

# RAS TIMES

JULY 2021 | VOLUME 19-1

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## THE PRINCE OF THE PARK

The first royal to visit us - and the big friend he brought with him

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## HOW I MET THE RAS

We let someone else explain exactly who we are

---

## 200 NOT OUT

The countdown to our bicentenary has truly begun

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## THE SHOW CAME BACK!

Your 2021 Sydney Royal  
Easter Show review.







“For the drover’s life has pleasures  
that the townsfolk never know.”

ANDREW BARTON (BANJO) PATERSON (1864 - 1941)

PHOTOGRAPHY



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JULY 2021 | VOLUME 19-1

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Congratulations to Juan and his owners, Rebecca and Blake Wistuba, on winning 'Best in Show' at the 2021 **ADVANCE™** Sydney Royal Dog Show!

## Expert Pet Nutrition™ **ADVANCE™**

"Juan is a once in a lifetime kind of dog and he deserves the best.

He is fed exclusively on **ADVANCE™** dog food and loves **ADVANCE™** Adult Large Breed Turkey and Rice Dry Dog Food.

From his lovely white coat to his white teeth, **ADVANCE™** keeps him in top condition so he is energised to float around the show ring - his favourite thing to do!"

- **Rebecca & Blake Wistuba**

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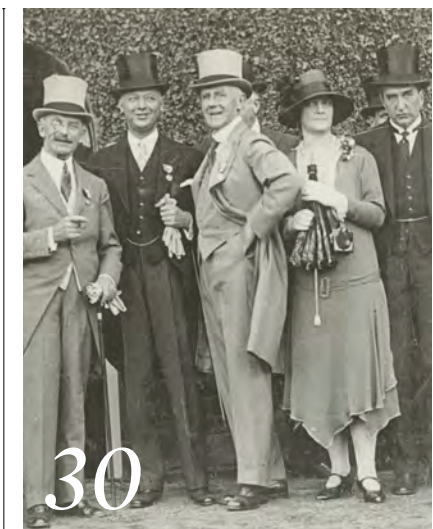
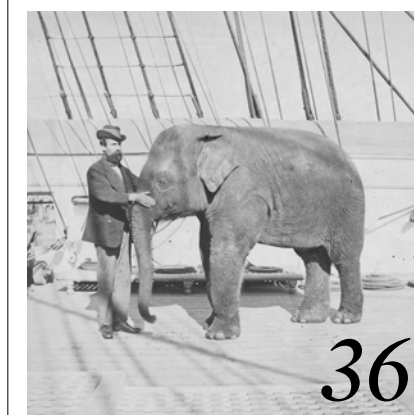
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**A**s this magazine lands in your letterboxes, we are celebrating our 199th anniversary and the run towards our 200 years has truly begun. A group of agriculturalists met, at the premises of watchmaker James Robertson, on 5 July 1822, and formed the Agricultural Society of NSW. They agreed on a structure and purpose, an annual Membership fee, and established a fund to finance the importation of quality breed stock. Sir John Jamison was elected as President, and our history began.

With almost a year as President under my belt, I'm proud to take my place amongst some fine figures and carry on the work of our founders, ensuring the RAS stays an organisation with a commitment to promote, foster and encourage the sustainable development of agriculture in New South Wales. We do this, in part, by holding competitions and exhibitions for the display of livestock, agricultural produce, and arts and crafts, with the Sydney Royal Easter Show as the largest of all.

Holding a Show this year and welcoming 800,000 people across 12 days made us the envy of the world,

and with the decision to ban spectators from the Tokyo Olympics, the Show remains the largest event in the world since the pandemic began. It was a remarkable effort from all involved, the commitment, dedication and hard work from staff, volunteers, committees and Council demonstrated the importance of the Show.

The speed with which it was pulled together, and the helping hand we received from State and Federal governments, was incredible. We led the world in bringing back large-scale events, and we never compromised on safety nor the enjoyment of the Show for all visitors.

Now our attention turns to the Sydney Royal competitions across fine food, wine, beer and cider.

Like the Show, these competitions address our charter to promote, foster and encourage whilst also setting benchmarks for Australian producers.

We have AgVision coming up later this month, an educational exhibition promoting agriculture as a career choice for school leavers. AgVision, like the Show, brings the country to the city and introduces high school students to veterinarians, sheep and cattle producers, broadacre farmers, horse industry representatives, agriculture journalists, biosecurity specialists, drone operators and many more. The hands-on experience and access to industry professionals provide excellent inspiration and motivation to pursue a career in the field of agriculture.

With our competitions, exhibitions and events we have a busy twelve months ahead, culminating with the milestone of our bicentenary on 5 July 2022. A healthy agricultural industry is vital, and I am proud of the part the RAS has played in supporting this over the past 199 years and believe we will continue to do so well into the future.

**Michael Millner**, President  
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

## WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLORS

It is always a delight to welcome new faces to Council, and this month we have two incredibly accomplished gentlemen taking their seats on Council.

Born and bred in the Hunter Valley, it makes perfect sense that Angus Barnes would take up a position on the Wine Committee. A skilled senior wine industry executive with expertise in marketing, sales and financial management, Angus is a passionate industry advocate and has played a role as an industry advisor to the RAS Wine Committee since 2019. His experience includes National Chairman of Wine Communicators Australia, Executive Officer of the NSW Wine Industry Association and as Global Brand Communications & Heritage Director with Pernod Ricard Winemakers. Angus has worked as a State Government consultant for the wine industry and in international business and trade development and will bring this expertise to the Sydney Royal Wine Show and other competitions.

Brendan Sharpe has grown up with the RAS, stewarding in the poultry Section as a teenager, exhibiting poultry dating back to 1997, judging poultry since 2009, and joining Youth Group in 2010 including a period as Chair in 2011/12. Currently involved as an Official Poultry Veterinarian and advisor to the RAS Poultry Committee, he is also a Poll Dorset sheep breeder and regular agricultural Show exhibitor. Brendan's experience in all aspects of the RAS in general and the Sydney Royal Easter Show, in particular, will deliver a committed and proactive member to Council whilst his agricultural industry contacts and expertise are also highly valued.

# The vine

NEWS | UPDATES | EVENTS



**During a special engagement held at Government House, Gumnut Patisserie, with stores in Bowral, Berrima, and Mittagong, was announced as the winner of the 14th Annual President's Medal.**

Keen observers of Sydney Royal competitions would be familiar with Gumnut Patisserie, owners Tracy and Vicki Nickl have taken home Sydney Royal Champion ribbons for the last 12 years at least, so it was only a matter of time before the President's Medal judges took the

taste tour and recognised the Nickl's triple bottom line.

Assessed not only on taste but also financial, social, and environmental integrity through the entire production cycle, Gumnut Patisserie impressed the judges with their community involvement and dedication to keeping their carbon footprint low. The patisserie nurtures relationships with local growers, keeping the food supply chain personal and food miles low. The installation of a

closed-loop water recycling system and solar panels ensures the operation is environmentally responsible and efficient, whilst the employment of up to 70 locals keeps the connection between Gumnut and the community strong.

Gumnut Patisserie is a wholly locally focused business that has tempted the tastebuds of travellers since 1995 and has, at last, received the ultimate accolade from the Sydney Royal judges. ■





## KEEP CALM, LOOK FOR GREEN

**The colour green is often used in decorating for its calming effect, and it certainly is the colour of calm at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.**

The 'green army' of volunteers offer a helping hand, guiding Showgoers around the grounds and in and out of pavilions. They are there to answer questions, make suggestions and do the all-important passport stamping along the Animal Walk. Without the

volunteers, chaos could ensue and tens of thousands of Showgoers could miss seeing sheep shearing, cow milking, chips-on-a-stick or making their very own kewpie doll.

The 2021 Sydney Royal Easter Show Event Volunteer Program attracted more than 950 applications, with over 650 successful applicants – a number not seen at Sydney Olympic Park since the 2000 Olympics! Coming

from as far afield as Port Macquarie and Bathurst to participate in the long-awaited return of the Show, this year's Volunteers ranged in age from 16 to 88 and were united by the eagerness to educate and engage with Show patrons. All together they contributed 17934 hours over 3000 shifts and interacted with 800,000 people... and all the while they kept calm and made sure the Show carried on. ■



## HAMMER DROP

**The gavel fell quite a few times at the Sydney Royal Easter Show – fitting when one considers auctions and agriculture have gone together in Australia since the days of early settlement.** In 1843 Thomas Mort persuaded NSW pastoralists to sell their wool by auction here rather than ship it to England to be sold. He was not the first to auction wool in Sydney but was the first to hold regular sales where wool alone was offered. By the late 1840s he was also running auctions of livestock and pastoral property. In the 1850s he was providing facilities for growers to consign wool through him for sale in London. Fittingly, Mort was Vice-President of the RAS from 1861-1878.

**On day one of the Show the 2021 ALPA National Young Auctioneer Competition took place** with ultimate honours going to Liam Kirkwood. In another case of Queensland stealing the best from NSW, Liam grew up in Maitland before moving up to Far North Queensland and now finds himself as one of the youngest principals in Australia in his role as principal of Ray White Townsville Rural and Livestock. Liam has long wanted to be a widely recognised auctioneer, so it is fair to say the gavel has been dropped and he has clearly reached his target.

Runner up in the national competition was New South Welshman Sam Smith of Kevin Miller, Whitty, Lennon and Co (KMWL) of

Forbes. Sam started as a twelve-year-old, helping with the cattle drafting, and now sells sheep and cattle weekly with a firm focus on getting the best price and building a solid client base.

**The RAS Foundation held its annual Charity Lamb Auction**, with four prime Corriedale lambs donated by Tony Manchester of Roseville Corriedales, Kingsvale via Young. Proud to donate his lambs to such a worthy cause, Tony was thrilled to see the four lambs raise over \$2500 for the RASF Community Futures Grant program. The money will help with projects that could include showground restorations, new seating, kitchen supplies or gardening equipment. ■





## RAS FOUNDATION NEWS

**It only took 10 days for the RASF Ag Bag to sell out this year, reaffirming the generosity and affection Showgoers feel for our regional communities.**

With all Ag Bag proceeds going towards the Community Futures Grants and the Good360 Christmas and Kitchen Goods programs, the total of just over \$50,000 raised will help fund projects like new flooring in the Community Hall in North Star, renovated hospitality facilities at Trundle Showground and new tables and seating at Lockhart Showground. Regional towns and villages rely heavily on their Showgrounds for events, fundraising, attracting visitors, and hosting agricultural activities. The sense of community and the support offered is incredibly important and sees many drawn to the Showground to

celebrate or come together in times of trouble, and for these reasons it is vital the RASF assists with project funding whenever possible.

In a similar manner, regional hospitals often fall short with funding and the inequity in healthcare services between city and country is undeniable. With a commitment to helping build strong regional communities, the RASF is donating the proceeds from the sale of the 2020 Sydney Royal Ribbon Rugs to hospitals in regional communities. Specifically, the money is going towards maternity and paediatric equipment to help ensure communities in Bateman's Bay, Broken Hill, Bourke, Grafton, Wyalong, Leeton and Mudgee can continue to grow.

The RASF welcomed some incredibly grateful RASF Rural

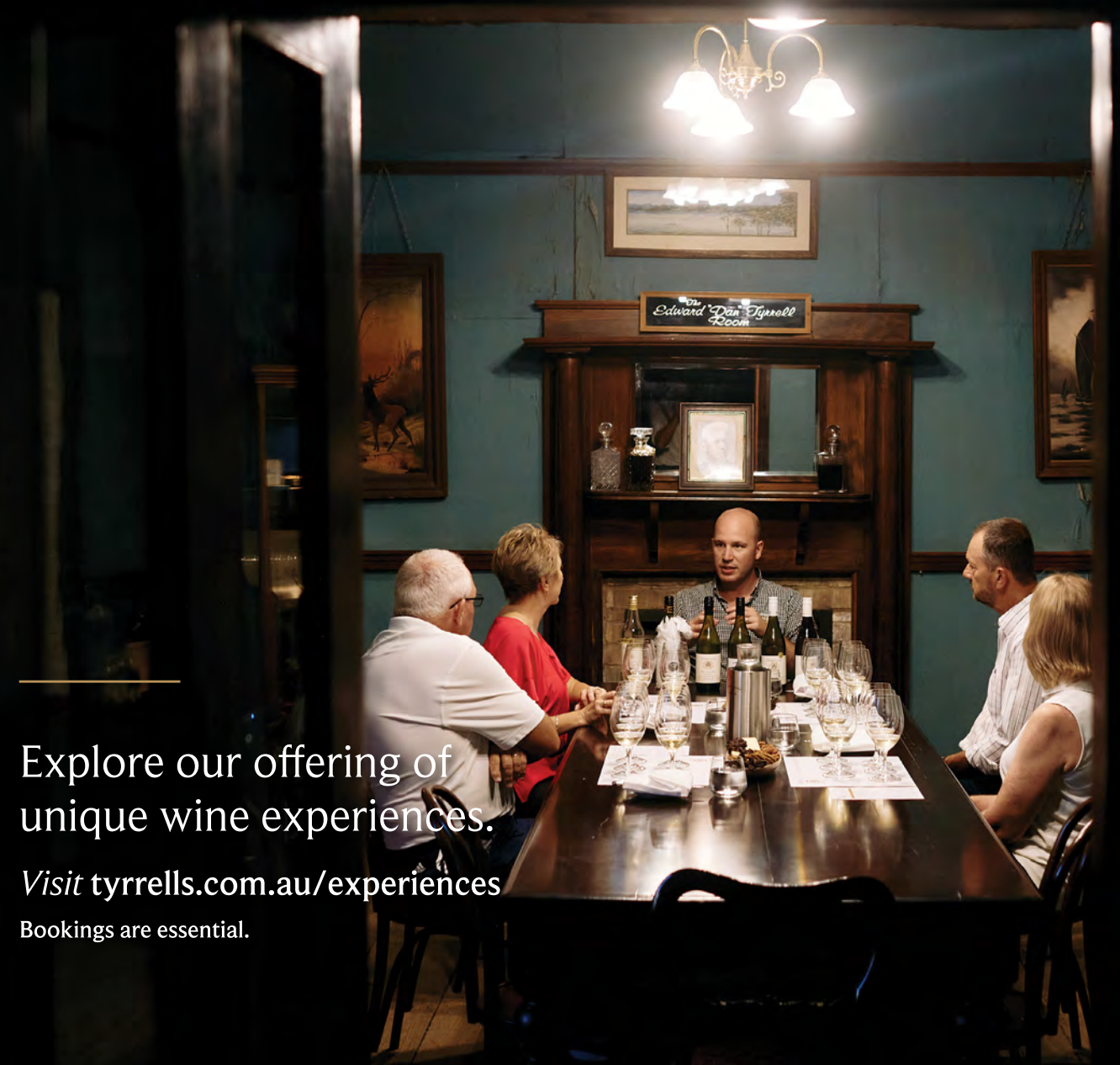
Scholarship recipients to the Show this year, and the Scholars were more than happy to spend some time on the AG Bag stand in-between taking in the sights and sounds of the Show. For some it was their first trip to 'the city' and the crowds were a bit of a shock. However, the opportunity to lend a hand with fundraising and take a look behind-the-scenes was one too good to miss. This year the RASF has awarded 76 scholarships, including Vocational Education and Training (VET), Wine Study and Professional Development, and the JB Fairfax Journalism award, and once again thanks to the generosity of all donors and supporters. Scholarships are now open for applications - please visit [rasnsw.com.au/foundation/scholarships/](http://rasnsw.com.au/foundation/scholarships/) for more information. ■

TYRRELL'S



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*of the* HUNTER VALLEY AT TYRRELL'S

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exhibitors, competitors, and sponsors. The bravery of all concerned to plan and commit to a Show is probably only matched by those 199 years ago who came together and formed the Agricultural Society of NSW. They took a leap into the unknown bolstered only by their belief that what they were doing was going to be good for the people of NSW, and so we did the same with regards to putting on the 2021 Show.

The Show kick-started events not only at Sydney Showground but also for the event industry as a whole. The RAS

demonstrated the safe, responsible ways in which to hold a major event and sent a clear message to others - if we can run the Show, you can run anything because it doesn't get bigger than us. We utilised brand-new technology to track the number of people on site and inside each pavilion. We increased handwashing stations, employed Covid marshals and capped the number of attendees each day to allow for physical distancing.

The world is not out of the Covid-bubble, and we may never return to the 'normal' of pre-Covid life, but we have learnt to adapt and innovate. Checking-in, scanning and traceability are the new buzz words, and they may add 20 seconds to the entry process of events and venues, but it is those seconds that allow the event industry to operate and that is certainly worth it. Just ask the 800,000 people who attended the Show, or the AFL lovers who can now sit in a crowd at 100% capacity to watch their team play at GIANTS Stadium.

**Brock Gilmour**, Chief Executive,  
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

## THANK YOU

It was a different experience for Members at the Show this year, but all reports indicate it was still an incredibly positive one. We made some alterations to competitions and programs - in response to the pandemic and the ongoing effects of drought, floods and bushfires - and we reduced the capacity in Members facilities along with limited access. We took all necessary measures to run a safe and responsible Show and it is a credit to the Members of the RAS that all changes were not only accepted, they were respected.

Thank you for adhering to our social distance guidelines and pavilion entry numbers, for downloading our app and monitoring space and crowd numbers, for taking advantage of our sanitiser and handwash stations, following the directives of our COVID Safety Marshals, and treating all staff and volunteers with respect and care.

It was an honour to host the first large event anywhere in the world, and a pleasure to put on a Show for our valued Members.

And whilst we may not have seen all Members attend this year, we certainly look forward to welcoming you back next year. And now we begin the planning for the 2022 Sydney Royal Easter Show - running from 8-19 April.

## TIME TO RENEW

Your RAS Membership supports the sustainable development of agriculture in NSW through educational programs, exhibitions, and competitions that reward agricultural excellence.

In the next few months you can expect to receive your Membership renewal and we hope you join us for another year - next year marks our 200 years and we have a lot of surprises to mark the occasion.

If you don't receive your renewal notice in the post or by email by September/October, contact the Membership Team.

**To renew or become a new Member, or for any information regarding Membership please call 02 9704 1144.**



# Field of champions

When only the best will do try one of these award winners from the Sydney Royal Fine Food Show and the Sydney Royal Cheese & Dairy Produce Show.

## Clean Seas Seafood, Spencer Gulf Kingfish

SPENCER GULF, SA

**CHAMPION FRESH FISH, SYDNEY ROYAL FINE FOOD SHOW AQUACULTURE**

Delicate and refined on the palate with an unparalleled sweet, fresh taste. This is the kingfish sashimi chefs dream of.

**VISIT** [cleanseas.com.au](http://cleanseas.com.au)



## Riverina Fresh Pty Ltd, Riverina Fresh Fresh Cream

WAGGA WAGGA, NSW

**CHAMPION CREAM, SYDNEY ROYAL CHEESE & DAIRY PRODUCE SHOW**

Created using the finest Australian dairy, this cream adds richness and depth to any dish including soups and curries.

**VISIT** [riverinafresh.com.au](http://riverinafresh.com.au)



## Maleny Dairies, Farmer's Choice Milk

MALENY, QLD

**CHAMPION WHITE MILK, SYDNEY ROYAL CHEESE & DAIRY PRODUCE SHOW**

Old fashioned milk with the cream on top, its golden colour is due to the high butterfat content. This is milk served as close to nature as possible.

**VISIT** [malenydairies.com](http://malenydairies.com)



## Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese, Tarwin Blue

SOUTH GIPPSLAND, VIC

**CHAMPION SPECIALTY CHEESE, SYDNEY ROYAL CHEESE & DAIRY PRODUCE SHOW**

The Berrys Creek flagship cheese reflects earthy qualities especially on maturity with a lasting intensity and a texture full of soft, smooth appeal.

**VISIT** [berryscreekcheese.com](http://berryscreekcheese.com)



## Brilliant Food, Smoked Ocean Trout

PADDINGTON, NSW

**CHAMPION SMOKED/CURED PRODUCT, SYDNEY ROYAL FINE FOOD SHOW AQUACULTURE**

Sourced from Tasmania, filleted and boned and then hot smoked, this delightfully moist trout makes a perfect choice for dinner.

**VISIT** [brilliantfood.com.au](http://brilliantfood.com.au)





THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW WOULD LIKE TO THANK ITS 2021 SPONSORS FOR SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

#### Grand Champion



Strategic Sponsors



#### Champion



#### Blue Ribbon



#### Red Ribbon



# THE SHOW CAME BACK

There was movement at the stations as the word spread around, the Sydney Royal Easter Show was coming back to town... with cattle, pigs, sheep and goats, and horses all around.

WORDS MEREDYTH HAYES BELL





THE BANDY & JOHNSON DRAUGHT HORSE TEAM WERE A HIGHLIGHT EVERY EVENING

**T**he 2021 Show was the first major multiple-day event held anywhere in the world post the 2020 global shutdowns and will most likely be the biggest ticketed event in 2021 worldwide.

Introducing a capped number of daily tickets, online sales only and the requirement that all patrons specify the day they will be attending pushed demand to the limits – the fear of missing a day at the Show drove ticket sales and sparked a frenzy of attention.

Across the 12 days, even with daily ticket restrictions, five attendance records were broken and a total of just over 800,000 came to the Show.

RAS General Manager Agriculture and Sydney Royal Easter Show, Murray Wilton, has described the Show as an incredible success.

“The Show provided an opportunity for our farmers and Sydneysiders to come together safely and celebrate everything we know and love about rural Australia: farmers, food and family fun.”

Safety was front of mind, with COVID marshals, increased handwashing stations and the use of ground-breaking technology to track the number of people in pavilions, counting them in and out and indicating when pavilions were reaching capacity. The ‘traffic light’ system provided Showgoers with instant and up-to-date information of which areas to avoid and which were easy to

move in and around.

Numbers and counting seemed to be the theme of the Show, so here’s some more to marvel at:

- **More than 29,000** Sydney Royal awards and prizes were presented, including 3,500 first place ribbons
- **12 local Show societies** manned the Big Bush BBQ and took home their share of over \$30,000 of much-needed funds
- The RAS Foundation raised **\$120,000 through the sale of the Ag Bag**, raffle tickets and the 2020 Sydney Royal Ribbon Rugs
- The Land Sydney Royal Showgirl competition judges spent time with **15 finalists** before announcing







HER EXCELLENCY  
THE HONOURABLE  
MARGARET BEAZLEY AC QC,  
GOVERNOR OF NSW, INSPECTS  
THE TROOPS AT THE OFFICIAL  
OPENING CEREMONY

Jessica Neale as the winner, whilst seven Rural Achievers gathered and debated and congratulated Dione Howard as the winner

- **The CWA baked 41,908 scones**
- **6,600 cobs of corn** were sold
- **9,000 sticks of fairy floss** were enthusiastically enjoyed
- **55,000 straps of licorice** were sold – equal to 7 tonnes of candy
- **46 pumpkins** were guarded by 6 scarecrows
- **100 dozen eggs** were laid and sold in the Poultry pavilion
- **150,000 oysters** shucked and eaten in the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome

Each year the Sydney Royal Easter Show provides an opportunity for the

**The Show provided a long-awaited and much-anticipated opportunity for all of us to come together safely and celebrate rural Australia - farmers, food and family fun**

Royal Agricultural Society of NSW to publicly thank a member of the Show family with the Show Legend award. The award recognises a person who has worked tirelessly towards the betterment of the Show, one who provides outstanding service and commitment, and who passes on their knowledge to the next generation. This year the Show Legend award was presented to Ted Pickering, a dedicated and incredibly

experienced member of the Sydney Royal Dog Show team. Ted has been a Steward in the dog section for 35 years, Chief Steward for 20 years and a generous mentor to all involved with the competition. Ted was integral to the transition from Moore Park to Sydney Olympic Park and played an instrumental role in setting up the competition of today. Ted is a strong leader, a team player and embodies the RAS and Sydney





WOMEN LEADING THE WAY IN AGRICULTURE  
THIS PAGE: DIONE HOWARD, RURAL ACHIEVER  
OPP PAGE: JESSICA NEALE, THE LAND SYDNEY ROYAL SHOWGIRL



Royal spirit of engaging, entertaining and educating the community whilst encouraging excellence and innovation.

### SHOWGIRL

The Land Sydney Royal Showgirl competition finds a young female ambassador for rural NSW and the agricultural Show movement and has done so dating back to 1962. With the state broken up into 7 zones, from Alstonville to West Wyalong, it is zone 6 that has been most successful boasting 15 Showgirl winners over the years. However, zone 7 has just taken the



crown with back-to-back winners. Cootamundra's Jessica Neale is the 2021 The Land Sydney Royal Showgirl, taking over from Walbundrie's Stephanie Clancy. Stephanie Ferguson of Bathurst (zone 6) was the first runner-up and Wagga Wagga's Kate Webster (zone 7) was second runner-up. Jessica Neale is working as a policy advisor for the NSW Minister for Education whilst completing her Bachelor of Arts (Secondary Education) and plans on working in a rural or remote school and hopes to keep playing an active role in her community.

**Nurturing ambassadors for agriculture and rural NSW, the RAS ensures the future is in safe hands**

### RURAL ACHIEVER

The RAS Rural Achiever Award is a leadership program run to recognise future leaders who work hard to make a significant contribution to their rural community. Brought together at the Show for mentoring and networking opportunities, the program nurtures ambassadors for the agricultural industry and the Show movement, ensuring the future is in safe hands. From a field of seven finalists this year Dione Howard of Milbrulong was the recipient of the Rural Achiever Award and will go on to represent NSW in the National Rural Achiever Award competition. Dione is a veterinarian and dedicated member of her community in the Riverina. ■





# In the winner's circle

The wait was worth it for these  
2021 Sydney Royal Easter Show award-winners.

WORDS MEREDYTH HAYES BELL



## ALPACA

**BEST SURI ALPACA IN SHOW**  
Elyision Mission Beach, Elyision Alpacas, NSW  
**BEST HUACAYA ALPACA IN SHOW**  
Malakai Fireworks ET, Malakai Alpaca Stud, VIC  
**SUPREME CHAMPION SURI FLEECE**  
Bedrock Charisma, Bedrock Stud, WA  
**SUPREME CHAMPION HUACAYA FLEECE**  
Kyona Strobes Legacy, Kyona Stud, NSW

## ARTS & CRAFTS

**THE RAS ARTS COMMITTEE AWARD**  
Rodney Bassetti, The Long Day, Vacluse, NSW  
**THE RAS ART PRIZE**  
Kasey Sealy, Majestic Red Gum Forbes, Berowra Heights, NSW  
**THE MARGARET FESQ MEMORIAL ART PRIZE FOR BEST EXHIBIT FIGURATIVE PAINTING**  
Ann Meadley, Secret Life of the Zoo, Bradbury, NSW

**THE WATT FAMILY PERPETUAL TROPHY & EPSON PRIZE FOR THE BEST PHOTOGRAPH IN SHOW**  
Phil Belpin, Roo Family Portrait, Berrima, NSW  
**THE FRANCES BINNIE MEMORIAL PERPETUAL TROPHY**  
Kaleigh Kenney, Chainmaille skirt, Beacon Hill, NSW  
**THE ISABEL WATT MEMORIAL PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR MOST OUTSTANDING EXHIBIT IN DESIGN AND EXECUTION IN HAND WEAVING CLASSES**  
Alison Giles-Damjanovska, Woven Houndstooth Design Cape, Kiama, NSW  
**THE DOROTHY EVANS PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR THE BEST EXHIBIT IN CAKE DECORATING & SUGAR ART**  
Doreen Smith, North Rocks, NSW  
**THE MOST SUCCESSFUL PRESERVES EXHIBITOR PERPETUAL TROPHY**  
Melissa Smith, Petersham, NSW  
**THE AUSTRALIAN GAS COOKING SCHOOL PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR IN PERISHABLE**

**COOKING CLASSES**  
Barbara Goldman, Normanhurst, NSW  
**THE HEATHER GIBSON PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR IN NON-PERISHABLE COOKING**  
Jo-Anne Wright, Kariong, NSW  
Barbara Goldman, Normanhurst NSW  
**THE WH DAVIES MEMORIAL PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR THE MOST MERITORIOUS EXHIBIT IN UNDER 20'S PATCHWORK, APPLIQUE AND QUILTING**  
Amy Landsdown, Kingsgrove, NSW  
**THE ENA & KEITH STUART-WRIGHT MEMORIAL ANNUAL TROPHY FOR THE MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR IN UNDER 20'S PERISHABLE COOKING**  
Willow McKie, Umina Beach, NSW

**CAT**  
**BEST IN SHOW**  
**OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP CAT SHOW**  
CCA CH. & GL DB GD CH., Bushkenheim Jaxon (17N180198), Karen Gaunt, Kariong, NSW





CATTLE

BEEF  
THE HORDERN PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR THE SUPREME BEEF BREED

PC Miss J260 Conversion M205SV, Pine Creek Angus Stud Pty Ltd, Cowra, NSW  
Hillview Quigley Q18#, Danny Hill, Bungendore, NSW

THE URQUHART PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR THE SUPREME BEEF EXHIBIT  
Progress Perfect Storm P5 (P) (PF), H&L Livestock & Progress Limousins, Musk, VIC

THE RAS SUPREME BEEF INTERBREED HEIFER  
Keajura Park Krystal Rose (2P) (2B) (PF), Keajura Park Limousins, Tarcutta, NSW  
BREEDERS GROUP INTERBREED  
Pine Creek Angus Stud Pty Ltd, Cowra, NSW

DAIRY  
SUPREME CHAMPION DAIRY FEMALE  
Windy Ways Galaxies Dawn 7, B & J Gavenlock & Windy Ways Jerseys,

Tallygaroopna, Vic  
SUPREME INTERMEDIATE CHAMPION DAIRY FEMALE  
Brookbora Valentino Sweet Elfa, Daniel Bacon, Tennyson, VIC  
SUPREME JUNIOR CHAMPION DAIRY FEMALE  
Lightning Ridge MB VIP Feliz-ET, D Patten & J Lindsay & C Moscript & F & D Borba, Sale, VIC

PUREBRED STEER & CARCASE  
GRAND CHAMPION STEER  
Scots All Saints College, Bathurst, NSW  
GRAND CHAMPION CARCASE  
Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes, NSW  
CHAMPION SCHOOL STEER  
St Catherine's Catholic College, Singleton, NSW  
CHAMPION SCHOOL CARCASE  
Frensham, Mittagong, NSW

TRADE HOOF & CARCASE  
CHAMPION TRADE STEER/HEIFER  
Scots All Saints College, Bathurst, NSW

CHAMPION TRADE CARCASE  
Macarthur Anglican School, Orangeville, NSW

DISTRICT EXHIBITS  
THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW PERPETUAL TROPHY  
Southern New South Wales District Exhibits  
THE GORDON MAITLAND PERPETUAL TROPHY  
Central District Exhibits

DOG  
BEST EXHIBIT IN SHOW  
AM. CH. Piedmont's High Roller (Imp USA) (PR21013103), Poodle (Standard), Mrs R Wistuba, Grasmere, NSW  
BEST PUPPY IN SHOW  
Taejaan How the West Was Won (AI) (2100540658), Siberian Husky, Mrs M Burton & Mrs N J Rule-Steele & Miss A J Taylor & Miss S G Turay, Wallalong, NSW



BEST BABY PUPPY IN SHOW  
Glenayden Soda Ink (2100552296), Cocker Spaniel, Mrs A O'Keefe, Gisborne, VIC  
BEST BREEDERS GROUP IN SHOW  
Goldmaid, Welsh Springer Spaniel, DL Meagher & LP Meagher, Wyee, NSW

FLOWER & GARDEN  
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR OF SHOW  
Bruce & Lonny Raines, Catherine Field, NSW  
THE BANKSIAN MEDAL  
Bruce & Lonny Raines, Catherine Field, NSW  
BRONZE MEDAL  
Bruce & Lonny Raines, Catherine Field, NSW  
THE JOHN THOMAS BAPTIST MEMORIAL MEDAL  
G & S Davis, Ainslie, ACT  
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR IN THE DECORATIVE SECTION

Mary Fairlie-Cuninghame, Lane Cove North, NSW

GOAT  
ANGORA  
BEST ANGORA GOAT IN SHOW  
Debbie Scattergood, Cullbookie Frederica, Bungendore, NSW  
MOST SUCCESSFUL ANGORA GOAT EXHIBITOR  
Debbie Scattergood, Bungendore, NSW  
GRAND CHAMPION MOHAIR FLEECE  
Willow Glen Angoras, West Wyalong, NSW

BOER  
BEST BOER GOAT IN SHOW  
Pacifica Boer Goat Stud, PFA FP 252 Alan, Eugowra, NSW  
MOST SUCCESSFUL STANDARD BOER GOAT EXHIBITOR  
Pacifica Boer Goat Stud, Eugowra, NSW

DAIRY  
BEST DAIRY GOAT IN SHOW  
Darrell Bishop, Osory 4953, Mudgee, NSW  
MOST SUCCESSFUL DAIRY GOAT EXHIBITOR  
Darrell Bishop, Osory, Mudgee, NSW

HONEY  
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR IN HONEY CLASSES (EXCLUDING NATIVE)  
N A Webb & J K Godwin, North Rocks, NSW  
MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR IN HONEY CLASSES SMALL PRODUCERS  
Andrew Koopman, Cedar Brush Creek, NSW  
BEST EXHIBIT IN SHOW  
Andrew Koopman, Cedar Brush Creek, NSW  
CHAMPION SCHOOL EXHIBIT  
Cherrybrook Technology High School, Cherrybrook, NSW





**HORSE**

**RM WILLIAMS TROPHY SADDLE FOR MOST VERSATILE AUSTRALIAN STOCK HORSE EXHIBIT**

Loretta Lawson, Aberdeen, NSW  
Rider: Loretta Lawson  
Rosebrook Oakley

**THE COL A V POPE BEST GELDING HACK OVER 15HH**

Universal Stables & Cassie Schmidt, Guanaba, QLD  
Rivalry

**THE F L CRANE BEST MARE OR FILLY HACK OVER 15HH & N.E. 16HH**

Romsey Park & Miss Emily Murray, Hawthorn, VIC  
Royal Highness

**SUPREME CHAMPION NON-HACKNEY HARNESS HORSE OR PONY**

Corinne Collins & Andrew James, Darnum, VIC  
Roseair Manikato

**CHAMPION LADY RIDER**

Sophia Redenbach, Borenore, NSW  
Jermyn Street

**CHAMPION GENTLEMAN RIDER**

Adam Oliver, Guanaba, QLD  
Federer

**SHOWJUMP HORSE OF SHOW**

Yandoo Equestrian Services, Ebenezer, NSW  
Yandoo Oaks Constellation

**WINNER OF THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CAMPDRAFT**

Troy Palmer, Coolah, NSW  
Jabell Shekera Spin

**FEDERATION CHALLENGE SCHMIDT 'ARGYLE' PERPETUAL TROPHY**

Jock Bone-Langdon, Long Point, NSW  
**TENT PEGGING TEAM CHALLENGE**  
Hunter Valley Tentpegging, Merriwa, NSW

**PIG**

**BEST PIG IN SHOW**

Amanda Flemming, Corella Park Satellite D1316, Upper Landsdowne, NSW  
**MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR OF SHOW**  
Amanda Flemming, Corella Park DEL J71, Upper Lansdowne, NSW

**POULTRY**

**GRAND CHAMPION BIRD OF SHOW**

Danny Benn & Gerald Farrugia, Dapto, NSW

**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION BIRD OF SHOW**

AR Gibson, Coffs Harbour, NSW  
**GRAND CHAMPION EGG EXHIBIT**  
Benjamin Dixon, Bowen Mountain, NSW

**CHAMPION HARDFEATHER**

Alan Bailey, Nulkaba, NSW

**CHAMPION SOFTFEATHER**

AR Gibson, Coffs Harbour, NSW

**CHAMPION FIELD & FOREST**

Akers Flock, Tallygaroopna, VIC

**CHAMPION WATERFOWL**

Danny Benn & Gerald Farrugia, Dapto, NSW

**CHAMPION YOUTH POULTRY**

**SHOWMANSHIP**  
Georgia Kirkby, Bellata, NSW

**CHAMPION SCHOOL POULTRY EXHIBIT**

Caboolture State High School, Morayfield, QLD

**MOST SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL EXHIBITOR**







Elderslie High School, Narellan, NSW  
**MOST SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITOR OVERALL**  
 Akers Flock, Tallygaroopna, Vic

**SHEEP & FLEECE**  
**GRAND CHAMPION MERINO FLEECE**  
 Grathlyn, Mudgee, NSW  
**THOMAS FARQUHAR HODGSON MEMORIAL PERPETUAL TROPHY FOR MOST SUCCESSFUL MERINO FLEECE EXHIBITOR**  
 Masters Swamp, Kentucky, NSW  
**SUPREME MERINO EXHIBIT**  
 Hollow Mount Merinos, Bega, NSW  
**SUPREME PRIME LAMB EXHIBIT**  
 Tattykeel, Oberon, NSW

**WOODCHOP**  
**375MM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SAWING (SINGLE HANDED)**  
 Brad Delosa, South Bowenfels, NSW  
**600MM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP**

**SAWING (DOUBLE HANDED)**  
 Jamie Head, Burpengary East, QLD & Brayden Meyer, Flowerdale, VIC  
**THE MANNY MCCARTHY MEMORIAL 375MM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP UNDERHAND**  
 Brayden Meyer, Flowerdale, VIC  
**325MM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TREE FELLING**  
 Daniel Gurr, Deloraine, TAS  
**325MM ROYAL EASTER SHOW CHAMPIONSHIP STANDING BLOCK**  
 Brayden Meyer, Flowerdale, VIC  
**275MM LADIES UNDERHAND CHAMPIONSHIP**  
 Ashleigh Heath, Bellbird, NSW  
**300MM LADIES SINGLE HANDED SAWING CHAMPIONSHIP**  
 Jodie Beutel, Crow's Nest, QLD  
**MOST SUCCESSFUL COMPETITOR IN THE LADIES EVENTS**  
 Ashleigh Heath, Bellbird, NSW  
**THE ANNUAL ENCOURAGEMENT TROPHY, JUNIOR COMPETITOR**  
 William Hoyle, Koonoomoo, VIC

**CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS**  
 Glen Gillam, Toongabbie VIC

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**YOUNG JUDGES COMPETITIONS**  
**GRAIN** Campbell Wall, Mudgee, NSW  
**FRUIT & VEGETABLE** Michelle Fairall, Harden, NSW  
**ALPACA** Christie Hayward, Darlington, NSW  
**ANGORA GOAT & MOHAIR** Natalie Rizkallah, Georges Hall, NSW  
**BEEF CATTLE** Grace Burns, Towamba, NSW  
**BOER GOAT** Jakob Foley-Gallagher, Summer Hill Creek, NSW  
**DAIRY CATTLE** Brittany Legge, West Nowra, NSW  
**DAIRY GOAT** Eliza Scott, Yeouaz, NSW  
**HORSES** Tiffany Allomes, Tamworth, NSW (State) & Claire Nitschke, Woodside, SA (National)  
**HORTICULTURE** Cooper Boffo, Annangrove, NSW  
**PIG** David Batt, Bedfordale, WA  
**POULTRY** Jack Kenchington, Kenthurst, NSW  
**SHEEP** Campbell Rubie, Warroo, NSW

For a complete list of 2021 Sydney Royal Easter Show winners visit [rasnsw.com.au](https://rasnsw.com.au) and view the individual competition pages.



Department of  
Primary Industries

DPI is proud to partner with the RAS of NSW and support the 2021 Sydney Royal District Exhibits Competition.

Showcasing the excellence of our State's produce, the resilience of our NSW farmers and the pride of our NSW regions.



Follow DPI on Facebook & Twitter @NSWDPI to keep up-to-date on all things NSW primary industries



[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)





THIS PAGE: 1920 ROYAL EASTER SHOW OFFICIALS  
OPP PAGE: EARLY RAS MEMBERS GATHER IN THEIR FINERY

# 200 not out

We are part of the history of the state of New South Wales,  
and we proudly tell our story as we begin to launch  
our bicentenary celebrations.

It all began for the RAS in 1822, in the very early days of European settlement. The emphasis at that time was on agriculture and food provision for the new colony. The first settlers were struggling to adapt to the new environment and faced many problems with crops and farming. They needed to band together and help each other.

The Agricultural Society of NSW was formed on 5 July 1822, with a structure and purpose, an annual membership fee and the establishment of a fund to finance the importation of quality breed stock. It was also proposed to hold competitions amongst members, to 'excite in proprietors an ambition to excel each other', and so prizes were

offered, and judging would take place in front of the public at a Show. The first Show was held in October 1823 with livestock and produce categories. It was an opportunity to educate and inform the public, as well as enable Society Members to meet, transact business, and exchange ideas. In 1827, it was decided to hold two

Shows a year, one in June – for cattle, and one in October – for sheep and horses. In 1858, it became just one Show each year. The 1860 Show, in Westmead, was the first time the government put on additional trains to meet the increased demand from Showgoers. Now more than 160 years later this practice continues... along with plenty of extra buses and road clearways!

In 1890 it was deemed the Show would be held to coincide with Easter and it was the Grand Easter Show in 1908, the Royal Easter Show in 1918, and the Sydney Royal Easter Show in 1989.

There is no Show without the RAS and no RAS without the Show. They nurture each other, and in doing so they nurture agriculture, regional and rural communities, the next generation of producers and agriculturalists, and so much more.

As the RAS begins its 200th year and prepares to celebrate the milestone, it is worth taking a look back at some key moments in our history...

**1825**  
The Society imported 3 Durham heifers

**A strong tradition of service pervades the RAS and sons, grandsons, wives and daughters act as Stewards, serve on Council and committees, and give freely of their time.**

and a bull, 5 Devonshire heifers and a bull, 48 Merino ewes and 5 rams – animals whose presence would have a widespread beneficial effect.

**1868**  
The first publication of the Society's Journal – after stops and starts and name changes it is now the RAS Times.

**1869**  
On 13 November the RAS was incorporated in Australia under 'The Agricultural Society of New South Wales Act' under the New South Wales Parliament.

**1870**  
The decision was made to prepare Stud and Herd books. This made it possible for livestock stewards at competitions to

verify the pedigree of animals, and for judges to follow breed guidelines and provide valuable feedback to exhibitors.

**1871**  
The RAS Council offered medals for award at NSW Agricultural Shows. As the central society of NSW, there was an obligation to bind together affiliated societies and support their activities.

**1881**  
The Government of New South Wales provided land for the Royal Agricultural Society at Moore Park, also known as Sydney Showground.

**1891**  
Queen Victoria granted permission for the use of the prefix Royal for the Agricultural Society of NSW.





**The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and the Sydney Royal Easter Show are family traditions, generation after generation become members, exhibit, judge, and 'go to the Show'.**

#### 1894

Sheep breeders came together to form the NSW Sheepbreeders' Association and they held their own annual shows. In 1917 the RAS took over this Show, running it at the RAS Showground and changing the name to the RAS of NSW Annual Sheep Show.

#### 1908

With rugby league played at Sydney Showground, Moore Park, the Royal Agricultural Society Shield was designated the newly formed NSW Rugby League Premiership's main trophy.

#### 1913

Royal Hall of Industries at Moore Park

completed. The largest building of its kind in the state, at the time, the hall is still functional today following sympathetic restorations and hosts numerous events under the management of Playbill Venues. In 1919 the Hall was used as a hospital during the influenza epidemic. Affectionately remembered as Showbag Pavilion by millions of Showgoers.

#### 1924

Hordern Pavilion opens. It was Sydney's largest indoor venue from 1924-1983. Under the management of the RAS, it was commandeered by the military in 1939 and used as a bulk store, but between 1972-1983 it hosted concerts by

Johnny Cash, the Bee Gees, Ray Charles, Neil Diamond, Queen, Village People, David Bowie, and a whole lot more – 1237 concerts in total.

More to come in the next issue of RAS Times... ■

### SHARE YOUR STORY

Over the years the Show has become our greatest memory maker, the site from which tales are told and stories are shared, and so as the RAS edges nearer to its 200 years your stories are being sought. It's possible everyone who grew up in Sydney has a Show story, and almost guaranteed that everyone from regional NSW has a Show story too. Visit [www.rasnsw.com.au/200years](http://www.rasnsw.com.au/200years) to share your story



# Congratulations

**TO THE FINALISTS OF THE LAND  
SYDNEY ROYAL SHOWGIRL COMPETITION.**

**Cootamundra's Jessica Neale was named 2020 Showgirl, with Stephanie Ferguson, Bathurst, as first runner-up, and Kate Webster, Wagga Wagga, as second runner-up.**

The Land appreciates the opportunity to be a major part of this prestigious competition which recognises young women as ambassadors for rural Australia, their communities and for the agricultural show movement.

The opportunity this competition provides, including the networking, professional development and show experience, is unique in its format and character and we are sure to see you as leaders in agriculture's bright future.

# THE LAND





# Meeting the RAS

Applying for a job uncovered new details about the RAS and the strength of the organisation

**M**y first Sydney Royal Easter Show was in 2019. It was a blissful era where 24-year-old me chomped down chips-on-sticks, romped with goats and marvelled at the axe-wielding precision of woodchop champions. As a former country kid turned new Sydney resident, I decided an annual pilgrimage to the Show was now essential.

Little did I know the following year would turn the world and every large-scale gathering on its head. I'd have to rely on a photo in a snowglobe immortalising my post-rollercoaster terror to remember the thrills of the Show during its 2020 COVID-19 shutdown.

It's over two years since my first Show visit, and the 2021 Show has come and gone in all its glory, setting new records for bacon-on-a-stick purchases and waterfowl winners of Best Bird in Show.

For anyone who hasn't yet fallen in love with the Show, that sentence might sound slightly mad. But it's exactly this kind of effervescent joy and celebration of Australia's agricultural heritage which drew me to investigate a job advertisement with the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales (RAS).

Naturally, I was keen to work with the team behind the Show – I imagined riotous fun and potential Show extras would abound. But as I dug deeper into

my RAS research, I found a whole lot more than carnival rides and fireworks.

From the get-go, I was surprised to learn the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW has been preserving and furthering sustainable agricultural development for 199 years. For an institution to endure through two world wars, the Spanish Flu outbreak, a bout of bubonic plague and then a global pandemic shows a clear necessity for the services it provides and the ideals it supports.

I'd once considered the produce and livestock exhibitions at the Show solely as entertainment for visitors unfamiliar with scents of hay and wool. Now, I see these competitions and awards for what they are: benchmarks that drive NSW

farmers and producers to new heights of excellence, ensuring a more prosperous future for the industry, the communities which rely on its success and the Australians who enjoy the fruits of that labour.

I also hadn't made the connection between the RAS and the site of the Show, Sydney Showground. The RAS runs this major Sydney venue, which I reckon is a rather savvy inclusion in the organisation's portfolio.

The Showground provides a space to host RAS events like the Show, year-round agricultural education programs and a regular awards calendar, as well as external events like the footy, Comic-Con and other privately run expos. Then, the profits from hosting these ventures can be funnelled back into the community-building work of the RAS.

And this brings me to the Royal Agricultural Society Foundation of NSW (RASF). While the RAS already commits a massive \$9 million each year to strengthen agricultural industries and rural communities, I was excited to discover the organisation has a whole separate charitable unit providing even more support to people in regional and rural NSW.

Whether you're an aspiring vintner who adores regional NSW wines or an up-and-coming rural writer, the RASF runs scholarship programs that can help fund and further your education. As someone who's benefited from a scholarship for regional journalism students, I can say there's nothing quite like being recognised for your efforts and actively supported in reaching your career goals.

Young enthusiastic students are often faced with many compromises in the quest to turn passion into reality, especially if they're dealing with financial or geographic barriers. Receiving a grant like those offered by the RASF, and some are even coupled with opportunities like internships and development courses, can take some of those pressures off. The very worthy goal is to build up generations of professionals who can represent and advocate for their regions, reminding city-dwellers and the rest of NSW that there are important issues and exciting developments to explore beyond the city limits.

But the RASF isn't just about education, it's also another avenue for supporting NSW communities more broadly. Flicking through some of the



THIS PAGE: A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE 2021 SHOW. OPP PAGE: CARNIVAL OPERATOR GARRY O'NEILL BELIEVES SHOW PEOPLE ARE PART OF THE ENTIRE RAS FAMILY

projects and events they have helped fund is a real treat. You'll see rural schools benefit from new resources and equipment, community gardens flourish with regenerative growing programs, accessible mental-health-first fitness centre pop-ups, and people coming together at fairs, markets, fencing competitions and vintage car expos.

The diversity of the people and projects the RASF supports is impressive, and it's great to see such a large organisation responding to major issues like drought and flooding while also investing in individuals. And best of all, RAS doesn't forget pets.

The Australasian Animal Registry is a not-for-profit pet registration and recovery service run by the RAS across Australia and New Zealand. It's yet another branch of the RAS dedicated to community care, ensuring animals – whether they're furry, scaled, or hooved – are respected, protected and returned to their families if they become lost. I find it very fitting that the agricultural caretaker of the state is looking out for beloved household critters in the same way it oversees generations of healthy

livestock and four-legged farm hands across NSW.

After all this RAS investigation, I've begun to understand why NSW residents, be they country or city folk, become members of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW – and I actually discovered a few friends were on the list.

One Sydney-based friend originally from Scone appreciates the discounts on offer to RAS members at the Show and other family-friendly events so she can take her young kids on adventures to teach them about farm and country life. Another mate from the Southern Highlands has been reading the RAS Times for years. His parents always maintained membership to keep abreast of local agricultural developments and ensure their 12 Jersey cows and assorted hens and ducks were being treated to the highest standards.

It seems RAS members are as multifaceted as the organisation itself. Whether you're working and volunteering for the Society or the recipient of one of many grants, scholarships or awards, a passionate group of Aussies like this is a pretty great example of community in NSW. ■





# THE PRINCE OF THE PARK

Thanks to a recent TV series, the once-distant figure of Queen Victoria is now more familiar to us all. Her second son, Prince Alfred, was Australia's first royal visitor. During the last of his eventful trips here, he attended the Show – held at the park that carried his name.

**W**hen the British naval frigate HMS Galatea pulled up at her mooring in the middle of Farm Cove in Sydney on 15 September 1870, people lining the shores watched intently as a gaggle of boats jostled around her. Interest lay not in the ship, although it was a state-of-the-art frigate powered by steam and sail, but in its captain – His Royal Highness Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh. The Prince had joined the navy at fourteen and worked his way up through the ranks to become a capable leader. Now 26-years-old, the second-in-line to the throne had been in charge for three years, most recently bringing his ship around the Cape of Good Hope to New Zealand. Terrible seas claimed the life of a seaman and battered the ship, and on the journey from Wellington to Australia, yet another sailor was lost in a storm that extensively damaged the rigging. The Sydney port-call was meant to be brief, part of routine naval duties, but now Alfred's stay would be longer. The Galatea needed repairs. On the first spring tide she would go to the graving dock at Cockatoo Island to receive them.

After landing at 2 pm, the Prince visited the Governor, then took a drive to South Head. In the evening he paid a private visit to the Metropolitan Intercolonial Exhibition. And why wouldn't he? In a superb new, world-class pavilion set in landscaped grounds, the Agricultural Society of New South Wales had mounted its most ambitious and sophisticated Show yet. The Prince was impressed by all he saw and immediately offered to send along his pet elephant as an additional entertainment. But more of the elephant later...

The Prince settled in rooms at the Union Club in the city. This was to be a much more pleasant stay than his first trip to Australia. That was an official royal tour – the first ever made by a member of the Royal family to Australia – and one that nearly ended in disaster.

TOM THE ELEPHANT AND HIS  
ROYALLY APPOINTED KEEPER  
ONBOARD THE GALATEA





On the Australian leg of the world journey, Prince Alfred arrived in the Galatea in October 1867, landing at Adelaide first. But after Adelaide, the tour went downhill.

In Melbourne, religious tensions erupted in the huge crowd that came out to greet the Prince: shots were fired and a Catholic boy was killed, leading to a riot. Then, at a free public picnic, 40,000 people turned out when only 10,000 were expected. Though the Prince stayed away to avoid a trampling, mayhem broke out as people scrambled to get at the free food and wine. Finally, at Bendigo, another celebration turned to tragedy when three boys climbed into

a model of the Galatea that was meant to be part of an illuminated display: they set off the fireworks and burned to death.

Prince Alfred moved on to Tasmania, Sydney, then Queensland for a week. Staggering crowds turned out wherever he went; young women flocked to get near him: every little thing he did or said, every titbit about him was news.

When he returned to Sydney in early March, he demanded an easier schedule – a royal plea with which we're all too familiar. But there was one event Alfred could not turn down: a harbour-side picnic day at Clontarf for a sailors' charity. It was a decision that almost cost

him his life.

On that day, 12 March 1867, Australia's first political assassination attempt took place when the Prince was shot by a man stepping out of the crowd. Irish-Catholic Henry James O'Farrell pulled out a double-barrelled pistol from his jacket and fired at close range. As the Prince fell to the ground he called out, 'Good God, I am shot ... My back is broken.'

The Prince's wound was serious and he spent two weeks in hospital, nursed by trainees of Florence Nightingale. He eventually made a full recovery. Henry O'Farrell, his would-be assassin, at first claimed his actions were directed by the Fenian Brotherhood, but when it was learnt he had only just been released from a lunatic asylum, a history of mental illness was revealed. Despite the mitigating circumstances, O'Farrell was convicted of attempted murder and sentenced to death. The Prince's request for clemency went ignored.

Before the month was out, a group of Sydney's leading citizens banded together to raise subscriptions for a new building which was to be a 'monument in testimony of the heartfelt gratitude of the community at the recovery of HRH'. That building became the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

In early April the Prince left Australia for home. A little over two weeks later, his luckless assailant was hanged in Darlinghurst Gaol.

An embarrassed, loyalist flurry of naming of things after Prince Alfred ensued: in Melbourne, another hospital – the Alfred; and in Surry Hills in Sydney, Cleveland Paddocks became Prince Alfred Park, the site of the Agricultural Society's first city Show in 1869.

The Park's grand new exhibition hall was built in time for the 1870 Show – the one the Prince attended on his coincidentally timed port-call. This Show ran from 30 August to 30 September.

Making good on his early promise, the Prince's pet elephant, Tom, was duly walked through the city streets by his keeper and delivered to the Show, to the great amazement of all. 'The huge monster is perfectly docile, and walks about the grounds with a care that might be advantageously adopted by bi-ped visitors,' said one newspaper.

At around four years old, Tom stood about two metres tall. He was a gift to

the Prince by Nepal's head of state, Sir Jung Bahadur, and a favourite of all onboard the Galatea, especially when helping out with rope hauling and coal loading.

Like any good sailor, Tom was fond of beer, and a good supply was kept up to him at the Exhibition. Before his appearance, Mr Gale ascending in his hot air balloon and a 'Road Steamer' had been the Exhibition's biggest attractions, but Tom easily eclipsed them as the favourite of patrons.

His Royal Highness Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh made his first public appearance at the Show accompanied by the Governor on 19 September. The secretary of the Agricultural Society, Mr Jules Joubert, led the party on a tour of the building through the enthusiastic press of the crowd.

During the remaining days of the Exhibition, the Prince attended several evening concerts, including the closing grand finale, which ended just before midnight. The Prince arrived at 10.30 pm, but so great was the clamouring throng that no one who stood within a hundred feet of him could hear the music. According to the newspaper, 'The assemblage was a brilliant one, and before the majority of the visitors left the building, loud and enthusiastic cheers were given for everybody and everything concerned with the Exhibition, the heartiest being probably those awarded to the secretary of the Agricultural Society ... in recognition of the exertions he has made in promoting the show to its final and triumphant conclusion.'

At night's end the gas lights were gradually turned down and upwards of 1000 people left the building.

Repairs to the Galatea were slow. Alfred kept a low public profile, punctuating his days pigeon shooting at Sans Souci, sometimes attending concerts and plays of an evening. But on 12 October he returned to the glittering pavilion at Prince Alfred Park to attend the Agricultural Society's gala ball. The transformation of the hall was nothing short of astonishing. In the side aisles inside the building where unwieldy exhibits had been, turf was laid on the concrete floors and elaborate floral gardens were installed as decorations. Fifty mirrors lined the walls of the ballroom, and when overheated dancers tired of the German band, they could refresh themselves on the 'delicious



## Interest lay not in the ship, although the HMS Galatea was a state-of-the-art frigate powered by steam and sail, but in its captain - His Royal Highness Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh

liquids' served at several iced-cream fountains.

Following the ball, the Prince travelled aboard a commercial steamer to Melbourne to attend the Melbourne Cup. Then, finally, the Galatea was ready. On 16 November 1870, the Captain-Prince sailed out through Sydney Heads, destined for the South Sea Islands.

Tom the elephant died young for his species. On his return to England, he accidentally crushed and killed his keeper during transportation by rail to Sandringham. Dublin Zoo became his home, where he was known as Prince Tommy and left free to roam. His most famous trick was to hand over coins in his trunk to buy snacks for himself from the food stands. However, after several 'incidents', he was confined to a small enclosure. In 1882 he died, aged about fifteen, and his body was transported by barge to Trinity College for dissection. His skeleton can be seen today at the Trinity College Zoology Museum.

Prince Alfred fared rather better than his pet, marrying in 1874 to the Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna of Russia. His naval career was distinguished and in 1893 he was promoted to Admiral of the Fleet. That same year Alfred

inherited the dukedom of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha after the death of his paternal uncle. He renounced his British title as the Duke of Edinburgh and moved to Germany to reign. Tragedy struck the family when Alfred's only son committed suicide in 1899 over a scandal involving his mistress. Alfred was heartbroken. He died the following year of throat cancer.

Fast forward to 1956 and the next Duke of Edinburgh – the late Prince Philip. In Australia on a royal tour for the Melbourne Olympic Games, Philip made a quick trip to Sydney. On a lightning tour of the city on 30 November, the Duke inspected various building projects, including new public housing towers under construction in Redfern. Nearby Prince Alfred Park was also undergoing redevelopment. The old exhibition building had been demolished three years earlier, making way for a swimming pool (opened in 1954) and an ice-skating rink (1959). Strange to think that on that ground the previous Duke once stood, along with his elephant, together out-doing the Road Steamer and Mr Gale's balloon as the biggest attractions at the Agricultural Society's 1870 Show. ■

**The Agricultural Society of NSW had mounted its most sophisticated Show yet, the Prince was so impressed he offered to send along his pet elephant as additional entertainment...**



# What's on

AT SYDNEY SHOWGROUND | [SYDNEYSHOWGROUND.COM.AU](http://SYDNEYSHOWGROUND.COM.AU)



## GWS GIANTS - AFL SEASON

Vs Gold Coast Suns 9-11 July  
Vs Sydney Swans 16-18 July  
Vs Richmond 13-15 August

## BINGO LOCO

10th JULY 2021

Get ready to kick back your chair and sing and dance like you have never done before! Bingo Loco has flipped the traditional game of bingo on its head and turned it into a 3 hour long stage show complete with rave rounds, conga lines, dance-offs, lip sync battles, and prizes ranging from vacations to lawnmowers. [bingoloco.com.au](http://bingoloco.com.au)

## FOODPRO

25th-28th JULY 2021

Foodpro is a celebration of the contribution of Australian food producers, distributors and

manufacturers. It's where the industry gathers to generate solutions that will take us towards a more sustainable world. PLEASE NOTE: TRADE EVENT ONLY [foodproexh.com](http://foodproexh.com)

## SYDNEY DISABILITY EXPO

6th-7th AUGUST 2021

People with disability are embracing My Future, My Choice as a way to control how they want to live their lives now and plan for the future. The Sydney Disability Expo will link thousands of people with a disability with hundreds of product and service providers as well as presenting a range of informative and interactive presentations delivered by industry experts.

[sydneydisabilityexpo.com.au](http://sydneydisabilityexpo.com.au)

## DOG LOVERS SHOW

7TH-8TH AUGUST 2021

Our dogs are family and no words could ever portray just how much joy and love they bring to our lives. The Dog Lovers Show is a tribute to the unconditional love that we share with our dogs and we look forward to welcoming you to the 2021 events in August to celebrate and learn more about our best friends. [dogloversshow.com.au/sydney](http://dogloversshow.com.au/sydney)

## INTERNATIONAL SALTWATER AQUARIUM SHOW - REEF STOCK AUSTRALIA

7th-8th AUGUST 2021

Reef Stock has been energizing the local marine and reef aquarium community of Colorado since 2004 and is making the trip Down Under to bring aquarium enthusiasts and hobbyists together for the love of saltwater and coral. [reefstock.show/australia-2021/](http://reefstock.show/australia-2021/)

## SYDNEY'S ANNUAL WEDDING EXPO

15th AUGUST 2021

Full of colour, inspiration, fun and great live entertainment – this is an event not to be missed! The vendors include florists, gowns, photography, invitations, wedding cars, hens' parties, makeup, fitness, men's suits, videography, reception venues, honeymoon, candy buffets, cakes, planners, celebrants and stylists. [weddingexpoaustralia/sydney-wedding-expo-2021/](http://weddingexpoaustralia/sydney-wedding-expo-2021/)

## MEATSTOCK - THE MUSIC & BARBECUE FESTIVAL

21st-22nd AUGUST 2021

The festival includes live music, demonstrations, eating competitions, food trucks, barbecue expo, live art, the Rod + Custom Rumble, competitions,

free rides for the kids and refreshments by Yaks Brewing and Sailor Jerry. [meatstock.com.au](http://meatstock.com.au)

## HEALTH, WELLNESS & FITNESS EXPO

12th SEPTEMBER 2021

This is Australia's favourite health and wellness event showcasing the industry's leading vendors. Meet the people and companies transforming our whole approach to staying healthy and keeping fit. It's the place to go for the latest in fitness, wellness, nutrition, health, psychology, education and more. [healthwellnessfitnessexpo.com.au/](http://healthwellnessfitnessexpo.com.au/)

## OZ COMIC-CON

SEPTEMBER 2021

Welcoming fans of all ages, interests, and pop-obsessions with a truly immersive experience across two fun-

filled days. Whether you're a Muggle, a Marshmallow, an Earper, a Jedi, a Whovian or someone who doesn't understand a word we just said, as long as you love popular culture and enjoy a fun day out, we have something for you! [ozcomiccon.com](http://ozcomiccon.com)

## CAKE BAKE & SWEETS SHOW

22nd-24th OCTOBER 2021

If you have a passion for baking, cake decorating or just love cakes and other delicious temptations, then you'll love Cake Bake & Sweets Show. Australia's biggest 3-day home baking, desserts & sweets event with daily demonstrations from world's leading cake decorators and master chefs, hands-on-product activations, and sampling, and loads of retail sales. [cakebakeandsweets.com/](http://cakebakeandsweets.com/)



# Take a trip

A visit to a country show is a wonderful way to help rural and regional towns during tough times, and now more than ever they need visitors and support.

**The Agricultural Societies Council of NSW (ASC) website lists all country shows** held throughout the year, searchable by town or date. Here's a few to help you plan an agricultural road trip.

## AUGUST

7 - 8 Mungindi  
13-14 Tullamore  
15 Weethalle  
17-18 Trundle  
21 Bedgerabong, and Ganmain  
24-25 Peak Hill  
27-28 Condobolin  
28 Barellan  
28-29 Wentworth, and Penrith  
30-1 (Sept) Parkes

## SEPTEMBER

3-4 Grenfell, and Narromine  
3-5 Tamworth  
4 Lake Cargelligo, Manildra, Woodenbong, and Narrandera

5 Finley, and Woodstock Memorial  
7-8 West Wyalong  
10-11 Hay, Forbes, Murrumburrah Harden, and Wagga Wagga  
11-12 Cudal  
11 Ungarie, and Quirindi  
12 Aria Park, and Wyong Shire  
17-18 Eugowra, and Merriwa  
18 Ardlethan  
19 Molong, and Young  
24-25 Canowindra  
24-26 Singleton  
2 Dapto, Hillston, and Temora  
25-26 Nimbin  
26 Lockhart  
28-29 Kempsey

## OCTOBER

2 Bribbaree, and Culcairn  
3 Berrigan, and Griffith  
4 Morongla, and Walbundrie  
8-9 Kyogle, and Leeton  
9 Illabo, and Trunkay Creek  
9-10 Taree

10 Corowa  
11 Norfolk Island Royal  
15-16 Barham Koondrook, Cootamundra, and Cowra  
15-17 Casino  
16 The Rock, and Tooraweenah  
16-17 Camden Haven, and Morrist Lake Macquarie  
21-23 Lismore  
23 Junee  
23-24 Picton  
24 Bungendore  
29-30 Alstonville, and Gloucester  
29-31 Albury  
30 Carcoar

## NOVEMBER

5-6 Murwillumbah  
7 Minto  
12-13 Dungog  
13 Neville  
13-14 Mullumbimby, and Queanbeyan  
19-20 Bulahdelah, and Bangalow  
27-28 Dorrigo

(please note, dates were correct at time of printing).

# Storytelling with a difference

Applications are now open for the JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications

This is your chance to experience a range of practical experience with three media internships providing a launch pad to a career telling the stories from country Australia, along with a \$10,000 cash scholarship to help ease the financial worry of studying.

*"The JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications reassures me of the demand for regional storytelling within the Australian media landscape, and the role I might play in telling these stories,"* says 2021 recipient Alys Marshall.

**Applications close 8 August 2021. To find out more and apply, visit [rasnsw.com.au/rasfjbfairfaxaward](https://rasnsw.com.au/rasfjbfairfaxaward)**

**RASF**  
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW  
FOUNDATION



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW





Royal Agricultural Society of NSW