agriculture educator needs across the country?

A: Absolutely yes. The system is in place, we just need the teachers to fill the roles. It is my hope that by casting the vision and by providing the practical assistance through financial, mentorship and practicum placement opportunities available through the Master of Teaching for Ag Graduates Scholarship, that we can take a meaningful step in the right direction. ●

to inspire students into agriculture careers, where they can make a real difference in the sector as agents of change. Agriculture is undergoing a major transformation, and the emerging generation of agriculturalists will be driving that evolution.

Our students need teachers who will inspire them about agriculture. We do have teachers in the system

FOSTERING THE FUTURE OF AG EDUCATION!

The RAS Foundation Master of Teaching for Ag Graduates Scholarships provide \$10,000 in financial support, mentorship and practicum placement.

If you are passionate about agriculture and are keen to mentor young minds to nurture the future of NSW agriculture; or want to become reskilled in agricultural education and pass on your knowledge to future generations, then we are looking for you!

All you need to apply is an Ag-related degree and a desire to be part of building a strong and committed teaching workforce, purposed to raise the skill level in agricultural education, fostering the long-term sustainability of our land.

Scan the QR code to find out more about the RAS Foundation Master of Teaching Scholarship program.



2024 SYDNEY ROYAL COMPETITION ENTRY DATES

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO ENTER THE PRESTIGIOUS SYDNEY ROYAL COMPETITIONS.

COMPETITION	ENTRIES OPEN	ENTRIES CLOSE*
SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW		
Sydney Royal Arts & Crafts Show	Mid Nov 2023	17 Jan 2024
Sydney Royal Aviary Bird Show	Early Jan 2024	31 Jan 2024
Sydney Royal Cattle Show • Purebred Steer & Carcase • Elders Sydney Royal Beef Cattle Show • Trade Hoof & Carcase • Dairy	Late Nov 2023	7 Feb 2024
ADVANCE™ Sydney Royal Dog Show	Late Nov 2023	7 Feb 2024
Sydney Royal Flower & Garden Show	Early Jan 2024	14 Feb 2024
Sydney Royal Goat Show • Angora & Mohair • Boer • Dairy	Early Dec 2023	31 Jan 2024
Sydney Royal Horse Show • Breeds, Hacks, Leading Rein, Harness & Riding • Pony Club • World Championship Campdraft • Wrangler Federation Rodeo Challenge • Showjump	Late Oct 2023	29 Nov 2023 10 Jan 2024 17 Jan 2024 17 Jan 2024 31 Jan 2024
Sydney Royal National Honey Show	Mid Nov 2023	17 Jan 2024
Sydney Royal Pig Show	Mid Dec 2023	7 Feb 2024
Sydney Royal Poultry & Pigeon Show	Early Jan 2024	7 Feb 2024
Sydney Royal Sheep & Fleece Show • Meat and Dual Purpose • Merino • Fleece	Early Dec 2023	31 Jan 2024 31 Jan 2024 14 Feb 2024
Sydney Royal Woodchopping & Sawing Competition	Early Nov 2023	30 Nov 2023
RAS and RAS AgShows NSW Young Judges	Early Dec 2023	Various
WINE, DAIRY & FINE FOOD SHOWS		
Sydney Royal Fine Food Shows • Aquaculture: Sydney Rock Oysters Only • Fine Food Show	Early Jan 2024 Late Apr 2024	7 Feb 2024 Mid Jun 2024
Sydney Royal Wine Show	Mid Apr 2024	Mid May 2024
Sydney Royal Distilled Spirits Show	Late Apr 2024	Late May 2024
Sydney Royal Beer & Cider Show	Early May 2024	Late May 2024
Sydney Royal Cheese & Dairy Produce Show	Sep 2024	Oct 2024

Information is correct at time of print.

*Indicates the main closing date for the Competition. Excludes closing dates for associated Competitions or those that normally close during Show, including but not limited to Paraders, Handlers, RAS Beef Youth Show, RAS Heifer Fitting Challenge, Dairy Cattle Youth Competitions, Flower & Garden cut flower session closing dates, National Floral Designer Comp, and Young Judges.

For the most up to date information or to apply online visit www.rasnsw.com.au/competitions



Sydney Royal: Taste the Difference!

Fostering Innovation and Rewarding Excellence

Sydney Royal Competitions are some of the most prestigious competitions in Australia, driving the future sustainability and product quality of Australian agriculture higher and higher, for the benefit of all Australians for generations to come.

The Sydney Royal Wine, Beer & Cider, Cheese & Dairy Produce, and Fine Foods Shows take pride in recognising commercial producers who capture the essence of their regions, and who provide consumers with a showcase of the best Australia has on offer.

The 2023 Sydney Royal Fine Food Show hosted competitions for Aquaculture, Oil & Olives, Pasta, Branded Meat, Smallgoods & Charcuterie, Professional Bakery and Specialty Foods, with 1300 entries in total across all competitions.

These competitions hold great prestige in the industry due to the prominent calibre of the national and international judges. Judging panels include experts with academic and technical credentials, farmers, end users, chefs and food-media personalities.

The entries are judged by this rigorous panel, with products judged individually, not against each other. This means that every item is tasted and examined to determine if it is bronze, silver, gold or champion worthy.

This is the protocol that provides entrants with the highly desirable opportunity to benchmark their product and give them broad exposure within their particular niche industry. For small batch producers, this is an unparalleled opportunity to be judged on a level playing field alongside the big-guns in their industry.

Entrants also benefit from individual feedback provided by judges, to both winners and first-timers alike. As a result, entrants can take on real-time, market-relevant expert advice that provides vital guidance toward the continual improvement and innovation of their product. In this way, there is a shared effort from producers and judges to strive to drive Australian produce award-quality levels higher and higher.

Daniel & Jane Maroulis of Boydell's Boutique Wines in the Hunter Valley have won at the Sydney Royal Wine Show several years in a row, including the Trophy for Best Small Producer, Wine, for their 2021 Reserve Chardonnay.



These competitions hold great prestige in the industry due to the prominent calibre of the national and international judges.

During a recent conversation, Jane shared “winning at the Wine Show has really lifted our label, it’s given a legitimacy to what we produce.” She also readily encourages other small producers to enter, acknowledging, “it’s a hard slog selling and marketing your product, particularly up against some other labels that have a much bigger marketing budget than you might.” With some heartfelt emotion, Jane talks about winning at the Show as being “a really amazing way, an efficient way, and a rewarding way to be able to get those accolades to be able to lift your product.”

This year’s world-class competitions saw a huge number of Officials presiding, with Lachlan Bowtell serving as the Fine Food Committee Chair, and six Chairs of Judges steering the judges

and stewards, all of whom work in a volunteer capacity. The RAS could not deliver the Show without their commitment and expertise. Medals awarded saw 182 Gold, 435 Silver, 350 Bronze and 32 exclusive Champions.

A Sydney Royal win is a recognisable mark of distinction that consumers can rely on for the best Australian grown and made produce.

- Showcasing the best of rural regions
- Discovering brands in a small batch setting
- Leveraging significant market growth opportunities

Following is a list of all Champion Winners at the 2023 Sydney Royal Fine Food Show. »

TO VIEW THE FULL LIST OF ALL 2023 SYDNEY ROYAL FINE FOOD WINNERS, and to decide what to put in your shopping cart, go to:
www.rasnsww.com.au/sydneyroyal



2023 Sydney Royal Fine Food Show



The Champion Winners at the 2023 Sydney Royal Fine Food Show

AQUACULTURE AWARDS

CHAMPION FRESH FISH

AQUNA SUSTAINABLE
MURRAY COD
Murray Cod Gill Gutted 2.0KG - 3.0KG

CHAMPION SMOKED / CURED PRODUCT

BY KAI
Smoked Trout

CHAMPION OTHER FARMED AQUACULTURE PRODUCT

THE NAMBUCCA OYSTER COMPANY
La Charentaise

BRANDED MEAT AWARDS

CHAMPION LAMB

MIDFIELD MEATS INTERNATIONAL
'246' Grass Fed Lamb Rack

CHAMPION PORK

GUMSHIRE PORK
Gumshire Pork Hampshire Pork Loin

CHAMPION BEEF

STOCKYARD BEEF PTY LTD
Stockyard Gold

CHAMPION POULTRY

THE FOOD FARM
The Food Farm pasture raised chicken certified organic fed whole bird 1.6kg

BRANDED MEAT GRAND CHAMPION

THE DICK STONE PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR BRANDED MEAT GRAND CHAMPION EXHIBIT
MIDFIELD MEATS INTERNATIONAL
'246' Grass Fed Lamb Rack

OIL & OLIVES AWARDS

CHAMPION BOUTIQUE EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL

W2OLIVES, GEOFFREY TRELOAR
W2Olives extra virgin olive oil

CHAMPION SINGLE VARIETAL EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL - COMMERCIAL VOLUME

EB & JC HARTMANN PARTNERSHIP
GLEN OLIVES
Glen Olives Frantoio

CHAMPION BLENDED EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL - COMMERCIAL VOLUME

WILSON FAMILY OLIVES
Wilson Family - olive d'or - Extra Virgin Olive Oil (Picual/Coratina) 500ml

CHAMPION FLAVOURED OR CULINARY OIL

RIO VISTA OLIVES,

WOODLANE ESTATE PTY LTD
Rio Vista Olives Chilli Pressed Olive Oil, 250ml

CHAMPION TABLE OLIVES

GOORAMADDA OLIVES
Gooramadda Olives - Kalamata Olives

PASTA AWARDS

CHAMPION FRESH PASTA

MANCINI PASTA
Mancini Pasta Fresh Spaghetti

CHAMPION DRIED PASTA

BRAIDWOOD FOOD COMPANY
Artisanal Australian Mountain Pepper Gigli - 375g

CHAMPION FILLED PASTA

LE SAUCIER
Le Saucier | Braised Beef Cheek Ravioli

PROFESSIONAL BAKERY AWARDS

CHAMPION BREAD

THREE MILLS BAKERY
Three Mills Bakery Salt & Pepper Baguette

CHAMPION CAKE

LITTLE SECRETS BAKEHOUSE
Little Secrets Bakehouse - Fig and Apple Cake

CHAMPION BISCUIT

THREE MILLS BAKERY
Three Mills Bakery Salted Chocolate Rye Cookie

CHAMPION PASTRY

SACREBLEU! CANELES AND CO
Sacrebleu! 's traditional Quiche Lorraine

APPRENTICE AWARDS

BEST PROFESSIONAL BAKERY APPRENTICE/STUDENT EXHIBIT

THE GUMNUT PATISSERIE
Opera Slice, Strawberry Rhubarb Tart, Passionfruit Meringue

SMALLGOODS & CHARCUTERIE AWARDS

CHAMPION BACON

GOLD COAST FRESH MEAT CENTRE
Taylor's Premium Short Cut Maple Bacon

CHAMPION HAM

STAPLETON FAMILY MEATS GYMEA
Stapleton's Own Boneless Leg Ham

CHAMPION SALAMI TYPE PRODUCTS

PUOPOLO ARTISAN SALUMI
Puopolo Artisan Salumi
Finocchiona Mild Fennel Salami

CHAMPION DRIED / CURED PRODUCTS

HUNGERFORD MEAT CO, MR CHARCUTERIE
MR Charcuterie Chilli + Fennel Lonza

CHAMPION OTHER CHARCUTERIE PRODUCTS

HUNGERFORD MEAT CO, MR CHARCUTERIE
MR Charcuterie Pate De Campagne Pork + Pistachio Terrine

CHAMPION FRESH SAUSAGE

TENDER GOURMET BUTCHERY
Pork Truffle and Provolone Cheese

SPECIALTY FOODS AWARDS

CHAMPION SWEET PRESERVE OR PRODUCT

BLACK GARLIC & CO
Aged Black Garlic & Cherry Paste, 120 gm

CHAMPION SAVOURY PRESERVE OR PRODUCT

LE SAUCIER
Le Saucier | Rosemary Jus

CHAMPION SPICE, PICKLED PRODUCT OR VINEGAR

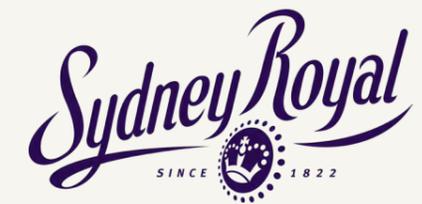
EDOMURA AUSTRALIA PTY LTD., TRADING AS RICE CULTURE
Rice Culture Organic Shiro (White) Miso

CHAMPION OTHER SPECIALTY PRODUCT

HAZELBRAE HAZELNUTS
Hazelbrae Hazelnuts Slow Cooked & Dry Roasted Hazelnuts 160g

CHAMPION COFFEE

BELLISSIMO COFFEE
Chesterson Estate Coffee



The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW would like to thank its sponsors for supporting excellence in Australian agriculture and regional communities.



Food Authority

Wine Selectors

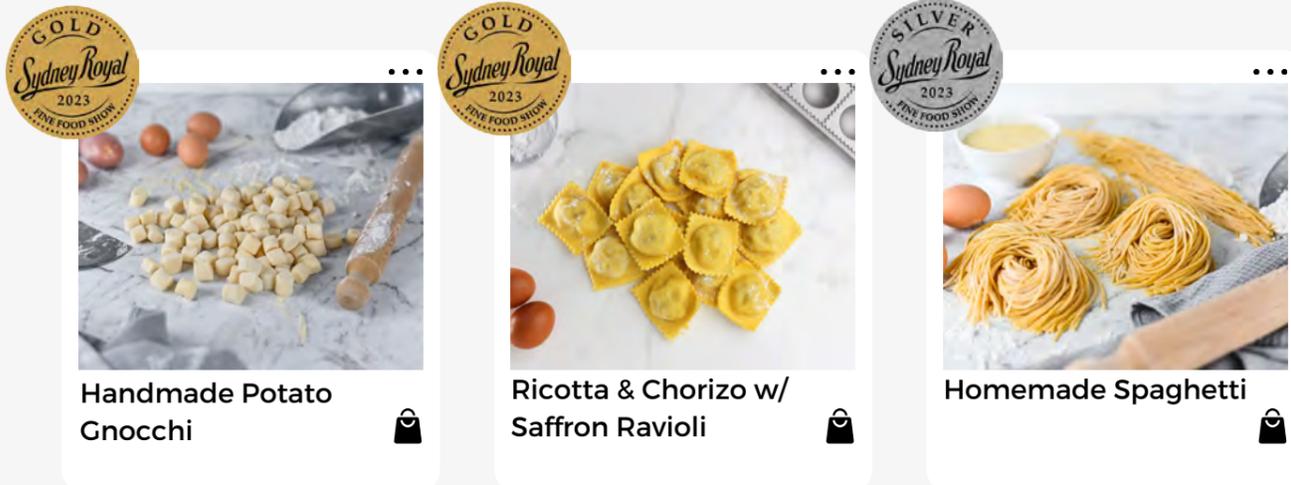
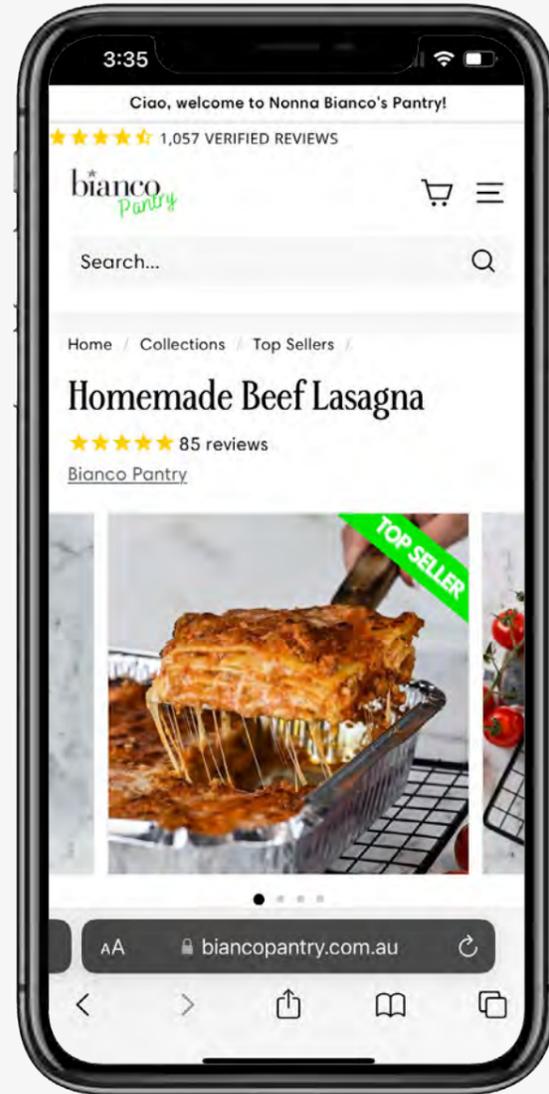


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Code: **RAS2023**

SCAN ME



APPROVED BY NONNNA BIANCO



Pioneering Education

From school room curriculum to on-site activations, the pioneering work of the RAS Education initiatives is changing the nation’s landscape of agricultural education—and getting noticed!

Long lines of Showgoers happily wait for a seat at the Rural Students Café to sample the Country Tasting Menu that hospitality students from around NSW have on offer. Savoury & Sweet Tastings include handmade country-style sausage rolls, secret-recipe tomato relish, and bite-sized mini quiche, accompanied by cheesecakes, mini pavlovas and flaky pastries.

The Rural Student’s Café is a unique collaboration between the RAS and the NSW Dept of Education where hospitality students from regional and rural schools across NSW are given the extraordinary opportunity to gain hands-on experience in hospitality. Working front-of-house and taking over the kitchen working under an industry chef, students deliver a set menu to guests at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

The initiative helps Year 11 and 12 students gain valuable skills and meet

their work experience requirements for vocational education and training qualifications for Certificate II Hospitality, Certificate II Kitchen Operations courses, and for the HSC.

Outside of this experience, these students would not otherwise have the opportunity to serve in a popular cafe with large crowds and high demands.

Kelly Spilstead, then Deputy Principal at participating Mullumbimby High School shared, “They were able to apply their current hospitality skills in a new context, learn new skills and experience what it’s like working in a busy kitchen at a major event. Some of the students even got an opportunity to showcase their skills on a bigger stage.” That’s because every day Tim Browne, the Executive Chef of the Royal Agricultural Society, would pick a few students to help him in the ‘big kitchen’ as he prepped, cooked and served in Charley Dining Room, the members-only restaurant.

Students and teachers travel hundreds of kilometres from their rural townships, and for many students it is not only their first time to the Show in the City, but also their first time to Sydney. Many even enjoy their first visit to a large shopping centre!

Great appreciation must be expressed to the teachers who take on this kind of project, bringing a dozen or so students all the way to the city, to work long hours, across several days of the Show. These teachers give up their school holidays and Easter celebrations with their own families just to bring their students to the Show. These are the kind of teachers who inspire not only their students to great things, but all of us.

By the end of the show, 120 NSW public school students from 12 different schools have taken orders, served coffees, prepped and cooked all the food, chatted with customers, and carefully stored supplies in the cool room of the commercial kitchen.

And in classic RAS style, it wasn’t only the student’s educational and professional experience that was enriched, café proceeds from their days in the kitchen were raised for their school. Twelve different schools served at the Café in round-robin style over the course of the 12 days of Show, taking till proceeds back to their schools. At the 2023 Show, participating rural schools included Gundagai, Tumut, Lightning Ridge, Nyngan, Ingleburn, Tenterfield, Uralla, Junee, Manilla, Menindee, Braidwood Finley and Muirfield.

This collaboration has been so successful that it received industry recognition with a nomination as a Finalist for the Best Industrial Collaboration at the 2023 NSW Training Awards. ●

WORDS ELIZABETH A NIXON JD

Making a Difference

RAS Community Impact

WORDS ELIZABETH A NIXON JD

IMAGE Tobias Keller, unsplash.com

Dorothea Mackellar's love for "a sunburnt country, a land of sweeping plains" swept-up an entire nation in a love for their country. It is romantic, poetic imagery at its best.

But in true Aussie style (we don't embellish with phony veneers) these iconic lines that evoke such emotive, majestic imagery are followed right on the heels with "of ragged mountain ranges, of drought and flooding rains..."

Australia is a paradox, the confronting reality of beauty unlike anywhere else in the world, but where it feels like everything is trying to kill you.

A lesser-known, modern-day artist, Edwina Robertson, is an Australian Photographer & Advocate for the Bush, who has travelled outback Australia for the past decade. She is quick to point out that in her photography she doesn't want to "sugar coat reality". Edwina explains, "Rural and remote Australia can be tough and un-pretty, and I believe many Australians have lost the connection and understanding that they once had with the bush."

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) stands in that gap, the ever-widening gap between our remote, rural and regional agriculture communities, and the metropolitan sensibility to what it's really like out there, outback.

The Sydney Royal Easter Show is famous for bringing the country to the city. How many city kids over the generations saw their first baby chick or woolly sheep at the Show? How many adults still delight in watching the cows in the Grand Parade, in awe with every moo?

The RAS is committed not only to bridging that gap by bringing the country to the city every year, but also to supporting rural and regional communities when and where they need it most throughout the rest of the year. We work at the grass roots across many varied community engagements.

The RAS is here for the greater good of the agricultural industry—the people and the communities that it operates within.

IMAGE Priscilla du Preez, unsplash.com



COMMUNITY

From our earliest days, community has been core to the RAS. We are a community of people working together to achieve our purpose, some generously offering their time and expertise, others joining as valued Members or sponsorship partners, all working together for the greater good of NSW.

Making a Difference: The orbit where personal impacts are catalysts for community impacts, generating more individual impact.

RAS FOUNDATION

Bringing communities together to learn from each other, provide forums to exchange ideas, and to celebrate successes are at the heart of the RAS and its philanthropic arm, the RAS Foundation.

Whether by providing funding for the remediation and rebuilding of community facilities damaged by floods or fires, funding temporary, movable fencing and stalls for Showgrounds that function as emergency meeting points, or providing scholarships to raise up a skilled NSW, the RAS Foundation restores not only buildings but also hope to communities in need.

The RAS Foundation's JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications is a prestigious national award that encourages and supports a young student who is passionate about pursuing a career in rural and regional journalism and communications upon graduation.

Lachlan Sands, the 2023 recipient points out, "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. 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.”

At a time when regional and rural journalism is in decline due to cutbacks in staff, bureaus and coverage, this is an invaluable initiative with the purpose to not only support an individual scholar, but also to galvanise journalism in our rural communities. Regional and rural journalism meets valuable needs for communication about local government, schools, healthcare and legal issues, it is an essential service in times of drought, flood, bushfire and disaster recovery, and at the heart of all this, it is a hub for community engagement.

In all these ways and more, the RAS Foundation is the mechanism through which scholarships and community development programs are delivered, facilitating the way in which the RAS gives back to regional and rural NSW.

Strengthening NSW's rural communities, strengthens all NSW communities!

SYDNEY SHOWGROUND

Sydney Showground offers the perfect gathering place for events, exhibitions, celebrations and fun year-round, channelling all revenues raised back into the RAS' community work.

As reported in Spice magazine's article, "The Creative Power of the Mega Venue" (Spring 2023) "the sense of connection and community that events provide is core to us as humans and [post COVID] we couldn't wait to get back to them."

Darryl Jeffrey, General Manager of Sydney Showground commented in this article about post-COVID venue management recovery, "I personally thought it would be a two or three-year burn back to the numbers we were doing in 2019, which was a record year for Sydney Showground, but this financial year, we will surpass what we did in 2019 as a record year by another 10 per cent. It has been staggering just how quickly things have turned around."

People realised during COVID that we take some experiences for granted, such as gatherings at mega-venues like Sydney Showground. Now that restrictions are a thing of the past, people as a community, when the opportunity comes to do something out

of the ordinary—something special—make sure they don't miss out.

What Sydney Showground offers the community in terms of engagement, is very special, and it goes beyond just having a good time.

Event organisers, who contract venues at Sydney Showground, have internal reportable items that demonstrate their Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) Initiatives, so being able to tap-into a venue's ESG program to incorporate into their own fulfillment has become a key item that organisers look for.

Darryl Jeffery explains, "It's not just about the lowest price—in fact, it's never the main priority now. Delegates and organisers alike want to know that what they're doing, and the money they're spending in the venue, is being used the right way."

Sustainability and environmental impacts are core to ESG initiatives. Sydney Showground's lighting and air conditioning across the venue has been upgraded. Real-time impact measure-



ments have shown that carbon emissions dropped by 70 tonnes in the first year since the up-grade, and by 50 tonnes in the second. That's a total of 120 tonnes over two years—the equivalent of charging 1.4 million smartphones. This is the kind of community impact and ESG measures that organisers are looking for, and which Showground is able to provide.

RAS YOUTH INITIATIVES

The RAS Youth Group is comprised of passionate young professionals who aim to educate, entertain and engage youth through RAS programs, events and competitions.

The Young Farmer Challenge (YFC), an initiative developed by the RAS Youth Group, is a vital and relevant opportunity to engage an increased number and range of young people from rural and regional areas, many with strong skills in practical elements of agriculture. This competition gives these rural youth an opportunity to showcase their skills and talents. Trialled at the 2009 Sydney Royal Easter Show, it has since become an annual event.

The YFC is an entertaining and fast paced event that showcases both the breadth of competencies required in farming today, and the proactive involvement of youth in agriculture. Comprised of a series of skills-based challenges related to farming, each challenge may involve one or all team members, working together or in relay.

The competition has three stages, it begins at the local Show community level, with winners qualifying to compete in the high-stakes State Championships held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. The winning Championship team then represents NSW at the National Finals.

The RAS Youth Group works closely with AgShows NSW to support local Shows in developing their competition to make it easy and engaging. Many regional Shows run a YFC and, due to its exciting displays and local talent, the



YFC is often part of the featured nighttime entertainment program.

In September 2023, the RAS sponsored the NSW State team, paying all expenses to compete in the National Final held this year at the Adelaide Royal.

THE AUSTRALASIAN ANIMAL REGISTRY (AAR)

Animals are integral to the agriculture industry and community, and they are central to everything the annual Sydney Royal Easter Show is all about.

The AAR offers the most comprehensive not-for-profit animal registration and recovery service in Australia. Maintaining records for animals across Australia and New Zealand, the AAR provides an accurate and independent service to assist with the safe and speedy recovery of lost registered pets and animals to their owners.

The AAR, returning both pets and peace of mind to owners.

CANINE HERO AWARDS

RAS community engagement has many fronts and faces, and perhaps one of the most beloved at the annual Show are the animal competitions, especially the dogs!

The RAS hosts the annual Canine Hero Awards, celebrating our canine companions and awarding two in NSW who have performed extraordinary feats in service of humans.

These remarkable dog stories also recognise and reward the ongoing work of the not-for-profit organisations that provide training and dogs. Training covers a long list of life-saving jobs to humans, including hearing, sight, diabetic alert, mobility assistance, seizure response, autism support, allergy detection, PTSD and psychiatric assistance.

According to Assistance Dogs Australia, it takes two years and \$60,000 to train one qualified Assistance Dog. Training organisations often do not receive any government funding, instead they rely upon the generosity of the public for donations.

The AAR is a proud supporter, providing 2 x \$1500 cash prizes each year.



HERITAGE

The RAS Heritage Centre tells the story of the RAS since it was founded in 1822. Its unique collection of documents, books, images and reports also provides insight into the history of Australia and the development of agriculture since the early days of European settlement. While the Heritage Centre is a precious in-house resource, the RAS is proud to make it available to researchers and members of the public.

A recent extraordinary circumstance epitomises the Heritage collection's community benefit at the individual level. A gentleman contacted the department hoping that Heritage could replace his sister's award certificates from the 1980s. Her certificates, prized possessions, had been destroyed by flood. The RAS Heritage Centre was able to research the exact awards and found that she had won in Small Cakes, Christening Cake and Most Original Cake. While the exact certificate form

was no longer existing, the staff found a similar certificate from that era, and with some careful photoshopping, recreated the certificates for her.

While requests for duplicate certificates cannot always be taken up, this is the kind of opportunity that the RAS Heritage Centre was thrilled to be part of.

When you visit the Heritage Centre at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, you will find all manner of trophies on display, some over 100 years old. Photos through the decades, and precious objects and artifacts are on display for Showgoers to peruse at their leisure, some discovering surprising personal connections to the past.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The RAS genuinely cares about people, relationships and community, and has been serving the greater good of agriculture for over 200 years. As an organisation, we are passionate about what we do, and at the individual level,

our Board, Council, Members, Volunteers and staff are dedicated and generous with their efforts to see that our community thrives.

The original Prospectus of the Agricultural Society of NSW, published in 1822, spoke in terms of the Colony emerging as a Nation. The mission and purpose of that original Prospectus still speaks to the mission that shapes our next 200 years, a simple exchanging of the word "community" for "colony" and the continuity of purpose remains:

It is nothing to the prosperity of the community... that only one or two individuals... flourish, the means of obtaining these advantages [must be] placed within the reach of all, and a public spirit of agricultural improvement shall be implanted within the breast of all.

The RAS's vision is for community, one that reaches across rural agriculture pasture and field, and across metropolitan cityscapes, embracing all as one—across this sunburnt country. ●

IT'S EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS



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For every minute that defibrillation is delayed someone's chances of survival decreases by 10%



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- ✓ 10 seconds to shock between cycles

OTHER DEFIBS

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- ✗ Not all can be used above 35°
- ✗ Not all are water resistant
- ✗ Not all include real-time CPR feedback
- ✗ May take up to 50 seconds to shock

What's on

AT SYDNEY SHOWGROUND | SYDNEYSHOWGROUND.COM.AU



JURASSIC WORLD: THE EXHIBITION, OPEN NOW!

1 NOVEMBER – 22 MARCH

Jurassic World: The Exhibition in Sydney, an immersive experience bringing you face-to-face with life-size dinosaurs. Walk through the iconic Jurassic World gates and prepare to be left in awe as the ground-breaking movie franchise is brought to life! This is the closest you'll ever come to living dinosaurs in your own backyard! jurassicworldexhibition.com/au/

EPIK

9 DECEMBER

HSU's production heavy masterpiece EPIK returns to Sydney in December. The event will focus on its most over-the-top production set up with 72 lasers, 3 unique ceremonies, pyro and features 10 international and local artists. EPIK will take you on a visual and production journey like no other! events.ticketbooth.com.au/tickets/epik-23

SYDNEY THUNDER MATCHES AT SYDNEY SHOWGROUND STADIUM

Sydney Thunder v Sydney Sixers
30 December 7:15pm

Sydney Thunder v Perth Scorchers
8 January 2024 7:15pm

Sydney Thunder v Melbourne Renegades
17 January 2024 7:15pm

sydneythunder.com.au

ST JEROME'S LANEWAY FESTIVAL

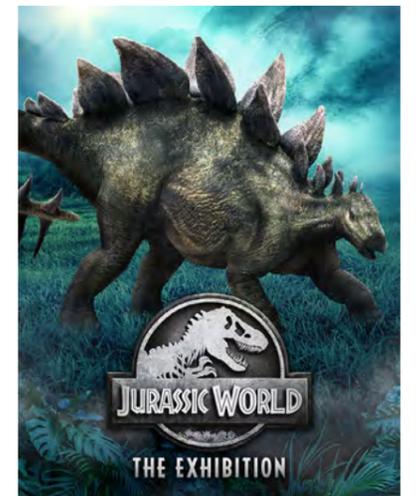
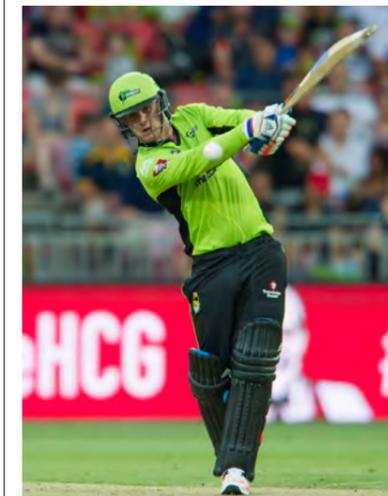
4 FEBRUARY 2024

Laneway Festival is back with a stacked lineup in February 2024! The 19th edition of the Trans-Tasman touring festival is dripping with some of the most exciting artists from around the world – acts at the top of their game and new ground-breaking talent. Don't miss Stormzy, Steve Lacy, Dominic Fike and more. lanewayfestival.com

EVERYTHING ELECTRIC

9 – 11 FEBRUARY 2024

Fully Charged, the world's number one home energy & electric vehicle channel is bringing their smash hit event Everything Electric to Sydney Showground in 2024. The event offers an electrifying weekend of electric vehicles, home energy, family entertainment and more! au.everythingelectric.show



PREGNANCY, BABIES & CHILDREN'S EXPO

10 – 11 FEBRUARY 2024

The Pregnancy Babies & Children's Expo is Australia's trusted early parenting event. As one of the longest running baby events, it is a must for all new parents. Showcasing big brands, best prices, special offers and all the latest innovations, all under one roof. The show will provide you with everything you need to know from bump, birth and beyond. pbceexpo.com.au/promo/sydney-expo

THE CHEMICAL BROTHERS

29 FEBRUARY 2024

The Chemical Brothers will bring their world-renowned live shows to Australia in February – March 2024. With show direction by the iconic Smith & Lyall, these mind-bending shows are their first to visit our shores since 2019! For three decades, they have defined the cutting

edge of electronic dance music both on their multi-platinum selling records and their hugely lauded hallucinogenic live shows, which have played to millions at festivals and arenas all over the world. frontiertouring.com/thechemicalbrothers

JAY CHOU CARNIVAL WORLD TOUR

2 MARCH 2024

Mark your calendars now and re-unite with King of Mandopop, Jay Chou who will be returning to Australia in March 2024 to resume his electrifying Jay Chou Carnival World Tour! During his last sold-out Sydney stop, Jay Chou enthralled his die-hard fans and thrilled them with his stage performance and timeless songs. Get ready to immerse yourself in this sensational concert and join Jay Chou live in Australia! premier.ticketek.com.au/shows/show.aspx?sh=JAYCHOU24



At the top of their game

Sydney Showground offers world class venue and management team, catering to large-scale events and big experiences.

The recent FIFA Women's World Cup, which hosted its international broadcast centre from Sydney Showground, showcased the kind of venue experience and support that the Sydney Showground team is renowned for!

Jennifer Martin, Head of Broadcast, Australia & New Zealand, for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup International Broadcast Centre, said of the experience:

"The Sydney Showground team were outstanding in all aspects of our 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup International Broadcast Centre venue delivery. The support from Management & Staff throughout the project was excellent—hugely supportive of our project, investing time and energy above what would be expected of a venue provider. No challenge was too hard, no task was too big, and the positive professional attitude to problem solving was greatly

appreciated by the on-site FIFA teams. It was an absolute pleasure working with the entire team."

All revenues from every event hosted at the Showground are invested back into the RAS' efforts in supporting NSW's rural and regional agricultural communities.



The AAR is the largest and most comprehensive non-profit animal registration and recovery service in Australia, whose mission is to enable the speedy recovery of missing pets to their rightful owner. The AAR registers all types of animals including dogs, cats, birds, horses, reptiles—even ferrets!

The AAR is accredited by the Australian Veterinary Association, Department of Primary Industries, Queensland Government, Victorian Government, and the Bureau of Animal Welfare. Importantly, only authorised users, such as councils and veterinary clinics, can access animal records for recovery purposes. A secure system of ID numbers and AAR staff training ensure the integrity of the process.

The AAR processed 227,899 new registrations and 97,691 change-of-ownerships in the 2021/22 financial year. Currently there are 3.7 million registered animals!

<https://www.aar.org.au/>





Royal Agricultural Society of NSW