

RAS TIMES

MARCH 2022 | VOLUME 20-1

THE VIRTUAL MUSEUM IS OPEN
200 years of history is on display

**NOW MORE THAN EVER, IT'S
TIME TO SHOW UP**
Showing resilience through these
unprecedented times

**ON THE AGRICULTURAL
HOLIDAY HIGHWAY**
NSW travel inspiration



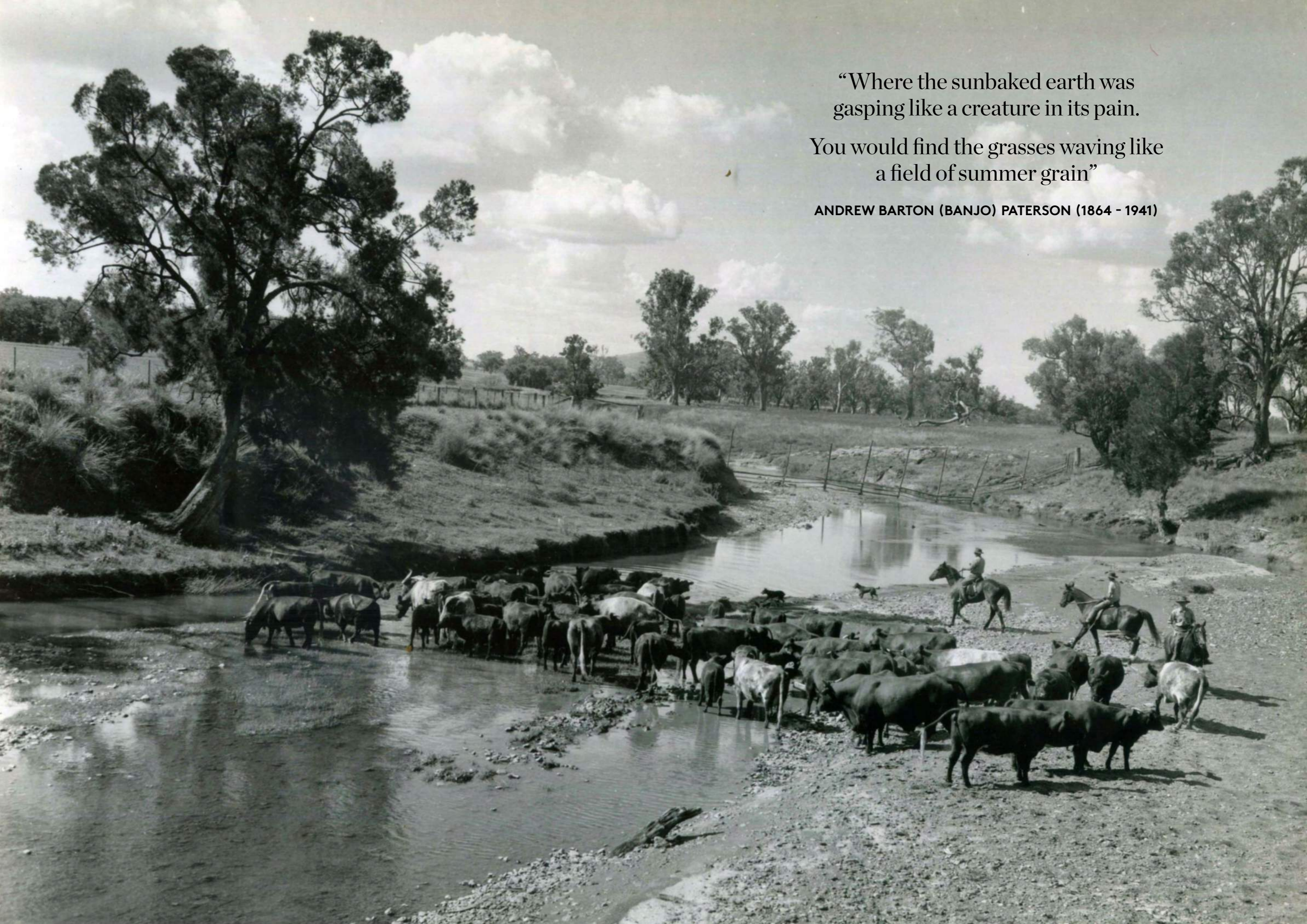
200 YEARS OF THE RAS

Two hundred years of accessible, searchable RAS history and memorabilia are now on display at our brand-new Virtual Museum.

“Where the sunbaked earth was
gasping like a creature in its pain.

You would find the grasses waving like
a field of summer grain”

ANDREW BARTON (BANJO) PATERSON (1864 - 1941)



Contents

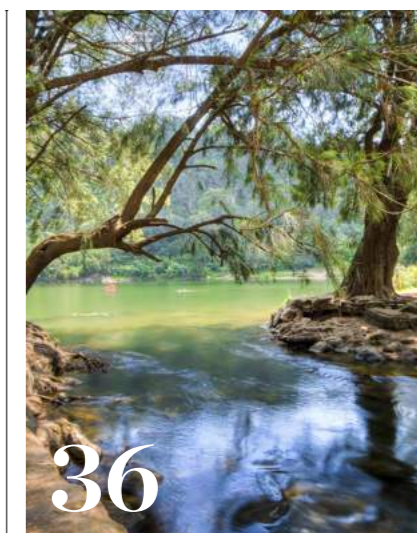
MARCH 2022 | VOLUME 20-1

14



Features

- 14 **The Virtual Museum is open**
200 years of history is on display
- 28 **Now more than ever, it's time to show up**
Showing resilience through these unprecedented times
- 34 **Aged care in rural Australia**
A problem growing up
- 40 **On the agricultural holiday highway**
NSW travel inspiration



Regulars

- 6 **President's letter**
- 7 **The vine**
- 12 **Chief Executive's column**
- 13 **Flavours**

Publisher: Royal Agricultural Society of NSW
ISSN: 1836-6724. 1 Showground Road, Sydney Olympic Park, NSW 2127
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Cover: RAS Heritage
Print: Brightset Printing

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We're supporting Australia's dairy farming innovators with more than \$2 million in grants.



The White family, Riverslea, VIC

Bradley and Jenna White's farm is set to receive a boost from the Woolworths Dairy Innovation Fund. The \$66,000 grant they have received will be used to invest in automation to upgrade their rotary dairy, streamlining the milking process and introducing automatic cup removers to improve cow wellbeing.

We're proud to be helping Bradley and Jenna invest in their farm for the future.

The Woolworths Dairy Innovation Fund provides grants up to \$100,000 to support projects that bolster innovation, efficiency and seasonal resilience on Australian dairy farms.

Find out more





The ability to keep going despite natural disasters of drought, floods and bushfires, and global issues including the pandemic, has stood us in good stead for two hundred years and will continue to do so. The RAS embodies the tenacity and resilience Australians are renowned for, and the spirit of our founders still lives within the organisation. In 1822 they came together to help each other and help the new colony thrive and we continue to operate with this in mind. We have solid education programs in place to encourage future farmers and producers, and we provide support where we can through our RAS Foundation. Our Sydney Royal competitions reward excellence and provide

It is one of my favourite times of the year, Show time, and what a Show it is going to be. Although we don't officially mark our bicentenary until 5 July it makes perfect sense for this year's Show to be the biggest celebration in our history. All around the grounds Showgoers will see memories and milestones, we have themed competitions and displays, and some special surprises.

We have planned for a Covid-safe Show and once again thank the Federal and State governments for the assistance they have provided, not just to our Show but agricultural Shows in general. It is recognition of the importance our events have for the wider community and the role regional Shows play in ensuring a viable and sustainable future for the agricultural industry.

Our Show takes on greater significance this year than in any other, this being the year of our bicentenary, and I would like to acknowledge all who have worked to make sure it can happen – Councillors, staff, volunteers, judges and stewards, all who have entered our competitions, and sponsors and exhibitors. It is an enormous team effort to put on the largest annual ticketed event in Australia and to do it as well as we do year after year.

feedback and opportunities to learn, and the Sydney Showground business provides the backdrop and income stream for so much of our work.

I don't know that Messrs Jamieson, Field, Marsden, Townson and Cox saw beyond improving agriculture and livestock breeding when they founded the RAS, but I believe they would be proud to see where it has gone and the ongoing impact we have had on agriculture, education, events, competitions, regional and rural communities and the lives of all who have been a part of our history.

With this in mind, I urge all Members to come along to the Sydney Royal Easter Show to not only watch the judging of competitions, enjoy the thrill of the carnival, see some spectacular entertainment and eat traditional Show food but also to celebrate our beginnings and recognise our founders.

Michael Millner, President
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



NAMING THE PAVILIONS

In our bicentenary countdown stories over the past few issues, we have given the reasons for each pavilion name... the Southee Pavilion story left out half the name – it is officially the Southee and Badgery pavilion, and here's the Badgery side.

In 1868 the first Badgery took up a position on the RAS Council – Henry was a stock and station agent, and the managing director of Pitt, Son, and Badgery. He conducted the first sale of cattle at Homebush and was one of the greatest stock auctioneers of his time, earning the nickname 'the King of Homebush'. Little did he know not only would his family association with the RAS continue to this day with Badgerys on the current Council but the place he held the first auctions and was 'king' of would go on to honour his family with a pavilion named Badgery and that it would be unveiled by a future King.

William, Duke of Cambridge, and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge unveiled the Southee and Badgery Pavilion plaque at Sydney Olympic Park on 18 April 2014, giving the Arts & Crafts and Flower & Garden pavilions their official names.



To mark the bicentenary of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW two limited-edition items have been released – and both will be available for purchase at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Sydney Royal, Celebrating 200 Years of the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales -available in the Heritage Pavilion and other outlets around the Showground, or online. Written by noted historian Gavin Fry, this beautifully produced record of the RAS and the Sydney Royal Easter Show features many never-before-seen photographs and

anecdotes, along with a detailed timeline, capturing the spirit and resilience of one of Australia's oldest organisations.

Bicentenary Tea Towel – designed and produced in Australia, the RAS has released a limited edition linen tea towel, available exclusively at the Sydney Royal Easter Show in the Heritage Pavilion, Members Stand and included in the 2022 RASF Ag Bag. ■





IT'S FINE WINE TIME

Thanks to our partnership with Wine Selectors, we are pleased to provide you with VIP access to a collection of Trophy and Gold medal-winners from the 2021 KPMG Sydney Royal Wine Show.

Taste some of the finest wines from the competition including exceptional Shiraz, Merlot, Tempranillo, Marsanne, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, and more. At just \$18.50 a bottle, you'll need to get in quick to secure your dozen drops. ■

Get your VIP access to this exclusive collection of KPMG Sydney Royal Wine Show Gold Medal Winners for just \$222! Also available in red or white dozens.
(minimum saving \$134)

PLUS every KPMG Sydney Royal Wine Show Gold Medal Dozen comes with bonus tasting notes including suggested food matches.

www.wineselectors.com.au/sydney-royal-medal-winning-dozens



SYDNEY SHOWGROUND

Don't forget to keep an eye on Sydney Showground events, listed on the website sydneyshowground.com.au

From Meatstock – the Music and Barbecue Festival and the Cake Bake & Sweets Show (both in May) to June's Supanova Comic Con & Gaming expo and the Sydney Craft & Quilt Fair... and a whole lot of GWS GIANTS matches in-between, the second half of 2022 promises to be busy for the team at Sydney Showground. ■





SHOW INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS 2022

The 2022 Sydney Royal Easter Show welcomes Members and their guests. Make the most of your time at the Show by taking advantage of these exclusive benefits.

ASSISTANCE

MEMBERS INFORMATION TOWER

Pre-Show Dates: 28 March-7 April 2022 (weekdays only)

Hours: 8am-4pm

During Show Dates: 8-19 April 2022

Time: 8am-5.30pm

Venue: 1 Showground Road,

Sydney Olympic Park

Service: RAS Membership card collection and general enquiries

MEMBER CUSTOMER SERVICE DESK AND CLOAK ROOM

Dates: 8-19 April 2022

Time: 8am-9.30pm

Venue: Members Stand

Service: Purchase Royal Reserves, merchandise, carnival coupons and general enquiries



MEMBER PHONE ENQUIRIES

Pre-Show Dates: 28 March-7 April 2022 (weekdays only)

Time: 8am-5pm

During Show Dates: 8-19 April 2022

Time: 8am-9.30pm

Telephone: 02 9704 1144

Service: General enquiries

MEMBER DRESS REGULATIONS

Whether you're enjoying a day watching events in the Stadium, or an evening in Charley Restaurant taking in the entertainment spectacular over dinner, your time in the Members Stand is special. Appropriate clothing is a key part of the experience for you, your guests and other Members. Please read the RAS dress regulations before you visit, go to rasnsw.com.au/membership

EVENTS

Arts Preview Evening

This premiere gala showcases the stunning array of work entered in the Sydney Royal Arts & Crafts Competition. Live music will add to the air of celebration while you peruse exhibits including portraits, rural landscapes, photographs, sculptures,

ceramics, silverwork and more. Mix and mingle with distinguished Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Council members and be there as first place prizes are awarded to art exhibitors. Spot something you fancy? You can purchase artwork throughout the night.

Date: Wednesday, 6 April 2022

Time: 6pm-9pm

Venue: Arts & Crafts Pavilion

Cost: RAS Member \$34, guest \$45, Early Bird \$40 - until 23 March 2022

Book: Tickets on sale in March, visit rasnsw.com.au or call 02 9704 1152

RAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Thursday, 7 April

Time: 5pm - 6pm

Location: Pearson Room, Dome Mezzanine

PRESIDENT'S HIGH TEA

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

Date: Friday, 8 April 2022

Time: 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Venue: Hordern Café, Members Stand

NOTE: RAS Members & Guest Card holders. No wristbands admitted. Subject to Covid restrictions



TYRRELL'S MEMBERS PREVIEW NIGHT

Your exclusive preview of the 2022 Sydney Royal Easter Show evening entertainment will show you spectacular sights and unbelievable performances.

You'll be the first to see the brand new evening entertainment taking centre stage in the Stadium. This magical evening will end with the Show's spectacular fireworks finale. Book now to enjoy the show over drinks and canapés.

Date: Thursday, 8 April 2022

Time: 6.30pm - 9.30pm

Venue: Skydeck, Sydney Royal Stand

Cost: RAS Member \$75, guest \$85, children \$55

Book: Call 02 9704 1144 or online www.rasnsw.com.au/members

NOTE: Bookings close 5pm Wednesday 24 March. Cocktail function, seating is limited.

SHOW DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT

Show benefit: Members receive 5% discount at all food outlets during the Show.

HORDERN CAFÉ

Casual dining in the Members Stand.

Dates: 8-19 April 2022

Time: 7.30am-9pm

Special offer: RAS Members receive 10% discount. Hot Breakfast is now being served in the Hordern Café from 7.30am till 9.30am.

Cost: RAS Member \$16, guest \$21

CHARLEY RESTAURANT

A dining experience the whole family can enjoy. With stunning views of the Stadium through floor-to-ceiling windows, Charley Restaurant is a place of serenity and indulgence amid the excitement of the Show. Renowned Executive Chef, Tim Browne has put the emphasis on high-quality, locally sourced ingredients in the menu specially curated for RAS Members and guests.

Dates: 8-19 April 2022

Time: Lunch 11.30am - 2.30pm

Dinner 5.30pm - 9.30pm

Book: Open now - during business hours, Monday to Friday and 8-19 April 2022 8.00am till 9.00pm on 02 9704 1144

MEMBERS BAR

For the night owls, live music every evening from 9pm.

Time: 11am - midnight (last drinks at 11.30pm and music will cease)

Venue: Members Stand

Special Offer: RAS Members receive 10% discount

SERVICES

PARENTS' ROOM

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

Dates: 8-19 April 2022

Time: 8am-9.30pm

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



MERCHANDISE

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

BUGGY SERVICE

Our elderly or disabled Members have access to buggy transportation to and from P1 car park, Olympic Park train station, Accor Hotels and the bus stop located opposite the Aquatic Centre.

Dates: 8-19 April 2022

Time: 8am-9pm

Telephone: 02 9704 1144

Members wishing to attend the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday 7 April 2022 will be met at the Members Information Tower at 1 Showground Road Sydney Olympic Park and escorted to the Pearson Room, Dome Mezzanine for a 5.00pm start.

Following the completion of the AGM Members will be escorted to the Dome for a sneak peek of the District Exhibits bicentenary display.

Members who did not attend the AGM but are attending the Tyrrell's Members Preview Night will be collected from the Members Information Tower at 5.50pm and escorted to the Dome for a sneak peek of the District Exhibits bicentenary display before being escorted to the Skydeck, Sydney Royal Stand. Please note, the Preview will begin at 6.30pm.

DRESS CODE

This year the RAS is celebrating our bicentenary and the Sydney Royal Easter Show promises to be the biggest party of the year... like all good parties, the Show includes a dress code for all Members and their guests wishing to enjoy access to Members facilities.

The following items of clothing are not considered acceptable:

- Thongs (a shoe is considered a thong if it has two straps which connect in between the first and second toes - including Havaianas, Birkenstocks and similar scuffs, slides and slippers, Ugg Boots, dirty or dilapidated footwear (including torn, mud-caked or damaged boots), industrial gumbuts.
- Revealing, untidy or inappropriate clothing including shorts/skirts of an inappropriate length (mid-length dress shorts are acceptable for both men and women) or midriff revealing clothing.
- Torn or ripped clothing including jeans (even if 'designer' tears).
- Tracksuit pants or gym attire (including leggings, crop tops and racer back singlets), or leggings worn as pants.
- Men's singlet tops.
- Women's singlet/spaghetti strap tops.
- Beanies for both men and women.
- Clothing emblazoned with indecent pictures and/or language.

Anyone not dressed appropriately will be refused entry or asked to leave. Children under the age of 14 years should be neatly attired.

2022 MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The delivery of membership cards has been delayed and we anticipate they will be mailed out commencing end of February through to March. Due to the effects of Covid-19, our mail house and associated supply chain businesses have been heavily impacted and are running on limited resources. Apologies for any inconvenience and we thank you for your patience. ■



loyalty over the recent periods of uncertainty, it means a lot to Council and staff. We are a member-based organisation and we do it for you and your trust in us to safeguard the legacy of the RAS is a great motivator. I hope as many Members as possible can come along to the Show this year and help us celebrate our remarkable milestone.

Following the Show we have high hopes for a busy year, Sydney Showground bookings are good for the second half of the year, a lot of clients have stayed with us and are eager to return with major events and activities. Meatstock, the Cake Bake & Sweets Show, and the Sydney Craft & Quilt Fair are all scheduled from

May onwards – keep an eye on your RAS Times and Members emails for updated information and any Members offers as these events come closer.

The AFL season has also kicked off and the GWS GIANTS enjoy the support of many RAS Members – the Membership page on our website will advise of any special offers for Members to get along to watch the GIANTS in action.

Our website rasnsw.com.au also hosts a Virtual Museum, set up to mark our bicentenary and I urge everyone to visit the site. Two hundred years' worth of photos, documents, trophies, memorabilia and stories are at your fingertips and the trip down memory lane is incredible. I believe the museum is one of our finest achievements to honour our bicentenary.

I also look forward to welcoming you all to the Show for twelve days of agricultural celebration.

Brock Gilmour, Chief Executive,
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

THE AUSTRALIAN FARMER

We are proud to present a heavily refreshed version of the second instalment of One Mandate Group's "living" *The Australian Farmer* (TAF) digital book, which the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW has recently started supporting, available for free to all members and other agricultural enthusiasts.

Distinguished authors include leaders at The Waite Research Institute, Cattle Council of Australia, Leading Edge Data Centres, QAAFI, SARDI, Hort Innovation, etc.

Don't miss the magnificent two-page photo montage supplied by Agricultural Shows Australia at pages 114-115!

To access your free copy, and bookmark and share across your own networks, see this link; www.theaustralianfarmer.com/digital-book



FIELD OF CHAMPIONS

When only the best will do, indulge in one of these past medal winners from the Sydney Royal Wine, Dairy & Fine Food Shows.

Dolcettini Patisserie – Pumpkin Sourdough

DURAL, NSW

Gold Winner, Sydney Royal Fine Food Show, Bakery

The humble sourdough loaf takes a turn with the addition of pumpkin, bringing flavour and a sweet moisture – keeping the bread slightly softer.

VISIT www.dolcettini.com.au

Hamelin Bay Wines – Cabernet Sauvignon

KARRIDALE, WA

Gold Winner, Sydney Royal Wine Show

This multi-award winning wine from the Margaret River region is medium-bodied with a bouquet of black current, red currant and hints of mint and cedar.

VISIT www.hbwines.com.au



Cornersmith – Chilli Jam

ANNANDALE, NSW

Gold Winner, Sydney Royal Fine Food Show Specialty Food

Spicy, sticky and just the right amount of sweet, this jam belongs in stir-fries, on burgers, and adds a great kick to chips or wedges.

VISIT www.cornersmith.com.au



Mr Charcuterie – Chilli & Fennel Lonza

BRANXTON, NSW

Gold Winner, Sydney Royal Fine Food Show Smallgoods

A cured pork loin, perfectly paired with chilli and fennel, ideal thinly sliced in a salad, topping a gourmet pizza or featuring on any good charcuterie board.

VISIT www.hungerfordmeatco.com.au



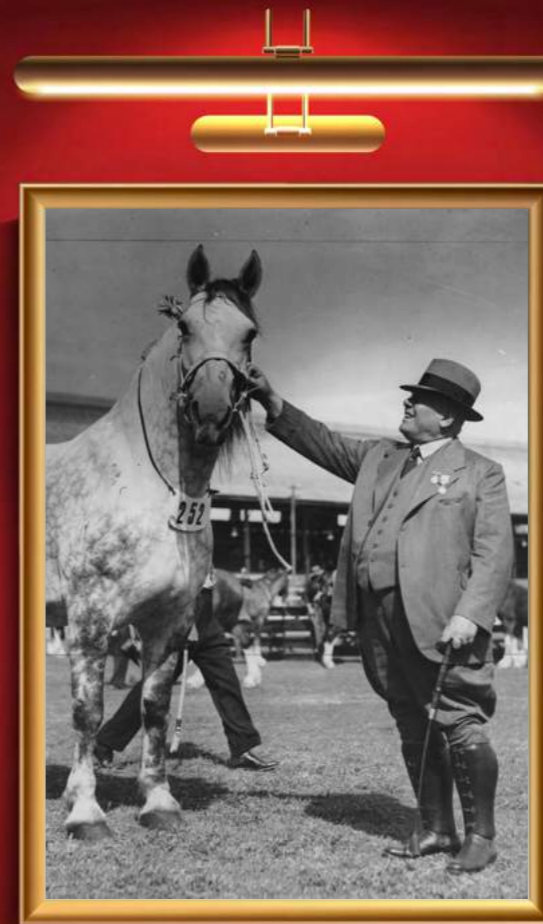
Vivien and Alisha – Raw Honey & Almond Muesli

STRATHFIELD, NSW

Gold Winner, Sydney Royal Fine Food Show, Specialty Food

It's a delicious, gnarly mouthful of almonds, pumpkin, sunflower and chia seeds, oven baked in pure raw Australian honey.

VISIT www.vivienandalisha.com.au



Come inside – the Virtual Museum is open

Two hundred years of accessible, searchable RAS history and memorabilia are now on display at our brand-new Virtual Museum, which can be found in the Heritage section of the RAS website. Best of all, the doors are always open.

WORDS VICKI HASTRICH

It's not often that Sydneysiders will admit to learning anything from Melbournians, but that's exactly what happened when the team at the RAS Heritage Centre looked for models to set up an online museum. Our cousins at RASV (now rebranded as Melbourne Royal) provided the inspiration.

A bricks and mortar museum at the Sydney Showground has been a dream for a long time, but getting the visitor traffic to keep it open out of Showtime was always going to be problematic. And while the RAS Archive is rich in material, much of it is documentary, requiring expensive creative solutions to bring it to life for stroll-through patrons. The Heritage Pavilion at the Show is a partial answer where a glittering array of perpetual trophies can be seen each year, along with small, themed displays which change annually. But with an important bicentennial coming up, a better way to share our history and make it accessible all year round was needed. Taking the cue from Melbourne Royal's excellent site, planning began 18 months ago. A major aim was to create a legacy. Long after the big birthday party is over, the Virtual Museum will remain – and grow.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO HAVE A MUSEUM AT ALL?

There are big picture reasons to make the history of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW more visible and usable, beyond mere organisational pride. Apart from our churches, only the Benevolent Society and Westpac (beginning as the Bank of New South Wales) have had a longer presence in Australia as institutions. As Australia has grown, we have grown too. Our stories are the nation's stories; our troubles, triumphs and travails have been shaped by the same events that affected the wider community: droughts, wars, political upheavals, financial depressions, pandemics, we've seen them all. But we haven't just been *subject* to history, we've made history too, through our ongoing mission to develop and improve agriculture and build rural communities.

R. M. WILLIAMS
EST. 1932, AUSTRALIA



R.M. Williams is proud to support
the 2022 Rural Achiever Award
Wishing all the best to each of the finalists



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

It's salient to remember that until the 1890s, the RAS acted in place of a government department of agriculture since none yet existed.

The Show and the Showground (so often used as a public amenity) have a significant place in popular culture. Over time, the Showground has been a shop window, a sportsground, an amusement park, a barracks, a speedway, a hospital, and a music and festival venue. It was also the place where Sydney's citizens went in raw mourning to attend the service which commemorated the first Anzac Day.

During Showtime generations of country and city people from all walks of life have gathered at the ground to exhibit and compete, to be educated and entertained, to see the latest in agriculture, technology, fashions, and fads. The Show has no parallel as a place of social exchange. Betrothals and business deals, picnics and Grand Parades, children lost and found: decades and decades-worth of memory-making with family and friends, snapshots of which must be preserved.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND WHEN YOU VISIT

The Virtual Museum is broken up into five main sections. The first, *Our History*, tells the story of the RAS through the four showgrounds that have been home to the Society during its lifetime. In this section, too, there's a tribute to the First Land Carers, the Aboriginal people who sustainably managed country until the shocking disruptions of settlement, after which they continued to play an important role in land custodianship and the development of agriculture.

The second section, *Our Stories*, provides access to articles about all aspects of the Show and the RAS across time. Video material will also be available there.

A major aim was to create a legacy. Long after the big birthday party is over, the Virtual Museum will remain – and grow.

In the *Collection* section, photographs, memorabilia and objects, oral histories, and searchable publications like RAS Catalogues and Journals can be found.

In the *Information* section researchers will discover a trove of quick reference lists (e.g., lists of past RAS presidents, Best in Show, royal visits). They'll also see an inventory of perpetual trophies and past winners, as well as histories of each of the competitions run by the Society. So, if you want to know when the District Exhibits started, or when the Simmental breed was introduced into the cattle competition, or who won Showgirl in 1985, or when wine or honey or coffee was first judged, this is the place for you.

The final section, called *Sydney Royal Easter Show Stories*, is a billboard for personal anecdotes and memories, for the small, fleeting stories that fill in the rich detail and texture, the feelings, so often missing from more formal history. Send in your personal account of a slice of Show life and help us expand the section. New submissions are not just welcome but needed.

HANDS ON

It's something of a paradox to think of a virtual museum as being hands-on, but that's the aim. The site is searchable, and family historians especially will find plenty of resources worth checking. We're also hoping RAS members and general visitors will contribute to the Museum by passing on information if they know something more about featured items. Many of our photos are missing captioning details, for instance,

and it's only by inviting crowd assistance that these knowledge gaps can be filled.

The Virtual Museum is a malleable thing, capable of change and continual expansion. Right now, it's very much a work-in-progress, with lots more material waiting to go up. It's been a mammoth task to get it to this stage, with RAS Heritage staff doing the bulk of the work, along with the design team at web consultancy SudoRoux.

The future of the Museum is exciting and now the idea of a 'normal' physical museum seems limited and constraining, especially when the Showground itself already acts like one big living museum: whenever we visit the Show, its sights, smells and sounds viscerally remind us of past people and times.

All the men, women, children and animals that have passed through the gates of the Show have made its history. Through the Virtual Museum the RAS hopes to put that history back into the peoples' hands. ■





A double century

As we edge closer and closer to our bicentenary on 5 July, we look back at the last fifty years in our countdown.

1973

1973 saw the introduction of the RAS News – now the RAS Times – a publication developed in order to keep Members informed.

1977

1977 was a big year for Sydney Showground with the introduction of World Series Cricket – the breakaway competition developed by Kerry Packer, Australia took on the West Indies and crowds were thrilled by the sight of Viv Richards and Joel Garner. Unfortunately, Australia lost 4 out of 6 matches played at Sydney Showground. This was also the year Swedish supergroup ABBA took to the stage for

a sold-out concert for 20,000 screaming fans on one of the wettest nights Sydney had seen. The concert featured in the iconic film 'ABBA The Movie'. The following year David Bowie entertained 40,000 fans over two nights.

1979

A conversation between Judy White and Virginia Howie resulted in an agreement to work together “to start creating archives and memorabilia and a library for the RAS.” Fortunately, Director Sandy Pearson had the same idea and soon work was underway to preserve the glorious history of the organisation. The continued dedication of Peter Orlovich, Lorance Angus and Adrian

Howie, along with a significant financial donation from the Fairfax family, and the experienced team working in the Heritage Centre today has ensured the past will never be forgotten.

1989

Looking to the future and away from the past it was decided to establish a Rural Achievers program – a state-wide leadership program recognising future young leaders aged 20-29 years of age, who are working hard to make a significant contribution to their local community and to rural Australia.

In another direction this was also the year the Australasian Animal Registry



(AAR) was formed by the RAS – today it holds the registration of nearly 3 million animals including dogs, cats, rabbits, horses, goats and reptiles.

1994

1994 this was the year Members and Show lovers were surprised by the announcement that Homebush would be the new home of the RAS and Sydney Royal Easter Show. It was inevitable the RAS would have to move, the facilities at Moore Park needed a major upgrade and the cost was prohibitive. The state government, under Nick Greiner, proposed Homebush as an ideal site for both new sporting grounds, a showground and a potential venue for Sydney to host the Olympic Games.

1997

The Fine Food Committee was formed, the first amongst Royal Agricultural Societies in Australia to judge the next step in agriculture – the food produced. The first competition was held in 1998, judging olive oil, quickly followed by coffee and aquaculture.

This was also the year of the final Sydney Royal Easter Show at Moore Park, one that recorded the highest attendance in 40 years with 1,175,168 people coming along to make memories and say farewell to the much-loved venue. The Show was extended to 16 days, stretching the final Show out for as long as possible.

1998

Proving the old saying ‘if you build it, they will come’ a record attendance

A record attendance figure of 1,262,339 made the journey to Homebush – now named Sydney Olympic Park - to see the Show at its new home.

figure of 1,262,339 made the journey to Homebush – now named Sydney Olympic Park - to see the Show at its new home.

2004

The RAS Youth Group was established, attracting young professionals with a passion for agriculture. The Youth Group creates and promotes events designed to educate, entertain and engage young people, and is now recognised as a sub-committee of the RAS Youth Affairs Committee (YAC). During the Sydney Royal Easter Show the Youth Group is responsible for AgriChats and All Roads to the Royal amongst other events and networking opportunities.

2006

With the Fine Food competitions gaining entries, attention and prestige it was time to launch an award to truly recognise the finest product, and thus the President’s Medal was first presented at the inaugural Dinner for Agricultural Excellence. Finalists are chosen from the Sydney Royal Wine, Dairy, Fine Food, Beer and Cider competition champions. These products have already been independently judged via rigorous and uncompromising sensory evaluation to achieve not only gold medals but a Championship. These are the best of the

best in their categories. But now they are assessed against each other and judged on financial health, environmental impact and community-mindedness – the triple bottom line. The first winner was Tathra Oysters, worthy indeed and a repeat finalist over the past 14 competitions.

2007

With the gracious support of the RAS and generous donors, in particular John B. Fairfax, the RAS Foundation Limited was established this year to help build strong and vibrant rural and regional communities by providing a range of grants and scholarships for education and community development. In 2013 the RASF donated their millionth dollar to rural Australia, and in 2020 the Foundation received the all-important DGR status – meaning all donations made to the RASF throughout the year are tax deductible.

2020

The Covid-19 global pandemic hit, forcing the cancellation of the 2020 Sydney Royal Easter Show.

2021

The triumphant return of the Sydney Royal Easter Show! ■



THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW WOULD LIKE TO THANK ITS 2022 SPONSORS FOR SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Grand Champion



Strategic Sponsors



Champion



Blue Ribbon



Red Ribbon



2022 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

JUDGING TIMETABLE

Competitions are the heart of the Sydney Royal Easter Show, highlighting the skill and passion of agricultural communities. For judging times and further information visit rasnsw.com.au.

DATES	COMPETITIONS
Thursday 7 April	CATTLE Beef Cattle Paraders' Competitions – Junior, School, RAS/ASC, Open & State Final
Friday 8 April	ARTS & CRAFTS Perishable Cooking CATTLE Purebred School Steer, Purebred Open Steer, Speckle Park, ALPA Young Auctioneers Competition State & National Finals, Purebred Steer Auction DISTRICTS Schools District Exhibit Judging DOG Utility Dog Excellent Obedience, Utility Obedience, Open Obedience, Novice Obedience, Lowchen, Bichon Frise, Coton De Tulear, Maltese, Miniature Pinscher, St Bernard, Tibetan Mastiff, Collie (Rough), Collie (Smooth), Dutch Shepherd, Icelandic Sheepdog, Komondor, Kuvasz, Tatra Shepherd Dog, Tornjak, Afghan Hound, Bluetick Coonhound, Irish Wolfhound, American Hairless Dog, Dandie Dinmont Terrier, Kerry Blue Terrier, Bedlington Terrier, Central Asian Shepherd Dog, Portuguese Water Dog, Irish Terrier, Welsh Terrier, Lakeland Terrier FLOWER & GARDEN Dahlias, Floristry Students, National Floral Designer Competition, Schools Produce, TAFE NSW Celebrating the Past – 200 Year Floral Tribute GOAT Dairy Goat HORSES Clydesdales, Shetland Ponies, Showjumping Juniors & Young Riders, Light Harness, Australian Stock Horses, Heavy Horse Obstacle, Police Horses, Shetland Ponies Parade, World Championship Campdraft Round 1 PIGEON Racing Pigeon POULTRY All Poultry including Egg Competition RAT & MOUSE General Classes SHEEP & FLEECE Fleece WOODCHOP events every 12 minutes YOUNG JUDGES ASA National Beef Paraders' Championship
Saturday 9 April	CAT Display only CATTLE Trade Steer & Heifer, Red Angus, Santa Gertrudis, Hereford, Limousin, Shorthorns, Simmental Female DOG Schipperke, Dobermann, Italian Spinone, Irish Water Spaniel, Large Munsterlander, Sussex Spaniel, Murray River Retriever, Basenji, Basset Hound, Borzoi, Cirenco Dell'Etna, Deerhound, Australian Cattle Dog, Australian Stumpy Tail Cattle Dog, Australian Kelpie, Beauceron (Berger de Beauce), Old English Sheepdog, Handler Competition GOAT Dairy Goat HORSE Showjumping – Young Riders & Juniors, Australian Stock Horses, Light Harness, Clydesdales, Shetland Ridden, Heavy Harness, Australian Stock Horse Junior Time Trial, Australian Stock Horse Senior Time Trial, World Championship Campdraft Round 2 POULTRY Youth Poultry Showmanship SHEEP & FLEECE Merino Pair & Group classes WOODCHOP events every 12 minutes YOUNG JUDGES RAS Dairy Goat State Final, Horse APSB, RAS/Australian Pony Stud Book Shetland Ponies State Final

DATES	COMPETITIONS
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Sunday 10 April	<p>CAT Display only CATTLE Angus, Brahman, Red Poll, Charolais, Simmental Feature - Bulls, Murray Grey, Australian Lowline, Devon, Other Recognised Breeds, Heifer Fitting Challenge DOG Boston Terrier, Canaan Dog, Eurasier, Japanese Spitz, Karelian Bear Dog, Lhasa Apso, Shih Tzu, Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever, Welsh Springer Spaniel, Wirehaired Slovakian Pointer, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Border Terrier, German Hunting Terrier, Glen of Imaal terrier, Manchester Terrier, Norfolk terrier, Bernese Mountain Dog, Cane Corso, Shiba Inu, Shikoku FLOWER & GARDEN Bridal, Cacti and Succulents, Children's Classes (General and Decorative), Decorative, Roses HORSE ASHLA Junior and Senior Riders, Shetland Pony Harness, Heavy Harness, Junior & Senior Station Horse, Showjumping – Young Riders & Junior, Light Harness, Shires – Led & Ridden, Evening Harness Parade, World Championship Campdraft Round 3 PIGS Stud Pig RURAL ACHIEVER RM Williams RAS Rural Achiever Award Public Speaking Showcase SHOWGIRL The Land Sydney Royal AgShows NSW Young Woman Presentation WOODCHOP events every 12 minutes YOUNG JUDGES ASA National Poultry, RAS/Australian Stock Horse Society Australian Stock Horse State & National Final, Horticulture, Hardfeather & Softfeather Poultry, Waterfowl</p>
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Monday 11 April	<p>CATTLE Breeders Group Interbreed, Urquhart Trophy, Supreme Interbreed Heifer, Hordern Trophy CAVY All classes DOG Azawakh, German Shorthaired Pointer Society of NSW Inc Specialty, Finnish Spitz, Bouvier Des Flandres, Border Collie, Belgian Shepherd Dog (Malinois), Belgian Shepherd Dog (Tervuren), Belgian Shepherd Dog (Laekenois), Belgian Shepherd Dog (Groenendael), Portuguese Podengo (Small Smooth), Bearded Collie, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Portuguese Podengo (Large Wire), Portuguese Podengo (Large Smooth), Portuguese Podengo (Medium Wire), Portugese Podengo (Small Wire), Portuguese Podengo (Medium Smooth), Airedale Terrier, West Highland White Terrier, Tenterfield Terrier, Affenpinscher, Bolognese, Chinese Crested Dog, English Toy Terrier (Black & Tan), Griffon Bruxellois, Russian Toy Terrier (Black & Tan), Russian Toy (Smooth Hair), Russian Toy (Long Hair), Peruvian Hairless Dog (Large), Peruvian Hairless Dog (Medium), Peruvian Hairless Dog (Small), Brittany, German Shorthaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer GOAT Angora – Mohair Fleece HORSE Australian National Saddle Horses, Light Harness, Heavy Harness, Shetland Pony Harness, Showjumping – Junior and Young Grand Prix, World Championship Campdraft Round 4 SHEEP & FLEECE Merino Production, Merino Grand & Supreme classes WOODCHOP events every 12 minutes YOUNG JUDGES RAS Pig, RAS/ASC Beef Cattle State Final, ASA National Beef Cattle Championships</p>
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Tuesday 12 April	<p>AVIARY BIRDS Parrot, African Lovebird, Budgerigar, Canary, Finch AQUACULTURE Sydney Rock Oyster & Prawn classes CATTLE RAS Youth Show DOG Australasian Bosdog, Havanese, Italian Greyhound, Japanese Chin, Foxhound, Grand Basset Griffon Vendeen, Greyhound, Hamiltonstovare, Harrier, Ibizan Hound, Norwegian Elkhound, Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen, Pharoah Hound, Sloughi, Whippet, Bergamasco Shepherd Dog, German Shepherd Dog, German Shepherd Dog (LSC), Maremma Sheepdog, Norwegian Buhund, Polish Lowland Sheepdog, Pumi, Puli, Pyrenean Sheepdog Longhaired, Swedish Lapphund, Swedish Vallhund, Boxer, Schnauzer, White Swiss Shepherd Dog, Schnauzer (Giant), Cesky Terrier, Cairn Terrier, Schnauzer (Miniature), Australian Terrier FLOWER & GARDEN Cacti & Succulents, Dahlias, Decorative, Floristry Students, Orchids HORSE Miniature Ponies, Heavy Harness, Light Harness, Miniature Ponies in Harness, Showjumping Section 1, Entertainment Showjumping Round 1, World Championship Campdraft Round 5 SHEEP & FLEECE AWEX Wool Classing WOODCHOP events every 12 minutes YOUNG JUDGES RAS/ASC Grain State Final, RAS/ASC Fruit & Vegetable State Final</p>
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DATES	COMPETITIONS
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Wednesday 13 April	<p>DOG British Bulldog, Shar Pei, Xoloitzcuintle (Miniature), Xoloitzcuintle (Intermediate), Xoloitzcuintle (Standard), Cocker Spaniel, English Springer Spaniel, Hungarian Vizsla, Hungarian Vizsla (Wirehair), Rottweiler, Basset Fauve De Bretagne, Black and Tan Coonhound, Bloodhound, Dachshund (Smooth Haired), Dachshund (Miniature Smooth Haired), Dachshund (Long Haired), Dachshund (Miniature Long Haired), Dachshund (Wire Haired), Dachshund (Miniature Wire Haired), Otterhound, Bull Terrier, Bull Terrier (Miniature), Anatolian Shepherd Dog, Canadian Eskimo Dog, Saluki, Dachshund Kaninchen (Smooth Haired), Dachshund Kaninchen (Miniature Long Haired), Dachshund Kaninchen (Long Haired), Dachshund Kaninchen (Miniature Smooth Haired), Caucasian Shepherd Dog, Leonberger, Landseer ECT, Kangal Shepherd Dog, Dogue de Bordeaux, Mastiff, Yakutian Laika, Neopolitan Mastiff GOAT Angora Goat Paraders HORSE Riding Classes – Senior & Junior Boy, Show Hunter Hacks, Show Hunter Galloways, Show Hunter Ponies, Leading Rein, Showjumping – Section 1, 2 & 3, World Championship Campdraft Round 6 and Presentation WOODCHOP events every 12 minutes YOUNG JUDGES RAS/ASC Merino Sheep, ASA National Merino Sheep Championship</p>
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Thursday 14 April	<p>DOG Dalmatian, German Spitz (Mittel), German Spitz (Klein), Tibetan Terrier, Biewer Terrier, Chihuahua (Smooth), Chihuahua (Long), Papillion, Yorkshire Terrier, Alaskan Malamute, Siberian Husky, Clumber Spaniel, Field Spaniel, Australian Shepherd, Beagle, American Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Sealyham Terrier, Skye Terrier, Bullmastiff, Estrela Mountain Dog, German Pinscher, Newfoundland, Pyrenean Mastiff, Spanish Mastiff FLOWER & GARDEN Bonsai, Bridal, Decorative, Gesneriads, Miscellaneous, Cut Flowers, Roses GOAT Angora HORSE Show Hunter Hacks, Show Hunter Galloway, Gentlemen Riders, Show Hunter Ponies, Showjumping – Sections 2 & 3, Novice Hacks, Fancy Dress, Mount Rider & Equipment, Standardbred, Tentpegging Round 1, Wrangler Federation Rodeo Challenge RABBIT All classes WOODCHOP events every 12 minutes YOUNG JUDGES RAS/ASC Merino Fleece, ASA National Merino Fleece Championship, RAS Angora Goat and Mohair State Final</p>
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Friday 15 April	<p>CAT Australian National Cat Inc CATTLE Semex Dairy Youth Challenge DOG Great Dane, Poodle (Toy), Poodle (Miniature), Poodle (Standard), French Bulldog, Australian Silky Terrier, Pug, Golden Retriever, Labrador retriever, Fox Terrier (Smooth), Fox Terrier (Wire), Samoyed, Scottish Terrier HORSE Australian Saddle Pony, Working Show Hunter, Arabian Derivatives, Thoroughbreds, FL Crane Perpetual Trophy, Showjumping – Section 1, Col AV Pope Cup, Skill at Arms, Tentpegging Round 2, Wrangler Federation Rodeo Challenge PIGEON All classes WOODCHOP events every 12 minutes YOUNG JUDGES RAS/ASC Meat Breeds, ASA National Meat Breeds Championship</p>
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Saturday 16 April	<p>ALPACA & FLEECE Hucaya, Suri CAT NSW Cat Fanciers Association CATTLE Dairy Cattle Paraders' Competitions & State Final DOG Pointer, Bracco Italiano, Curly Coated retriever, Flat Coated Retriever, Cocker Spaniel (American), Lagotto Romagnolo, Spanish Water Dog, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Jack Russell Terrier, Parson Russell Terrier, Akita, Akita (Japanese), Pyrenean Mountain Dog, Russian Black Terrier, Jack Russell Terrier Club of NSW Specialty, The Pointer Club of NSW Inc Specialty, The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Society of NSW Inc Specialty, Lagotto Romagnolo Club of NSW Inc FLOWER & GARDEN Australian Native Plants, Dahlias, Decorative, Four Day Floral Display HORSE Junior Equestrian Showcase, Hacks, Arabian Derivatives, Showjumping – Section 1, 2 & 3, Pony Hacks, Tentpegging Round 3, Wrangler Federation Rodeo Challenge POULTRY School Egg Judging SHEEP & FLEECE Schools Class, Show Handlers WOODCHOP events every 12 minutes YOUNG FARMER CHALLENGE Regional Finals, State Final, National Final YOUNG JUDGES RAS/ASC Dairy Cattle Paraders, ASA National Dairy Paraders' Championship</p>
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DATES	COMPETITIONS
Sunday 17 April	ALPACA Hucaya, Suri CAT Cats NSW DOG Chow Chow, Keeshond, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, King Charles Spaniel, Pekingese, Pomeranian, English Setter, Irish Red and White Setter, Irish Setter, Gordon Setter, Weimaraner, Weimaraner (Longhair), Briard, Finnish Lapphund, Shetland Sheepdog, Welsh Corgi (Pembroke), Welsh Corgi (Cardigan) GOAT Boer HORSE Ladies Riding Classes, Welsh C & D, Welsh Mountain Ponies, Skill at Arms Round 2, Pony Hacks, Galloway Hacks, Showjumping – Sections 2 & 3, Junior Girl Rider, Judges & Stewards classes, Entertainment Showjumping, Wrangler Federation Rodeo Challenge SHEEP & FLEECE Meat & Dual Purpose WOODCHOP events every 12 minutes YOUNG JUDGES RAS/ASC Dairy Cattle State Final, ASA National Dairy Cattle Championships
Monday 18 April	ALPACA Judging CATTLE Dairy Cattle All Breeds Youth Class, Brown Swiss Heifer & Dry Cow, Guernsey Heifer & Dry Cow, Holstein Heifer & Dry Cow, Jersey Heifer & Dry Cow, Illawarra Heifer & Dry Cow, Ayrshire Heifer & Dry Cow DOG Toy Group, Terrier Group, Gundog Group, Hound Group, Working Dog Group, Utility Group, Non-Sporting Group, Best Breeders Group in Show, Best Baby Puppy in Show, Best Puppy in Show, Best Neuter in Show, Best in Show, Canine Hero Awards FLOWER & GARDEN Bridal, Carnivorous Plants, Decorative, Fruit and Vegetables (Non-Commercial), Orchids, Roses FROG & REPTILE Snakes, Geckos & Frog GOAT Boer HORSE Welsh B, Ponies – Led & Ridden, Senior Girl Riders, Hacks, Riding Ponies, Child Hack, Galloway Hacks, Entertainment Showjumping, Parent & Child Riders, Welsh Ridden, Showjumping – Mini Prix, Showjumping – Grand Prix, Tentpegging Round 4 & Presentation, Wrangler Federation Rodeo Challenge SHEEP & FLEECE Meat & Dual Purpose WOODCHOP events every 12 minutes YOUNG JUDGES RAS Alpaca State Final
Tuesday 19 April	ALPACA Judging CATTLE Guernsey Milk, Ayrshire Milk, Holstein Milk, Jersey Milk, Illawarra Milk, Brown Swiss Milk, Dairy Interbreed DOG Novice Agility, Excellent Agility, Masters Agility, Open Agility, Novice Jumpers, Excellent Jumpers, Masters Jumpers, Open Jumpers, Pet Class FROG & REPTILE Lizard, Frogs & Geckos HORSE Australian Ponies, Part Bred Welsh, Pony Club Riding Classes, Pairs and Teams of 4, Pony Club Area Sporting Teams, Pony Club Zone Teams of 4, Pony Club Parade, Greencoat Presentation, Wrangler Federation Rodeo Challenge and Presentation SHEEP & FLEECE Meat & Dual Purpose Interbreed WOODCHOP events every 12 minutes YOUNG JUDGES RAS Boer Goat State Final



Let's celebrate

If you can feel the sense of excitement and anticipation in the air it's because the 2022 Sydney Royal Easter Show is so close you can almost hear it coming!

It's bringing a stockman's ride, bullocks and a yoking display, 21 Clydesdales, donkeys, camels, pipe bands, bush poetry and a bull display. It's also bringing the most handsome dog competition, more cats than possibly ever before and a new breed of sheep!

There's the Australorp feature breed in the Poultry Pavilion, Simmental cattle celebrating their 50th anniversary as a Society in the Cattle Pavilion, and the first ever Mini Goat Competition in the Pig & Goat Pavilion.

Stop by the Woolworths Fresh Food Dome for butcher's demonstrations at the Meating Place and fine food producers discussing their goods at Talk & Taste, and the most spectacular District Exhibits display ever assembled – it truly is one you don't want to miss.

Every celebration needs a cake and we've got some absolutely amazing 200 Year Celebration Novelty Cakes on display in the Arts & Crafts Pavilion – see if you agree with the judge's decision. You can also take a good look at more than 3000 entries in quilting, crocheting, art and

photography, leatherwork, sculpture, woodwork and more in one of the largest Arts & Crafts Competitions in Australia.

If this has exhausted you, or you've been tempted by the cakes on display stop at the Rural Student's café for some good old-fashioned country treats – all prepared and served by students from regional high schools studying hospitality. Under the careful eye of Sydney Showground chefs the students put together a tasting plate of sweet and savoury delights.

WORDS MEREDYTH HAYES BELL



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Subject to change. Visit rasnsw.com.au for updates



The Flower & Garden Pavilion is a calm oasis year after year, with cut flowers, cacti & succulents, fruit and vegetables and four special classes in flower arranging this year – Period Design (heritage), Traditional Design, European Design, and Contemporary Design. The Judges are looking for perfect blooms, well kept and tidy plants, and creative arrangements. And you'll get your chance to try your luck as well with a range of on-stage hands-on activities and prizes to be won. There are workshops for the kids too – headbands, corsages and even floral cupcakes!

Straight through to the Fashion & Style Pavilion and the new Regional NSW space – encouraged by the Buy from the Bush campaign this is the perfect place to show some love and support for rural businesses, and to pick up some gorgeous fashion and boutique homewares direct

from the artisans who make the goods. The entire pavilion is overflowing with clothing, jewellery, beauty products and the latest trends and also includes Wine Selectors – register your interest in the RAS Bicentenary Wine Collection and sample some top drops of Australian wine.

Showjumping, sheep shearing and cow milking, pig and chook patting and even sessions with real life piglets and a cartoon favourite – Peppa Pig will be at the Pig Pavilion every day. Chickens will be hatching before your eyes and baby goats will climb and jump from their

Chickens will be hatching before your eyes and baby goats will climb and jump from their man-made mountain.

man-made mountain. The Farmyard Nursery is back and better than ever before, and the pony rides will ensure a new wave of cowboys and cowgirls are ready to sign up for Pony Club.

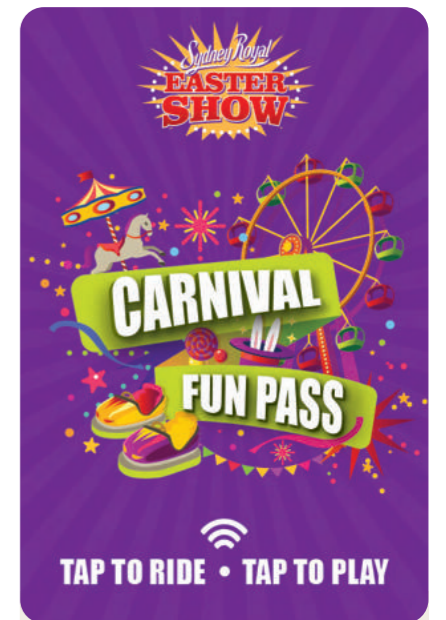
The past 200 years will pass before your eyes in a historical street parade paying tribute to the history of the RAS from our beginnings in Parramatta Park (1823-1868) to the grandeur of Prince Alfred Park (1869-1881), the sentimental favourite Moore Park (1882-1997) right through to our current home at Sydney Olympic Park. The parade features fashions and entertainment

It's bringing a stockman's ride, bullocks and a yoking display, 21 Clydesdales, donkeys, camels, pipe bands, bush poetry and a bull display.

fads, dancers, drummers and circus performers travelling around the grounds and back in time 3 times a day.

But that's not the only one - we may have relied on horse and cart in the early years but once the first automobiles appeared in Australia it was a whole new world. Classic car collectors are just as passionate about their beasts as any livestock owner and just as happy to have a talk and tell you all about their pride and joy. Each day at the Show a different car club will pull up and park for the day before departing in a crowd-stopping parade at 5.00pm.

The good ole days are on display, and the roaming entertainment will stop you in time – with newspaper boys, a travelling medicine man, and there's also the Cyclopod – a magnificent moving stage mixing vintage tricycles with horse drawn wagons and turn of the century elegance. ■



CARNIVAL FUN PASS

The Carnival Fun Pass has been introduced this year, no more fumbling with coupons and trying to carefully tear them off the strip... in 2022 all carnival rides and games will use our brand-new tap & go system and it is as easy as 1 – 2 – 3!

1. **Order your Carnival Fun Pass online or purchase at the Show**
2. **Follow the instructions to preload your credits**
3. **Tap and play over 100 rides and games**

Card can be topped up at specially marked kiosks at the Show.

Now more than ever, it's time to show up.

RESILIENT is a word we are all too familiar with in the agricultural sector. Every person has had to draw on their reserves to pull through these unprecedented times.



WORDS JANE HAMMOND

For the first time in almost a century, the Sydney Royal Easter Show was cancelled in 2020. It was a blow for the Society, the Show had survived the 1919 Spanish Flu pandemic, the Great Depression and World War Two. Thankfully, it has survived the Coronavirus, and 2022 is set to be a productive and hopefully record-breaking year.

But what has the impact on our commercial exhibitors and members been? Some regional shows have been shut down indefinitely. And what used to be an entire circuit for exhibitors, which culminates with the Sydney Royal Easter Show for some, has been struck hard.

Regional agricultural shows are written into the history of Australian farming because they can bring city and town folk closer to the country, all while providing farmer-to-farmer education and innovation.

Before Covid-19, it looked like our regional shows saw a revival, partly due to the need to give the end-user essential education of the raw food product. Young people, in particular, are more and more interested in the provenance of their food. The social elements of agricultural shows also manage to weave education with entertainment and continue to attract the next generation.

But for the past two years, many regional towns haven't been able to host their yearly Show. And it's been a blow to those across the supply chains that make our shows great.

Diana Saloum, Exhibition Sales Manager for the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales (RAS), knows better than most how the pandemic has impacted exhibitors. She manages the Exhibitions department for the Sydney Royal Easter Show, offering exhibition space across the seven different commercial areas of the Show.

Her department manages almost 400 commercial exhibitors ranging from Australian-made produce, clothing, homewares, kid's products, DIY products, agricultural services and more.

She says commercial exhibitors must have access to the regional agricultural



shows, as well as the Sydney Show, for their business to thrive and flourish.

"If it weren't for the Sydney Royal Easter Show in 2021, some of our commercial Exhibitors wouldn't have survived, so it's the big agricultural shows like ours that have kept their businesses afloat.

"Having regional agriculture-related shows allows commercial Exhibitors to

forge relationships with patrons through the sale and promotions of their goods and services.

They can continue a proud legacy passed on to generations of commercial exhibitors attending these shows."

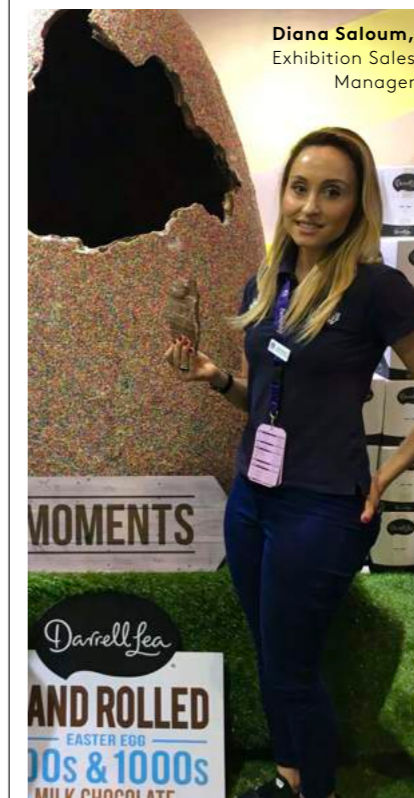
It appears the Show must go on for regional Australia, as it has for the Sydney Royal Easter Show, if exhibitors who are integral to the Show's lifeblood can continue to present their expertise and wares.

But with this extra responsibility heaped on the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, how can the organisation ensure every member of its supply chain for its iconic event can continue to prosper? Diana believes it will remain critical to uphold and share core values while uncovering new opportunities.

"Exhibitors want to be involved with the Show, not only because of the financial benefits but because our core values align with theirs.

"Exhibitors know they are contributing to the future of agriculture in Australia. Their contribution goes back into sustaining agricultural excellence, providing future generations to be a part of the Show and keep the tradition of agricultural Shows alive.

"But a lot of our exhibitors also need regional events, which offer more than a fiscal incentive. Exhibitors tend to work





the Show circuit all year round, whether local, regional or interstate agricultural shows. It is an opportunity to give back to small businesses in regional communities that have been affected by the fires, floods and the pandemic. It is also a much-needed social respite in a somewhat solitary business.

“Over the next five years, I hope we see more focus on small business from regional and rural communities. I would like to ‘give them a go’ at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. I’d also like to focus on local councils and tourism, as we can provide greater awareness of their initiatives to those in the city and promote their area to a large audience.”

And while some may suggest that agricultural shows, like Sydney’s, are an antiquated concept, an old boys club that has no relevance in modern society. The breakdown of data, which shows an increase in attendance from a younger audience reveals a different story.

So why is it, that in a world where young people in particular are - if you would

believe the media – engrossed in Tik Tok, coming back to the Show?

Lucy Hammond is a sixteen-year-old Sydney-sider who at first glance would not appear to be the Show’s demographic. She’s got a solid social media following, goes to a prestigious Sydney school and is an aspiring musician and artist. But Lucy says she’s looking forward to heading to the Show again this year for several reasons.

“My family and I used to go every year, and I always loved it. It’s an enjoyable day out for us where we got to start some new family traditions, and I looked forward to it.”

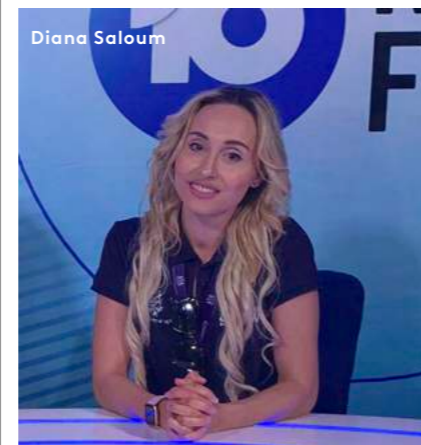
Now Lucy attends with her friends one day, and her family another.

“Taking in all the sights and sounds of the country in the middle of one of the world’s leading bustling cities is special. It’s such a juxtaposition to see all the livestock and the exhibitions right here in Sydney. I usually start the day thinking it’ll just be another fun day out

with friends, but I always seem to learn something. It’s very subtle and clever the way they do that.

“And it’s quite important to me to know where my food and clothes, and everything that makes my life simpler and better comes from. We’re pretty lucky to be able to experience it.”

One of the earliest societies in the new colony, the Agricultural Society of



New South Wales (now the RAS), was established in 1822 to encourage rural interests across the fledgling colony. Central to the Society’s activities was the annual Show which was first held in Parramatta in 1823. Sydney’s Show is now the largest agricultural event in Australia, providing city folk with a glimpse of rural life and produce.

Since its inception, the Show has gone from little more than a country fair to Australia’s largest annual ticketed event attracting over 800,000 visitors each year. In 2022, the Show is bigger than ever, featuring a myriad of commercial and entertainment activities, along-side the promotion of rural industries.

Traditionally about ‘bringing the country to the city’, it remains a celebration of our rural heartland. And it seems that the agricultural show has cemented itself into a much-needed place in Australian society. It marries city and country, history and future, and young and old in a way no other event can. ■

“And it’s quite important to me to know where my food and clothes, and everything that makes my life simpler and better comes from. We’re pretty lucky to be able to experience it.” *Lucy Hammond*



Lucy Hammond and friend



Use the QR code to learn more about the 2022 AG Bag.

The bag that gives back

Not only is it a true blue celebration of Australian produce, the AG Bag is the bag that gives every cent raised by sales to rural and regional communities.

Not only is it a true blue celebration of Australian produce, the AG Bag is the bag that gives every cent raised by sales to rural and regional communities. Sold by the RAS Foundation (RASf), the AG Bag is an amazing grass-roots initiative that supports Australian agriculture and produce and gives much needed funding to rural and regional communities via grants and scholarships.

Proudly sponsored by SunRice, the bag is jam-packed with product donations from generous Australian owned and made

products including Manildra's Healthy Baker Flour and Kurrajong Kitchen's Lavosh. With more than 50,000 items packed into 2,600 AG Bags onsite at Sydney Showground by volunteers and RAS staff, the bag serves as a brilliant reminder of what we can achieve when we come together for a great cause.

Beneficiaries of the funds raised by the AG Bag in 2022, through the RASf Community Futures Grant program, include Cooma Pastoral and Agricultural Association, Bellingen Showground, Grenfell Pony Club, Crookwell AP & H Society, and Hay Show Society. The bags sold will pay for Cooma to purchase

refrigerators and a BBQ, Bellingen to purchase new tables for their hall, restoration of the clubhouse used by Grenfell Pony Club, and even new doors and shutters for Crookwell Show Pavilion and Hall, to name a few.

Showbags have been available at the Show since around 1909, but the only one guaranteed to sell out every year is the AG Bag... make sure you get yours from the AG Bag stand in the Home & Lifestyle Pavilion. ■

WORDS MEREDYTH HAYES BELL



Proud sponsor of the Sydney Royal Easter Show



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Residential Aged Care | Community Services



Scan the QR code to learn about aged care and community services with BaptistCare.

Because we care



Aged care in rural Australia: A problem growing up

There is a deep divide between Australia's rural and metropolitan areas in a crisis that directly impacts the quality of life and wellbeing of older Australians. A range of socioeconomic and health disparities determined by remoteness exacerbate the challenge faced by these individuals' ability to access quality aged care.

AUSTRALIA'S GREAT DIVIDE

As a result of longer life expectancy and lower fertility rates, Australia's population is ageing exponentially.

This maturation is occurring at a greater rate in rural areas where older Australians already make up a larger proportion of the population.

In addition to this, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has found that there is a higher prevalence of complex healthcare issues in these regions, strengthening the need for accessible and high-quality aged care.

The Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) is a representative organisation that advocates for the needs of such communities and the healthcare professionals that work in them.

In the RDAA's submission to the recent Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety, they summated that, in addition to demographic makeup, remoteness impacts various other socioeconomic factors, and ultimately, the quality of and access to rural aged care facilities - or "RACFs".

Although these disparities have made rural communities more vulnerable to unforeseen events such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the RDAA

concludes: "The aged care system was in crisis well before the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic."

CARING FOR RURAL AUSTRALIA

The Royal Commission published its final report in April 2020 which recognised that the disadvantages faced in rural areas magnify the importance - yet existing lack - of accessible and high-quality aged care services in these communities.

This disparity means that those in rural Australia must travel further to access required support, often moving away from their homes and loved ones.



Recipient of the JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications, Kate Newsome grew up on a sheep and cattle farm near Glen Innes in rural NSW and attended the local public high school before making the move to the city and enrolment at the University of Sydney. Studying for her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Media and Communications), Kate has her eyes firmly on a career telling the stories of rural communities and addressing the misrepresentation of these communities. Like many in rural communities, her lived experience is one of hardship - through drought, bushfires, the imbalance of opportunities and access to resources, the impact of the pandemic, and she hopes to speak up and use a career in the media to bring greater attention to these issues.

"We are committed to restoring trust in the system and allowing Australians to age with dignity and respect." *Treasurer Josh Frydenberg, 2021 budget speech*

Peta Rutherford, CEO of the RDAA, describes the obligation felt by General Practitioners in regional communities where the smaller ratio of registered nurses and doctors means that the care required in the aged sector is often delayed or highly limited.

Unlike metropolitan areas, Ms Rutherford identified that - in rural areas - "a lot of the doctors provide after-hours services not only to the RACFs in an emergency but also to the hospital and to their general practice patients."

The lacking support to improve rural aged care outcomes is heightened by a general struggle to recruit healthcare professionals and a limited amount of regulation concerning the mandatory hours to be completed by these individuals in RACFs.

A PUSH FOR CHANGE

"We are committed to restoring trust in the system and allowing Australians to age with dignity and respect," Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said in his 2021 budget speech.

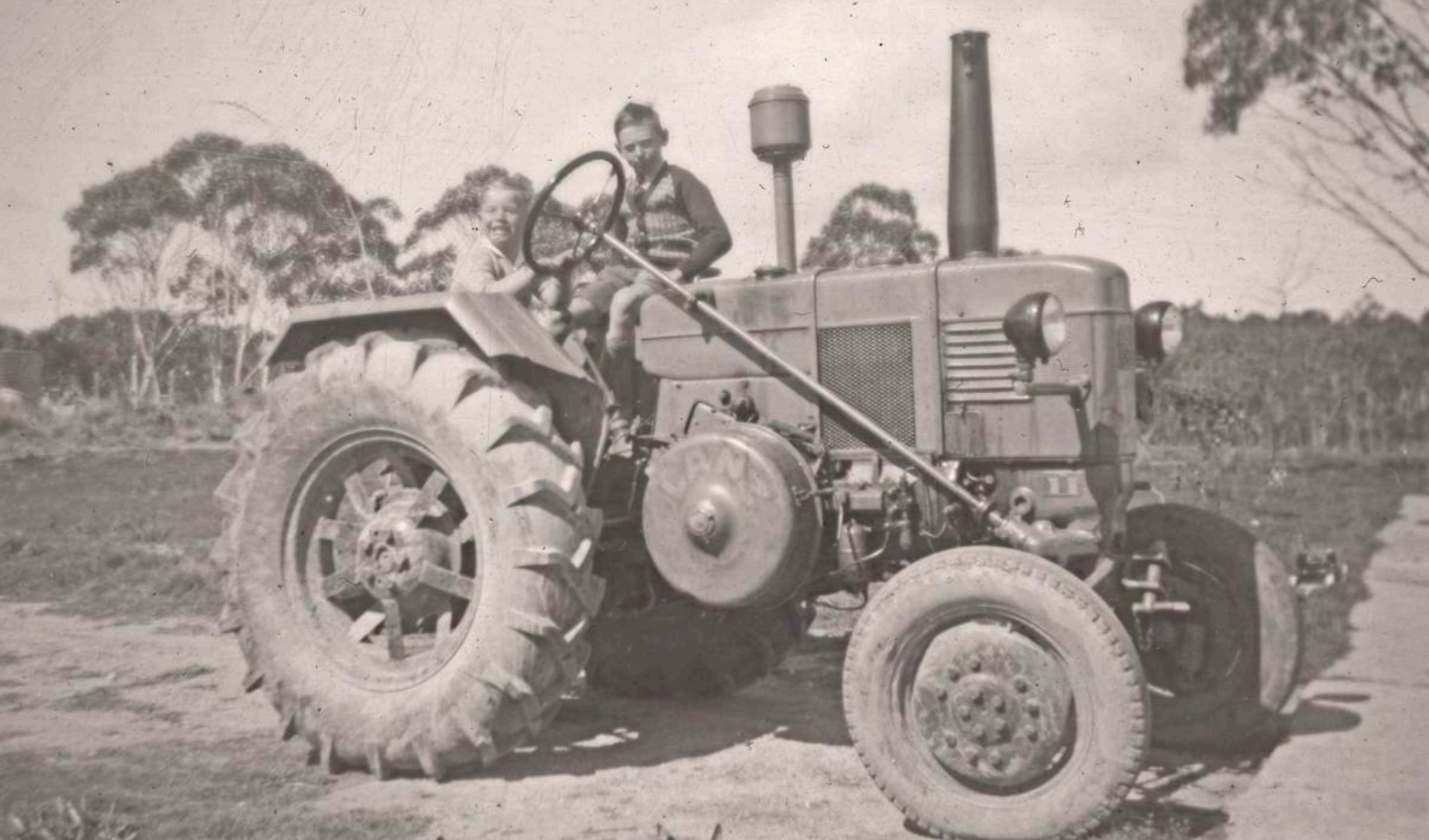
In the wake of the Royal Commission's findings, the recent federal budget announcement encompassed a \$17.7 billion aged care reform package as a part of a larger, long-term national health plan to support older Australians in rural areas.

"I certainly think there's been recognition that there needs to be more registered nurses," Ms Rutherford said in response to the current recommendation to roster a registered nurse for 16 hours each day in aged care facilities.

However, in the push for 24/7 coverage of registered nurses, Ms Rutherford said, "we'd actually like to see a support by government for facilities to bring that in earlier rather than later."

Although there has been a widespread effort to understand and address the challenges faced by older Australians in rural areas, much still needs to be done to ensure that these individuals are able to receive the care they require. ■





The little tractor that could

At the Heritage Pavilion at this year's Show, you can buy a copy of the new book celebrating the 200th anniversary of the RAS, or chill out in our mini cinema watching vintage footage of the Show. Or, you can have your photo taken with a little hero – the little tractor that could!

Ever since Edward Wollstonecraft demonstrated his newly imported Beatson cultivator at the Royal Agricultural Society's very first exhibition in 1823, displays of farm equipment and vehicles have been an integral part of the Show. As a nod to that tradition, a collection of vehicles will be on display outside the Heritage Pavilion. But one, the Lanz Bulldog, comes with a particularly charming story.

ALL THE WAY HOME

When John Bland and his wife and two sons turned up for a day out at the 1951 Sydney Royal Easter Show they didn't expect to go home with a tractor. A showbag or two for the boys, perhaps; sore feet, maybe; but not a tractor. At Lanz Australia's commercial stand, however, a brand new Lanz Bulldog D5506 (model E) caught John's eye with its shiny blue duco – and he was done for.

The Blands were brassica farmers at Kirkconnell, near Bathurst. John's father, Charlie, was the first person to grow Brussels sprouts commercially in Australia, sending his first harvest to Denning Bros in Haymarket in the 1920s. It was hard work. Paddocks were ploughed using horses; seedlings were planted by hand; plants were cultivated and harvested by hand. But the red volcanic basalt soil and cold Kirkconnell winters meant the farm was ideally located to produce top quality crops.

John Bland had joined his father in the paddock in the 1940s. Like most next-generation farmers he was eager to modernise and soon bought a second-hand tractor to help with the tasks. It was an Allis Chalmers B series, a US row-crop tractor, first manufactured in 1938 to specifically cater for the small farm market. (The company's research showed that tractors were mostly only used on farms larger than 100 acres,

when more than half of all US farms were smaller than that.)

In the late 1940s and early 1950s in Australia, tractors were still quite scarce on local farms. Horses continued to be widely used, and fuel was rationed up until 1950. Small wonder then, that the Lanz tractor display at the '51 Show was so attractive to the future-looking John Bland, keen on an upgrade.

Lanz Bulldog was a German brand, so popular in that country over the lifetime of its production that 'Bulldog' became a general term, commonly used to refer to any tractor. The beauty of the Bulldog lay in the simplicity of its engine. It was easily maintained on farm, and could run on a variety of low-grade fuels.

Enamoured with German engineering and build quality, John did a deal then and there at the Lanz stand, driving the little tractor home on an epic

twelve-hour journey, all the way from the Show to the farm. Well... not quite. The stout-hearted blue Bulldog had to be towed the last few miles when water meant for the cooling system was accidentally put in the fuel reservoir. After repairs at a dealership in Bathurst, the journey resumed. At last, the Bulldog chugged onto the farm, where it has lived ever since.

The tractor was put to work immediately: ploughing, cultivating, spraying and pumping water. As the only tractor on the property, it was subject to its fair share of challenges. Once, while cultivating, it got bogged in soft ground on the farm's lower paddocks, remaining there for over two weeks before it was dry enough to drive out. Later that same year, John was towing a load of sprouts to the local depot when a car collided with the front of the Lanz. The repairs can still be seen today: the front axle straightened, and the steering box brazed together. The Brussels sprout tractor, as it became affectionally known, returned to work.

A PACK OF BULLDOGS

In 1958, John Bland bought a new Bulldog, a D3206 (model K). To muscle into the European market, the US machinery giant John Deere took over Lanz two years before, but the tractors still carried the Lanz name and were Lanz through-and-through. The Bland's new tractor was much larger, more capable and comfortable. Thereafter, the original Bulldog was relegated to lighter duties, mainly cultivating and spraying. Then in the mid-1960s, the apple

orchard next-door was bought, and for a while apples became the primary focus of the farm. Another Bulldog was purchased, a D6006 (model T), the largest produced by Lanz. Its primary duty was orchard spraying. By this time, the original Bulldog was only working on six acres of sprouts per year. By the 1970s it was retired.

The Bland family still grow Brussels sprouts today, along with broccoli and other vegetables. During the 1980s and 1990s when individual produce was still being judged at the Sydney Show, they enjoyed great success, winning many first prizes. While there are no blue ribbons to vie for now, they still reckon they grow Australia's best broccoli and sprouts. And going by the Instagram following they attract at Kurrawong Organics, plenty of people agree. Innovation, and meticulous care for their crops and the land it's grown on, remain the guiding principles the family farm by.

John Bland passed away in 2003, but the old Brussels sprout Bulldog lives on, thanks to a major refurbishment, which began in 2016. It was a shared project – a sentimental tribute to the machine and the man who bought it. It wasn't an easy task. For over 40 years the little E had been dormant in a shed, having toiled an estimated 10-15,000 hours over its working life. Family friends Dave Peters and Colin Hunter lent their expertise to the four-year restoration, during which the tractor received new rings and bearings and a complete fuel and oil system overhaul. Incredibly, the tractor still has its original German Continental rear tyres.



Today, the Brussels sprouts Bulldog is still driven on occasion by John's sons and grandsons, along with the other two Bulldogs, and a 1950s Mercedes Benz truck, owned by John's apiarist brother. The entire Bland collection will be on view at the Show.

ALSO ON DISPLAY

Along with the Bland fleet, three other vehicles will be on display outside the Heritage Pavilion at the Show. Like the Bulldog, all were available, in their day, for purchase from commercial exhibitors at the Showground. They are

- a Model T Ford utility (First produced in Australia in 1908, the Model T was so indestructible and practical following they attract at Kurrawong Organics, plenty of people agree. Innovation, and meticulous care for their crops and the land it's grown on, remain the guiding principles the family farm by.)
- a horse drawn buggy (This particular one was purchased in 1920 by RAS President Sam Hordern to exhibit at the Show.)
- and, representing the luxury end of the market, a 1992 Jaguar Daimler, complete with original car phone.

Over the long history of the Show, many visitors will have come away with unexpected purchases, lured by a bargain, or prompted to splurge while in an optimistic, holiday frame-of-mind. To the Blands, seventy years later, John's on-the-spot decision was worth every cent. ■

Don't forget to pick up your copy of the magnificent new RAS bicentenary book: *Sydney Royal, Celebrating 200 Years of the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales*. Available at the Heritage Pavilion and other outlets around the Showground, or online.

Written by noted historian Gavin Fry, this beautifully produced record of the RAS and the Sydney Royal Easter Show features many new stories and photographs freshly dug out of the archive. The Show has always loomed large on our cultural landscape, integral to the development of the state and agriculture in Australia, and occupying a special place in our hearts. Rich in detail, this book tells the 200-year history of one of the nation's great institutions and its people.





On the agricultural holiday highway

Over the last couple of years, holidays have often seemed like an unattainable goal. But as we slowly emerge from our homes and start to investigate outings once again, planning a getaway could soon be on your agenda. If you're ready to leave your neighbourhood and explore more of New South Wales, read on for travel inspiration.

We've pulled together itineraries for those planning a holiday with friends, organising a family-friendly getaway, or mapping out a major road trip. Each excursion provides opportunities for adventures in the great outdoors, fabulous feasts, and agricultural experiences around the state.

FOR A GROUP GETAWAY

When the sun is shining the ocean calls, and one of the best ways to follow that salty siren song is with a bunch of mates in tow. There are myriad sandy locales along the NSW coast which are idyllic all year round (even if the waves get a little frosty), but the pristine South Coast simply can't be ignored.

Once you travel a few hours south of Sydney, each motorway exit presents the opportunity to forage for local snacks before cooling off in emerald waters. If you're looking to stock up on produce for your next few picnics, veer towards the mountains at **Berry**. This popular spot has a charming town centre packed with bakeries, artisan bottle shops, gourmet butchers, sweet shops, and greengrocers. And every Thursday afternoon you can taste test more goodies from local producers at the farmers' market in the Berry Showground.

Keen to get salty? The calm waters around **Jervis Bay** are ideal for sluicing through the currents in a kayak or attempting to balance on the surface as a stand-up paddleboarder. There are a bunch of local shops in the township of

Huskisson supplying equipment and lessons, so your group can take to the seas solo or gear up with pros.

If you're set on becoming a tube-riding star but need a helping hand onto your surfboard, head to the beach even further south at **Mollymook**. You'll find safe swells here as well as expert instructors with the likes of Mollymook Beach Surf School who offer group lessons that'll get beginners standing up and cheering their way to shore.

Once you reach **Eurobodalla**, you've hit oyster country. Starting at Batemans Bay and running south beyond Narooma, this region presents more epic coastal adventures as well as a revered oyster trail. There are three estuaries in Eurobodalla where these salty sea treats



are farmed by local bivalve experts, each offering distinct textures and flavour profiles. Oysters plucked from the deep, fast-flowing Clyde River leading into **Batemans Bay** are usually salty and sweet – try them from the Sydney Royal award-winning Doyle's Oysters. Further south in **Turross Lake** you'll find shells filled with creamier, fruity goodness like the prizes being produced by the aptly named Turros Oysters – also Sydney Royal winners.

Make **Narooma** your final South Coast destination and you'll be met with sharp and salty oysters, as well as the annual Narooma Oyster Festival. This year local growers, chefs and producers will invite NSW to celebrate the oyster from 6-7 May. The Friday evening affair will begin with oyster tasting while the sun sets over Wagonga Inlet before ramping up for a night of live music, more food (including non-oyster-based dishes) and fireworks. On Saturday you'll find markets, food stalls, oyster shucking competitions, cooking demos and more local fun. Keep an eye open for RAS President's Medal winners Tathra Oysters at the festival too.

If you've fallen in love with this stretch of NSW coast, linger a little longer just beyond the shoreline. **Barunguba** (aka Montague Island) sits in the pristine waters of Montague Nature Reserve, about 9km from the sand at Narooma. The island and surrounding sea attract a menagerie of creatures for visiting humans to spy, including seal colonies in winter, pods of humpback whales and dolphins from early spring, families of rare little penguins who come to breed on the island, plus more than 90 other species of birds.

You can only reach this secluded spot on an official tour, or if you're staying at the island accommodation. You'll be retiring to the Lighthouse Keeper's Cottage which sleeps up to twelve people or the Lighthouse Assistant Keeper's Cottage which sleeps seven. Both buildings have been lovingly restored since their late 19th-century construction and offer the perfect sprawling space for a long weekend spent with friends.

Your booking includes boat transfers and a guided tour of the historic lighthouse and short island loop, but adventurous

guests can book extra activities like snorkelling, scuba diving and kayaking around the island at their leisure. The cottages get snapped up quickly, so be sure to book your trip well in advance.

FOR FAMILY HOLIDAYS

Organising an adventure that's as engaging for tiny explorers as it is for their grown-ups can be a mighty task. You've got to strike the ideal balance between relaxation for work-weary parents and activities that'll wear the kids out before bedtime, plus a sprinkling of educational holiday experiences. Luckily, an excursion through regional NSW can tick all these boxes.

An ideal destination for such a holiday is Barkala Farmstay, just outside of **Coonabarabran**. The family-run business provides diverse experiences and accommodation options, all perched on the edge of a nature reserve. It's a sprawling site with unique charm driven by its hyper-local and sustainable principles. Whether you're staying in the family-sized cottage hidden in the orchard or the old schoolhouse soaring above the grounds on stilts, you'll be



enchanted by the handcrafted furniture and bathroom fixtures. There are lodgings for smaller families as well as secluded campsites, and every option is pet-friendly.

It's a 'choose-your-own adventure' policy here. Fill your days with relaxing bush walks and chill out sessions by the saltwater pool or learn about the workings of this small-scale organic farm on a tour while the little'uns feed the chooks, goats, sheep and pigs. It's like their very own Sydney Royal Easter Show with farm animals everywhere they turn. The other major drawcard is the pottery studio and shop. Farm owners Richard and Maria Rickert set up Pilliga Pottery when they first bought the property 30 years ago, and now their son Johannes is at the helm of the operation pumping out earthenware items made from local clays.

When you stay at the farm you can play with clay any time for free, but if you or the kids want to develop your skills further (and take home a self-made souvenir), you can book in for a structured pottery workshop. There are classes to help you master the potter's wheel, create simple but adorable pinch pots, or become a dab hand at glazing.

If you're not keen on cooking during your getaway, then you'll likely become a regular at on-site eatery, The Blue Wren Cafe. Much of the produce grown on the property goes directly to the cafe kitchen, and you'll also be able to sample honey from local bees, cheese crafted by neighbouring producers, and bread baked on the farm.

While you could plan your entire holiday itinerary within this one location, you'd be missing out on a lot of family-friendly fun just beyond the farm's borders. If you're hailing from the southern half

of NSW, you'll likely pass through the regional gem of **Dubbo**. Families can get to know creatures from across the globe at Taronga Western Plains Zoo Dubbo or see the region's farmers and producers in action at the annual Dubbo show (27-29 May 2022). This celebration of agricultural excellence has been running since 1872, so expect to see strong competition for titles across horse riding, cattle and pig rearing, sheep shearing, and physical challenges for young farmers.

If you're heading home to the east coast and didn't sample enough locally made produce at the show, make a stopover in **Mudgee**. Parents partial to cool climate wines can stock up their cellars with everything from fruit-forward shiraz to dry rieslings which have been carefully grown and pressed by award-winning vintners like Robert Oatley Vineyards and Robert Stein Winery. Naturally, you'll need a fromage accompaniment from Mudgee cheese royalty, High Valley Cheese Co. These curds and whey wizards produce wedges and wheels of creamy brie, towers of beautifully marbled blues, jars of marinated feta and more. You're bound to see a lot of Sydney Royal medal artwork at cellar doors and in amongst the cheeses.



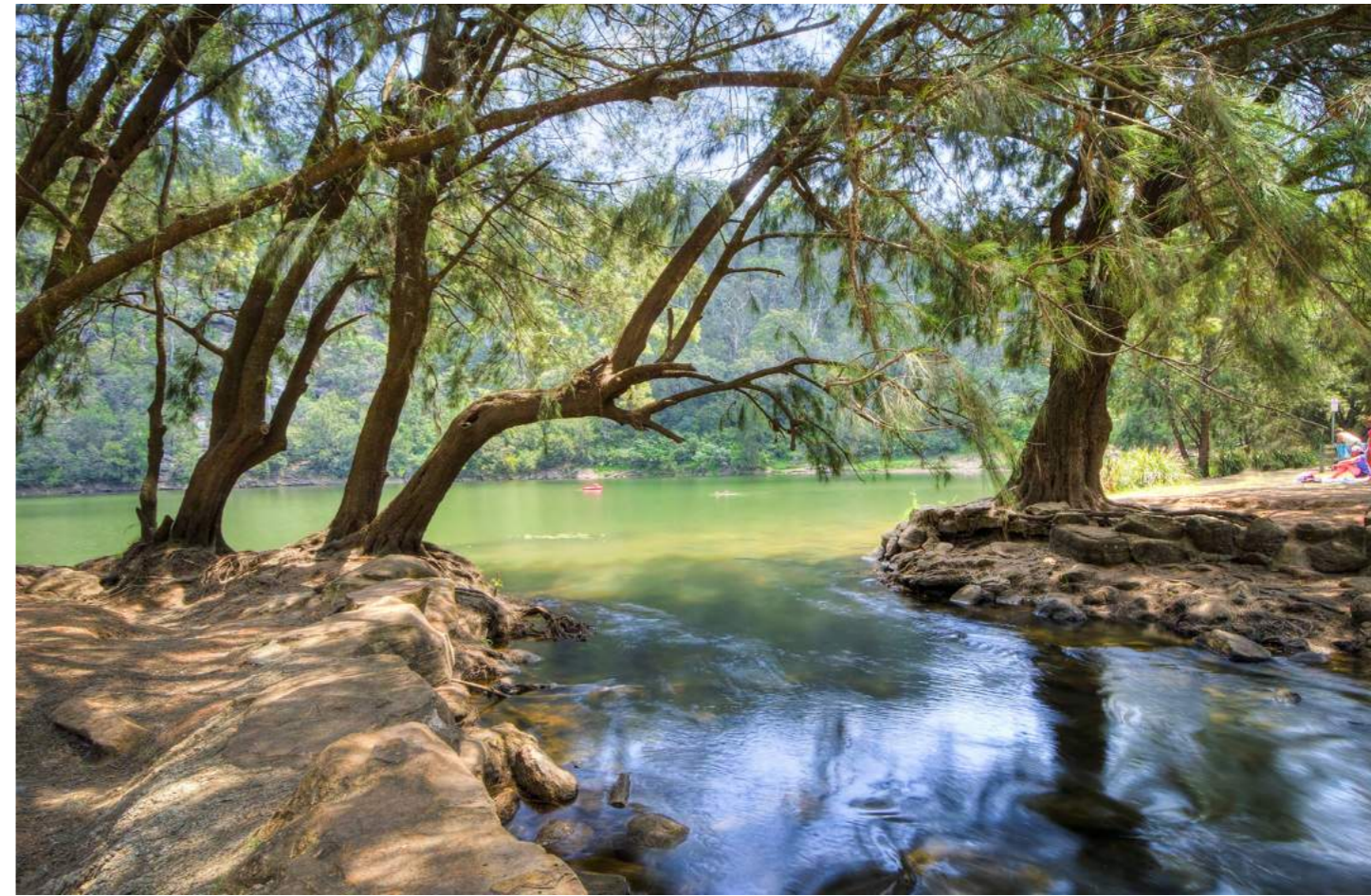
FOR AN OUTBACK ROAD TRIP

If you want more of a taste of what NSW has to offer in the way of delicious produce, outdoor adventures and agricultural history, a road trip is the way to go. For a proper long-haul excursion, plan a winding trip with plenty of pit stops that eventually leads to **Lightning Ridge**.

This eclectic town just below the Queensland border is best-known for its sparkling opals, but these gems and the area's mining history are just the tip of a rather charming iceberg. Dusty travellers will appreciate a dip in the Lightning Ridge bore baths that constantly simmer between 40 and 50 degrees Celsius for the perfect starry night soak or morning splash. The Great Artesian Basin is the source of these naturally heated pools, bubbling up from pressurised bores which are common throughout the north-west region of NSW.

After a rejuvenating dip, you can get to know the town and its colourful locals on a sightseeing tour of mad museums. Visit the Australian Opal Centre to see locally sourced collections (including the rare black opal), then wander through Bevan's Cactus Nursery that's been growing since 1966 and is lauded as one of the largest collections of cacti in the Southern Hemisphere. There's also a heritage miner's cottage and the quirky Bottlehouse Mining Museum to explore.

If you're visiting over Easter weekend, you'll get to see the town transform for the annual long-weekend festival. It starts on Good Friday with a massive rodeo, then parties through the weekend with parades, miners' challenges, markets, live music, opal fossicking, and fireworks. Then later this year



(27-30 July) more than 150 stalls are set up for the Lightning Ridge Opal Festival which celebrates and showcases these gems in all their forms.

For a truly local experience, why not stay with a local family? Carinya Station is an active sheep farm with DIY camping accommodation as well as a glamping site with all the necessities (plus a few luxuries like an outdoor bath and queen-sized bed) already set up for you. It's run by Joe and Jacinda Barry and their kids Archie, Clay and Pippa, with an eco-conscious mindset – so be mindful of waste and remember to BYO toilet paper for the composting toilet.

During your stay, you can simply enjoy the vast and secluded landscape and sit by the communal campfire while you barbecue up a feast. Or book a farm tour to learn about the sheep and cattle-rearing history of the site, as well as Indigenous and conventional land management and farming. Since the mercury can get high in this part of the state, Carinya Station is only open to visitors roughly from April-October.

But a road trip wouldn't be complete without the 'getting there' part, and there

Whatever holiday path you choose, be sure to give local food vendors, producers and tourism operators a smile – it's been a wild couple of years, and we're all ready for some holiday joy.

are plenty of fabulous routes to explore on your way to Lightning Ridge. If you're driving up the coast, head all the way to the Northern Rivers before turning west. You'll find World Heritage-listed rainforests, gorgeous waterways, and delicious local produce. And if you time it right, you could even stop in at Gosford for the Central Coast Regional Show (30 April-1 May) on your way.

If you're heading along a more central state route, stopover in thriving agricultural areas like **Orange** or the **Hunter Valley**. A few renowned Sydney Royal award winning local producers to remember when you visit the Hunter Valley Cheese Company, Tyrell's Wine and Brokenwood Wines. In Orange, try the award-winning washed-rind cheeses and rounds of double cream brie from the new Second Mouse Cheese

Company. Then, visit the fruit orchards just outside of town where you can pick your own mini harvest for road trip snacks.

Whatever holiday path you choose, be sure to give local food vendors, producers and tourism operators a smile – it's been a wild couple of years, and we're all ready for some holiday joy. ■





Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of New South Wales launches Sydney Royal with RAS President Michael Millner

Sydney Royal

Celebrating 200 years of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

In commemoration of the bicentenary of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, in conjunction with Beagle Press and noted historian Gavin Fry, the definitive history of the RAS has been released.

Available online now or from the Heritage Pavilion and Member's Stand during the Sydney Royal Easter Show, **Sydney Royal Celebrating 200 Years of the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales** is a celebration of the history and milestones of the RAS and the people of NSW who affectionately embrace the RAS and the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

This outstanding publication is comprehensive in its coverage of the RAS and the Sydney Royal Easter Show, the full-colour hard cover book features many never-before-seen photographs and anecdotes.

Member's Offer \$50 + \$16.85 postage



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



A collector's item

A collector's item marking the bicentenary of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, this limited run of tea towels featuring the bicentenary logo are available exclusively at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

Designed and printed in Australia, the linen tea towels celebrate the past and embrace the future of the RAS.

Available in the Heritage Pavilion and the Member's Stand - \$20



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



A NEW WAY TO PLAY!



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Sydney Royal Easter Show carnival is excited to move away from the traditional paper coupons for carnival rides and games to the easy-to-use Carnival Fun Pass.

Two Carnival Fun Pass Packages are available:
 140 CREDITS \$113 (SAVE \$41) • 115 CREDITS \$100 (SAVE \$26.50)

IT'S AS EASY AS 1 - 2 - 3



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