



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

RAS Youth Group

(Sub-Committee of the RAS Youth Affairs Committee)

Information Pack

1. Welcome

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of the Youth Group of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS). The RAS is an organisation steeped in tradition, and one which represents the largest rural exhibition in Australia. By becoming a member of the RAS Youth Group, you represent several thousand youth members of the RAS.

This document has been prepared to give you an overview of the structure of the RAS Youth Group and how the organisation operates.

2. Background

History of the RAS of NSW

In 1822 the Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) was formed by a group of Sydney's leading citizens with the aim of "furthering the quality of Australia's primary production by means of contests and competitions."

Officers were elected and 11 days later the Society held a meeting at Walker's Inn, Parramatta. The Society staged its first Show in Parramatta in 1823. Having lapsed in 1836, the Society reformed in 1857 and continued to hold its exhibitions at Parramatta until 1868, after which they moved to Prince Alfred Park, home of the Show from 1869 to 1881. In 1880, when the Society was down to its last £71, it decided to accept a government offer and leased 16 hectares of common land at Moore Park, from Prince Alfred Park, the home of the Show from 1869 - 1881. In 1882, the first Show was moved to Moore Park, which continued to be the home of the RAS and the Sydney Royal Easter Show until January 1998.

In August of 1994, the NSW Government approved the relocation of the Sydney Royal Easter Show and work began on the development of the new Sydney Olympic Park site. Three years later and after 115 years of Shows, the Royal Easter Show said goodbye to its home at Moore Park and moved to Sydney Olympic Park. 1998 saw the first Easter Show at Sydney Olympic Park. A record 1.26 million people attended, breaking the attendance of 1.23 million set in 1947.

Today the RAS is a thriving organisation comprising 54 Councilors and 44 Honorary Councilors representing 15,000 Members. The business of the RAS is managed by 120 full time staff supported by thousands of part time staff and volunteers. Councilors bring to the Society expertise in a wide variety of rural, business and professional pursuits. The RAS Council is currently headed by the President, Mr Michael Millner.

History of the RAS Youth Group

The RAS Youth Group was formed in 2004 as a Sub-Committee of the RAS Agricultural Development Committee (an RAS Council Committee), with the purpose of creating and running a ute competition to be held at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. At this time the Youth Group consisted of five ambitious young RAS members.

From this time, the Youth Group has grown from strength-to-strength, now having up to 15 members and having run a vast array of events coinciding with the Sydney Royal Easter Show, including: Agrichats Panel Discussion, AgriYouth Connect Networking Event, All Roads to the Royal and Young Farmer Challenge. As of early 2014, the RAS Youth Group is now recognised as a sub-committee of the RAS Youth Affairs Committee (YAC).

The Role of the RAS Youth Group

The RAS Youth Group is responsible for representing young people to the RAS Council and its standing committees. They identify and develop initiatives to encourage youth involvement at the Sydney Royal Easter Show (SRES) and the RAS year-round.

The RAS Youth Group Strategic Vision

The RAS of NSW Youth Group's Strategic Vision is:

"A strong, vibrant youth community engaged in agriculture through the RAS."

Its Mission is:

"To educate, entertain and engage youth in the RAS and agriculture through events and competitions at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and year round."

3. Overview of the Structure & Operations of the RAS Youth Group

Structure

The RAS Youth Group is a Sub-Committee of the RAS Youth Affairs Committee (YAC). The YAC is a Committee of the RAS of NSW Council, the main focus of which is the organisation of events and literature to promote agriculture and the RAS to both rural and city dwellers, including youth.

The RAS Youth Group is governed by the Charter of the RAS of NSW Youth Group.

Members

The Youth Group can have up to 15 voting members, each of which is elected for three years (a year is that which includes one Sydney Royal Easter Show). **Youth Group members must become financial members of the RAS upon their acceptance to the Committee.**

Meetings

Youth Group meetings include both face to face and teleconference meetings. Meetings coincide with those of the RAS Council. You must be able to attend a minimum of 3 meetings per year face to face. Youth Group members are also encouraged to attend other committee meetings of interest. Youth Group members can express their interest in doing so to either the Youth Affairs Committee Chair or RAS staff who will advise the relevant committee coordinator. Following meetings, you are invited to Council Lunch with RAS Councillors and Staff.

Sydney Royal Easter Show

It is expected that Youth Group members attend all Youth Group events at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, unless absence is pre-approved by the Chair. There is a parking and meal voucher allocation for Youth Group members on days where they are hosting events.

Expected Dates of the 2023 Show Thursday 6 April – Monday 17 April 2023

Travel Allowance

Currently, members living outside of the County of Cumberland are remunerated 78 cents per kilometer travelled to attend meetings of the Youth Group (up to \$500), plus an accommodation allowance of up to \$240 per meeting. Members which reside within the County of Cumberland are not afforded a travel allowance. Travel to the SRES is not covered by the RAS. Members will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation during the Show.

4. RAS Staff Contact Details

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Coordinator

Youth Initiatives

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5. Current Committee

Youth Affairs

Mr Stuart Davies, Chair

Mr John Bennett

Ms Robyn Clubb

Mr David Davidson

Dr Ellen Downes

Ms Janie Forrest

Ms Yvette McKenzie

Ms Susan Wakeford

Mr Hunter White

Youth Group

Ms Madeleine Broomfield

Ms Stephanie Clancy

Mr Timothy Green

Mr Jacob Heard

Mr Andrew Horne

Ms Tasha Hurley

Mr Justin Matthews

Mr Jonathon Moore

Mr Joseph Murphy

Ms Sarah Stanbury