

RAS TIMES

WINTER 2023 | VOLUME 21-2

Celebrate

CELEBRATE TO EDUCATE

It's not just for Show

A-MAIZE-ING

A growing tradition in the
District Exhibits

AND THE WINNER IS...

Family Heritage & Regional Pride

2023 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW
★ FIRST PRIZE ★

A man wearing a brown jacket and a light-colored hat is smiling and holding a blue sash with gold text. The sash reads "2023 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW" and "★ FIRST PRIZE ★". The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a blue sky.

“we’ll raise a chorus...
the drovers canter, singing...
with cheery call and jest and song...”

ANDREW BARTON (BANJO) PATERSON (1864 - 1941)



Celebrate to Educate

As the post-Show wrap up, this Winter Issue of the RAS Times combines the two missions of the Sydney Royal Easter Show (SRES) and the RAS into the united theme: CELEBRATE TO EDUCATE.

It is the perfect description of what the SRES and RAS are all about. The Show is where farmers come to the city to display the “fruit” of their year-long labours and it is where the city come to learn and celebrate with their country cousins. At its core, the Show is a forum where country and city come together to celebrate excellence in agriculture. We have some of the best food and fibre in the world and it is worthy of celebrating!

Aussies know how to play hard and play well. Celebration, however informal, may be one of our best strengths. From cricket on the beach to cocktails overlooking the Harbour, celebration is in our very nature.

The Head of Education at the RAS, Duncan Kendall, is quoted as saying, “Celebration and education work hand in hand. It is an awakening of [people’s] interest—their curiosity. For a lot of people, agriculture is a celebration because it generates that love of learning and curiosity as well.” Perhaps we’re on to something, even Albert Einstein is quoted as saying, “Play is the highest form of research.”

This issue celebrates all things agriculture as it was enjoyed at the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show, I trust you learn something through these pages.

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



Elizabeth A Nixon JD serves as the Editor of the RAS Times magazine, and as Content Manager for the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW. Elizabeth holds a juris doctorate law degree from Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, USA, and was licensed to practice law in both California and before the United States Supreme Court. As co-owner of a media production company, Elizabeth has been writing in law and media for over 20 years.

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

Join Elizabeth on LinkedIn:



“Being a writer is not a job that I do, it is who I am.” Elizabeth A Nixon JD



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

The mission of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) is:

To forge the future of agriculture by engaging, educating and entertaining our community on the value of sustainable agriculture and quality produce through events which support agricultural excellence and innovation.



The mission of the Sydney Royal Easter Show (SRES) is:

To celebrate Australian culture, from our rural traditions to our modern metropolitan lifestyles.



ON THE COVER

Greg Fuller of PC Angus Stud, winner of both the Hordern & Urquhart Perpetual Trophies at the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show.

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FEATURE CONTRIBUTORS IN THIS ISSUE



Vicki Hastrich is a Sydney writer, with a special interest in history and archives. She is a novelist and essayist, and is currently working on a biography. In between times, she has written for the RAS for nearly 15 years.

Kate Newsome was the 2022 recipient of the JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications. Kate is currently completing the final year of her Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Media and Communications) at the University of Sydney.





have been invaluable. The vital role that volunteers and donors play, and that of the regional show societies are integral to all that we do. Industry partners, commercial sponsors, business relationships, and Government patrons each play a role in supporting what the RAS does every day. Without their support, the RAS could not achieve its goals.

To all who have contributed to the success of the past three years, whether behind-the-scenes or in plain view, I offer my heartfelt thanks. Especially to my wife Jenny whose support I value and appreciate. It has been an honour to serve the RAS and it will be a highlight of my career long into the future.

Michael Millner, President
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT
A Cattleman at heart, President Millner found his happy place at the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show; President Michael Millner, Opening Ceremony, 2023; President Michael Millner and Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley, AC KC, at the 2023 Australian Citizenship Ceremony.



This issue of the RAS Times is my last as President of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW and closes a chapter in my professional career, which chapter has been a highlight to my life and service in the agriculture sector.

A primary annual deliverable of the RAS is the Sydney Royal Easter Show, which has operated continuously since 1869, except for the Spanish flu outbreak in 1919, the years of World War II, and most recently the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

My Presidency with the RAS began the year after the pandemic shutdown. It was a major accomplishment for the RAS to host the 2021 Show, which turned out to be the largest ticketed event to occur globally since lockdowns and social distancing regulations were implemented. Amidst Government negotiations to keep our business on its feet in the aftermath of the shutdown, remarkably, the 2021 Show broke five attendance records since its relocation to Sydney Olympic Park! Importantly, we successfully delivered a COVID-Safe event, implementing strict daily limits, a new ticketing system, and innovative COVID-Safe measures. While we were thrilled to be the event that brought the community together for the first-time post lockdown, it did operate

under significant restrictions, including the inability to host any Council events.

Perhaps making up for the constrained nature of my first Show, the following year hit all the highs. 2022 celebrated the RAS Bicentenary and welcomed Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, Patron of RAS, Commonwealth.

Beyond the Show, the RAS is purposed to promote, foster and encourage the sustainable development of agriculture, including holding exhibitions for the display of livestock, agricultural produce, and arts & crafts, while simultaneously establishing business networks and markets for sales and innovation. These efforts set industry benchmarks, strengthen our communities, and celebrate excellence in Australian agriculture. In doing so, the RAS ensures a prosperous future for all Australians, and I am proud to have been part of this vision and iconic legacy.

The accomplishments of the past three years of my Presidency do not rest only on my shoulders but are a testament to the key players who make it all possible--our Members, Board, Council, Committees, Managers, and staff. A special thanks is due to Executive Assistant Alexis Gachon, RAS Treasurer Grahame Sharpe, and Chief Executive Brock Gilmour, whose support and contributions to my term



HAPPY & GLORIOUS

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) celebrates the coronation of the new King.

The RAS enjoyed the privilege of hosting then Prince Charles at the 1970 Sydney Royal Easter Show, which he attended with the royal family as part of their Australian tour.

We look forward to the future and to King Charles' reign, which he described with these opening words of His coronation oath, "I come not to be served but to serve."

This is also the promise of all Royal Agricultural Societies, to serve our communities and by doing so to serve our country. It is a fitting assurance that we join Him in.

Long live the King.

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

TREASURER: GRAHAME SHARPE

The RAS wishes to recognise and celebrate the leadership of Grahame Sharpe, who is stepping down as Treasurer of the RAS.

Grahame has been at the helm for the past 6 years, and whilst his term and contributions will always remember his professionalism and extraordinary commitment to the RAS, his service will always be underscored by COVID-19.

Grahame saw the RAS miraculously through the unprecedented events of Covid shutdowns, including the cancellation of the 2020 Show just three weeks prior to gates opening. It cannot be overstated that without Grahame's leadership, the RAS would not be in the strong financial position it is in today. It was Grahame's ability to navigate the shutdowns by coordinating the assistance of the Federal Government, and the NSW Government's Letter of Guarantee for the 2021 Show, that undoubtedly brought the RAS through. To Grahame and his family, we say a great big thank you and we wish you many continued successes!

NEW RAS TREASURER: SAM WALKER, BVSC, MCOM, CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT.

The RAS is privileged to welcome Sam Walker as the new RAS Treasurer.

Sam began his career as a veterinarian. He has been an active member of the RAS veterinary team since 1998 and has a deep understanding of the veterinary requirements of the RAS. First elected to the RAS Council in 2010, Sam currently sits as Chair of the Veterinary Committee, and also serves on the Domestic Animals Committee (having previously been Chair), the Audit Committee, and the Wine and Beer Committee. These RAS engagements have afforded Sam a wide perspective of the activities and requirements of the RAS.

Sam also has a significant career in corporate finance, which includes the founding of Arcadia Capital in 2019, a private equity firm directly investing in Australian companies to help them grow and provide opportunities for Australian industry and workers. Prior to establishing

Arcadia Capital, Sam worked for some of the largest and most respected international financial institutions in the world, including Ernst & Young, Goldman Sachs, The Carlyle Group and Macquarie Bank.

Currently serving as a director of Orange Hire, an equipment rental firm valued at more than \$100m, and purchased with funds managed by Arcadia Capital in 2020, Sam's previous roles include shadow director of Healthscope and Coates Hire, both with revenues over \$1 billion. Sam has led the assessment of strategy and the financial performance of many other businesses.

Of great value to the RAS was Sam's financial expertise in advising the RAS through the Covid-19 pandemic when severe financial pressure jeopardized RAS liquidity. His insight and management stabilized the RAS fiscal position while also gaining the trust and support of all levels of government.

The RAS ensures a prosperous future for all Australians, and I am proud to have been part of this vision and iconic legacy.

As Patron of the Royal Agricultural Society of New South Wales (RAS), I congratulate Michael Millner on his leadership and contribution as President of the RAS over the past three years.

Michael has exhibited cattle at the Sydney Royal Easter Show for 38 years and steers in the RAS Beef Challenge Feedlot Trial. He has also supported local schools with steers to exhibit at the Show. First elected to the RAS Council in 1995 and with roles including Chair of the RAS Foundation and RAS Vice President, his appointment as President in July 2020 was no surprise.

That was a difficult time for everyone, not least for the organization he was to lead. The RAS' marquee event, the 2020 Sydney Royal Easter Show, had been cancelled due to the COVID pandemic, and for the first time in more than a hundred years it had to be abandoned due to public health orders. All in our State lived under the uncertain cloud of case numbers, restrictions, and lockdowns. Planning for the 2021 Show the following year would always be fraught.

However, adaptability, resilience, and the embrace of innovation have long been the hallmark of the RAS, and, under

Michael's committed and careful stewardship, the RAS was up to the challenge. With meticulous planning, innovative crowd monitoring systems, and comprehensive cleaning regimes, the Show not only went on, but was a remarkable success.

Indeed, with close to 800,000 attendees over 12 days, the 2021 Sydney Royal Easter Show became an international benchmark for the successful delivery of large COVID-safe events.

The following year, in 2022, RAS celebrated its bicentenary year, the historical significance of which was recognized by the visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Anne, The Princess Royal, specifically to open the Show.

The RAS is, of course, far more than the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Throughout his term, Michael has maintained a steadfast focus on the RAS' core mission of supporting and championing the individuals, families, and communities of our agricultural industries, as well as driving innovation in the sustainability of agriculture. In doing so, he has ensured the RAS continues its exemplary efforts in the promotion, support, and empowerment of agricultural excellence in New South Wales.



For his leadership, commitment, and dedication, as President of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, I offer Michael the deepest and most heartfelt of thanks, and wish him and his family all the best for the future.

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC
Governor of New South Wales

WELCOME JOHN C. BENNETT, OAM



The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) is honoured to welcome Mr. John C. Bennett, OAM, as its new President, effective 27 June 2023.

The RAS has a long history of Presidents who bring industry-specific credibility and professional integrity to the role. RAS Presidents are relied upon for their passion and dedication to Australian agriculture and agricultural communities.

John Bennett shares the RAS' vision of a community that understands and values sustainable Australian agriculture and award-quality produce.

Strong relationships with people and organisations who share mutual interests and who work hard to develop and maintain them is integral to the mission and purpose of the RAS, and John brings much to the table in this regard.

The RAS looks forward to all that will be accomplished during this next Presidential term!

John C. Bennett, OAM

John Bennett is Managing Director of MJ & EA Bennett P/L, a family company with interests in Agriculture, the Hospitality Industry and commercial property.

From a farming family on the South Coast of NSW, engaged in commercial beef and thoroughbred bloodstock operations, John and his family have also operated a 550 seat Function and Conference Centre located on their farm at Worrigeer near Nowra.

Currently John continues to manage his family's company interests in agriculture, real estate and land development. John trains horses in partnership with his father, and recently completed studies to become a licensed Racehorse Trainer with Racing NSW.

John developed a passion for agricultural shows at a young age, attending one almost every weekend while he and his family competed horses.

John became involved with his local show society, Nowra, in 2001,

and soon became Vice President. He was then President between 2005 and 2010. Since 2010 he has been their Ringmaster and Chief Steward of Attractions.

In 2004, John attended the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth's (RASC) conference held in Albury, NSW. John went on to be appointed as the RASC's Next Generation facilitator in 2007, where he developed the concept of "Understanding and Assistance Missions" for Commonwealth Next Generation delegates. John became an elected Trustee of the RASC in 2015, a position he continues to hold.

In 2004, John was invited to be a member of the inaugural RAS of NSW Youth Group and was elected to RAS Council in 2010. He was Assistant Ringmaster between 2011 and 2015, and Ringmaster from 2015–2021. John has also served two terms as a member of the RAS Board and is most recently Vice President and Chair of the Horse Committee.

Spotlight:

DID YOU KNOW...THERE ARE BEEHIVES AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE? THE HONEY PRODUCED IS CALLED 'REBECCA' AFTER REBECCA OAKES (NEE SMALL)(1789-1833).

Rebecca was born at the first Government House on 22nd September 1789 and was one of the first European females born on Australian soil. Her father, John Small, a boatswain and gaol warden, arrived with the First Fleet.

Rebecca spent most of her 95 years in Parramatta (formerly Rosehill) living under every NSW Governor from Captain Phillip to Lord Loftus. She gave birth to 14 children, many of whom did not outlive her by the time of her death in 1833.

Remarkably, Rebecca has many descendants, one of whom is our Governor, Her Excellency, the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC!

Rebecca Honey is not available to the public but is reserved exclusively as gifts for visiting dignitaries.

As Patron of the RAS, Her Excellency made the beautiful gesture of donating a small jar of Rebecca Honey for the RAS Foundation to auction at the Sydney Royal Easter Show Charity Brunch, as part of its fundraising efforts.



Due to its beautiful story and its history linked to our Governor & Patron, the small jar of Rebecca Honey was sold at auction by the RAS Foundation for the incredible donation price of \$2,200!





The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW is purposed to promote, foster and encourage the sustainable development of agriculture. Coming alongside farmers and championing all that farming communities do for our nation—the RAS drives agricultural excellence and innovation in these practical ways:

- Through its education initiatives, the RAS engages, educates and entertains not only students but also teaching professionals through curriculum development, ag career expos, and practical opportunities to interact with agriculture—the get-your-hands-dirty kind of fun that kids of all ages love!

Education continues beyond the classroom to the Sydney Royal Wine, Dairy & Fine Food and Sydney Royal Easter Show competitions where judging feedback is provided to competitors. Professional, insightful feedback supports and facilitates these competitors who return year-to-year, rising from no medals to blue ribbon 1st place prizes. In this way, the RAS impacts and improves the quality of produce available for people to purchase and consume.

- Through its Foundation, the RAS is able give back to rural and regional communities through scholarships and community development grants. And it's not just money that flows through the RAS Foundation, it's stories of renewed hope, of communities strengthened in practical ways, and of individuals encouraged to pursue lifelong aspirations.

- Through the events hosted at Sydney Showground, revenues are channelled back into the RAS' work in the community. This is a strategic partnership, unique in the business and not-for-profit sector, which raises its own bar, year after year.

- Through the annual Sydney Royal Easter Show, two major missions are accomplished. Primarily the Show operates as the RAS' largest fund-raising event, but the Show itself has been recognised for its significant economic and social contribution to NSW. A massive celebration of Australian culture, this iconic event is more than just showbags and carnival rides. It recognises farmers, rural leaders and ag-innovators who strive for excellence every day of the year. It creates new markets, functions to network ag-business community members, and is the momentum behind the increasing quality and sustainability of Australian agriculture.

In these ways, the RAS contributes substantially and significantly to sustaining Australian agriculture industries, strengthening communities, and ensuring a prosperous future for all Australians. Every person at the RAS is passionate about what we do and who we support, advocating for agriculture as a whole and, at the individual level, acknowledging the people who work for the greater good of all.

For the past three years, Michael Millner, M.A.I.C.D., has served as the RAS President. He was at the helm for the first post-COVID Show, and when we welcomed Her Royal Highness Princess Anne for the RAS Bicentenary. While the nuances of his presidency may not have been the norm due to the nature of the post-COVID regulations and a royal visit, it was his professionalism and his down-to-earth character that helped guide us through. For this, and all his personal support and camaraderie, I offer him my sincere thanks. It has been my distinct pleasure to serve alongside.

To our incoming President, John C. Bennett, OAM, I offer a hearty welcome on behalf of the entire RAS, our members, volunteers, Council

and staff. I know that we all look forward to what your presidency will bring.

At the heart of the RAS, we are striving to innovate and achieve great things for the agriculture industry and this great nation. This is an ambitious mission, that I am proud to continue to serve.



Brock Gilmour, Chief Executive, Royal Agricultural Society of NSW

Highlight:

ORANGE REGIONAL MUSEUM SHOW

Ribbons, rides & ring events

This exhibit explores the history of agricultural shows across the Central West and shares some of the stories that have made them such an enduring favourite.

Features of the exhibition include:

- photographs from more than a century of shows across the region,
- the oldest medal in the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Heritage Collection,
- a selection of showbags dating from the 1950s to the early 2000s, and
- a century-old carousel horse that was used at the Orange Show.

The exhibition is produced by Orange Regional Museum, curated by Museum Manager, Dr Mary-Elizabeth Andrews, with exhibition structures built by the Orange Men's Shed and photographs sourced from local show societies, historical societies and state and national collections.

The Orange Regional Museum is open from 9am to 4pm every day between Saturday 13 May - Sunday 15 October 2023, and entry is free.



23 SEPTEMBER 2023
2PM – 7PM
HOWIE PAVILION & LAWN
SYDNEY SHOWGROUND

Grape, Grain & Graze is the exclusive boutique festival event to attend this Spring!

Indulge in award-quality wine and produce, set on the private Sydney Showground Howie Pavilion Lawn, rich in ambience and style.

This year Grape, Grain & Graze runs from 2pm-7pm, so you can slow down and relax, take everything in and enjoy the live music.

Grazing stations are included in the ticket price with other food, alcoholic beverages and coffee available for purchase.

DON'T MISS THE SYDNEY ROYAL MARKETPLACE

Brimming with Sydney Royal fine food exhibitors, all showcasing their products for sample and for sale.

Stroll around, neighbourhood-style, chat with producers and exhibitors.

Learn about their passion and how they bring their product to life.

This is the event that will keep your excitement alive for the Australian gastronome and foodie scene.

Ticketing is strictly limited to 1000 guests, don't miss out!

Aussie grown | Aussie made | Aussie pride

BUY TICKETS HERE
www.rasnsw.com.au/GGG



Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



GENERAL PUBLIC TICKETS
\$110
MEMBERS TICKETS
\$90



YOUR TICKET INCLUDES:

- Unlimited tastings of Medal Winning Wine, Beer & Cider from the 2023 Sydney Royal Wine, Beer & Cider Shows
- Grazing tables featuring Sydney Royal Medal Winning produce
- 1 x Wine Glass to take home

THE FIRST 400 TICKETS PURCHASED INCLUDE 5 X TROPHY WINE TASTINGS

Trophy Wine tastings available to purchase for \$15 for 5 tastings, but numbers are strictly limited, so order yours today!



MASTERFUL MASTERCLASS ADD ON \$20

Sign up for a sit-down, in-depth Beer or Wine Master Class.

Sessions strictly limited, so add to your ticket purchase now!

Demonstrate your support for regional and rural NSW by becoming a Member of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW today!



To Our Valued Members

Being a Member of The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) means being a member of a community that understands, values and practically supports sustainable Australian agriculture and award-quality produce.

Most Australians have some tie to country and farming communities. Whether that comes from a family legacy in farming or having grown up in regional townships, whether it comes from extended caravan and camping holidays, or long treks westward through Orana to the Far West, rural Australia runs deep in all Australians' veins!

Our next-gen and urban Members value the RAS mission of sustainable farming, innovation in plant-based food products, and emerging agri-tech. The RAS appreciates the values of our next-generation and urban Members, and aligns with them by prioritising

these shared issues, recognising them as meaningful for investment and endorsement.

That's why our Members say they love being Members—because it's more than "just the Easter Show", it's everything that the Easter Show stands for! Bolstering vibrant, sustainable agriculture in regional and rural New South Wales is what we all believe in. Supporting families in agricultural communities who dedicate their lives to excellence in delivering all the food and fibre products that Australia relies on every day, is what we take pride in supporting.

Membership at the RAS offers a great selection of benefits and discounts, and the opportunity to get involved in RAS events and activities.

ALMOST TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

RAS Membership demonstrates your stake in the sustainable development of agriculture in NSW, and your continuing support is important. In the next few months, you will receive your Membership Renewal which will entitle you to all RAS Membership Benefits, including exclusive reciprocal club benefits that are available, year-round, to RAS Members.

We highly value you, our RAS Members, because your membership represents your heartfelt support and willingness to contribute financially to the iconic, on-going Mission of the RAS.

If you do not receive your Renewal Notice in the post or by email by the end of September, please contact the Membership Team on 02 9704 1144.



RECIPROCAL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS - Interstate Royals

Did you know that your RAS of NSW Membership provides you with Honorary Membership at select Interstate Royals? When you buy a regular price ticket on the first day of an interstate royal show, you are eligible for an Honorary Member Pass for the remainder of the show!

Here is how you can claim reciprocal privileges:

- Member (and a guest where applicable) pay to enter the show on their first day. This admission fee is not refundable.

- Report to the Membership Administration Office with proof of interstate membership and proof of identity.
- One Honorary Member pass (or two if accompanied by a guest) or equivalent will be given for the duration of the show.

UPCOMING ROYAL SHOWS:

- The Ekka
12 - 20 August 2023
- Royal Adelaide Show
2 - 10 September 2023
- Royal Melbourne Show
21 September - 1 October 2023
- Royal Perth
23 -30 September 2023
- Royal Hobart Show
26 -28 October 2023

ADDITIONAL RECIPROCAL RAS MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Membership with the RAS is not limited to only RAS events. Here are the amazing reciprocal club benefits available to RAS Members year-round:

- RAS Members can take advantage of reciprocal privileges to selected **NRL games at Accor Stadium**
- **The Australian Turf Club** takes pride in being one of the world's

most desirable destinations for thoroughbred racing, events, and hospitality. Members of the RAS are eligible to receive a great range of reciprocal entitlements.

- **AFL reciprocal rights at the Sydney Cricket Ground.** The SCG Members Reserve includes the Ladies Pavilion, Members Pavilion, MA Noble and Bradman stands.
- **Departure Lounge, the Mantra Group.** RAS Members receive discounted accommodation at selected Peppers, Mantra and BreakFree properties throughout Australia and New Zealand.

For more accommodation discounts and full details of all exclusive reciprocal members' benefits, go to <https://www.rasnw.com.au/membership/year-round-benefits/>

Reduce labour costs and hours manually checking water with Farmbot remote monitoring

The RAS was thrilled to invite the Farmbot team to be an exhibitor as part of Woolworths Ag Discovery at the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show!

Network and Educate

Over the 12 days of Show, the Farmbot team chatted to thousands of people—from large scale farms to hobby farmers, and from primary school students to university students and teachers. An important part of their exhibit was not simply networking for potential clients but also to educate people about their emerging technology.

As a thank you for RAS support, Farmbot is offering all RAS Members an exclusive offer to get started with Farmbot. Limited time only, offer ends 31 July 2023.



To claim this offer, call the Farmbot Water Management Experts 02 9030 4760 or email sales@farmbot.com.au and quote **EASTER SHOW**



farmbot.com.au

Spotlight: RAS Councillors: Heritage & Prospective

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW is a membership-based organisation, governed by a Council of Members. This highly experienced management team volunteer their time, working in conjunction with exceptional staff and expert industry-based Committees.

The RAS is privileged to have Councillors whose families have a comparable agricultural legacy to the RAS itself, spanning hundreds of years and many generations. Two such Councillors are Ms Heidi Badgery and Mr Gavin Moore.

HEIDI BADGERY

In 1868, Henry Badgery first took up a position on the RAS Council and since that time a total of 7 generations of the Badgery family have served on the RAS Council. In fact, a pavilion on the Sydney Showground site is named for the family, The Southee and Badgery Pavilion, so commissioned on 18 April 2014 by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge as part of their royal visit.

Heidi Badgery proudly continues this family legacy. She is a lifetime member of the RAS and actively supports the Royal Easter Show in the area of Dairy Produce, serving as a steward for the past 7 years. Holding a Masters of Marketing Administration degree, and with a Doctorate of Business Administration & Strategic Management in process, Ms Badgery has served as a Senior Director, Head of Strategic Development, and Managing Director for companies such as Symantec, CEB (Gartner), Adobe Systems and Alteryx, across Asia-Pacific, Australia and New Zealand.

With an extensive background as a people leader, and the proven capability to lead and transform organisations, Ms. Badgery is committed to raise the awareness of the RAS Dairy show and to engage communities on the value of sustainable agriculture.

The RAS welcomes Ms Badgery and looks forward to a continued close relationship with the family.

GAVIN MOORE

A proven leader, educator and passionate farmer, Gavin Moore is Partner in his family's dairy farming business, "Glenmore", which has been in his family for eight generations, spanning nearly 200 years. Currently operating a fresh milk production system, Glenmore produces 1.7 million litres of milk annually.

Heavily invested in education, Mr Moore collaborates with the Department of Education and

Training and has hosted over 27,500 school children onsite, as well as working on a taskforce with the Department for NSW for school curriculum development. Mr Moore has served on multiple industry committees leading teams on some of the biggest national dairy industry projects, with budgets ranging from \$5,000 to \$100 million. Mr Moore has a long association with the RAS, having been a Rural Achiever, and participated as an exhibitor and as an official for many years. Bringing with him established key stakeholder networks, Mr Moore understands and values the ongoing purpose and future direction of the RAS. He has a broad understanding of and a deep love for the RAS mission and purpose.

The RAS is honoured to include Ms. Badgery and Mr Moore as Council Members.



FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Elders is proud to have a long legacy of commercial livestock & stud stock excellence all across NSW and throughout Australia. We are proud of how this legacy is being upheld by our next generation of livestock experts.

Looking for a career in commercial livestock agency, stud stock and/or auctioneering?

Scan for opportunities or drop into your local Elders branch



For Australian agriculture

And the winner is ...

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW has been an influential force in the direction and development of Australian agriculture through competitions, education and events since its foundation in 1822.



WORDS ELIZABETH A NIXON JD



having applied what they were advised in years prior, the result being improved product, which leads to higher market values and thus agriculture across the board improves year after year.

This is the key legacy of the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Forging the future of Australian agriculture is not just a hope or a vision, it is the reality that is consistently progressing, advancing and innovating ag and ag-tech alike. Generation after generation of crops, stock and families bear this very heritage.

At the Show, of equal importance to the competitions, is the thrill and delight that the commercial vendors, carnival rides, food precincts and family entertainment all provide for Showgoers, and which keeps them coming back year after year!

Being able to educate the metropolitan communities about the value of agriculture and those who produce it, through entertaining and engaging moments, creates wins for everyone!

This, then, begs the question, who was the biggest winner at the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show? Beyond the personal recognition and regional wins, the real winner is Australia herself!

While there is much family heritage, personal achievement and regional pride at stake in every judging circle, the ultimate goal of every ag show, big or small, is to improve the quality of food that Australians are able to put on their plate and the quality of the fibre woven into their every day.

So, to everyone who entered a competition, to everyone who bought a ticket, came through the front gate, and cheered ringside, thank you.

We are all part of this grand mission to serve this beautiful country we are lucky enough to call home, and together we can ensure our mutual prosperity. This is what the Sydney Royal Easter Show accomplishes year after year, and this is what we celebrate when we present the winners of the annual competitions.

Following are the 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show competition winners.

And the winner is...

The 2023 Sydney Royal Easter Show was an incredible success for everyone who participated! Exhibitors, competitors, entertainers, vendors,

officials, stewards, and even staff and volunteers have all reported back that this year's Show was rewarding on so many fronts.

While Showgoers enjoy the pageantry and excitement of the many competitions that take place over the course of the 12 days of the Show, there is so much more that unfolds. What they enjoy, perhaps without even realising, is the continuation of an iconic legacy purposed to forge the future of Australian agriculture.

What appears on the following pages is not simply a list of people who "won a prize", it is the recognition and celebration of those who have dedicated their lives to the pursuit of agricultural excellence, and for many there is family heritage and regional pride at stake.

The 12 days of Show are an incredible opportunity for everyone who comes. Those who travel over several days, crammed into family vehicles packed to the brim, towing trailers with their prize animals inside, laughing together, and at times yawning as the hours and kilometres go by, all the while anticipating what 'going to the Show in the City' will garner for them. There is business to be had, networks of people to engage with, animals to care for in a place that is strange to them, exhibits to set up, and a brave face to put on when entering the ring.

Olympians have the Olympics, but Australian farmers and rural producers have the Sydney Royal.

Beyond the travel, beyond the time spent preparing animals, produce and exhibits, beyond even the thrill of the blue-ribbon winning moments, the importance of bringing country and city together is purposed to fulfill a grand mission now 200 years in the making—to ensure the survival and prosperity of the nation by driving agricultural excellence and innovation.



Employing the time-tested approach where the competitions themselves function as the influential force behind the direction and development of Australian agriculture, competitors and exhibitors return year after year armed with information, guidance, direction and encouragement provided at the Show by judges, officials, stewards, committees and council chairpersons.

The feedback provided at the Show is given to winning champions and to first-time entrants alike. Both come back

2023 SRES COMPETITION RESULTS

ALPACAS

- Best Suri Alpaca in Show**
Bedrock Crypto, Bedrock Alpacas
- Best Huacaya Alpaca in Show**
Bedrock Pallas, Bedrock Alpacas
- Most Successful Suri Exhibitor in Show**
Precision Alpacas
- Most Successful Huacaya Exhibitor in Show**
Precision Alpacas

ALPA YOUNG AUCTIONEERS

- National Champion**
Harry Waters, Gundagai, NSW
- NSW State Final Champion**
Michael Purtle, Manilla, NSW

ARTS & CRAFTS

- The RAS Committee Award for Best Art Exhibit**
Dan Zhu, Untitled, Schofields, NSW
- The Watt Family Perpetual Trophy for Best Photograph in Show**
Charles McKean, Siesta Sista, Double Bay, NSW
- The Frances Binnie Memorial**

Perpetual Trophy for the most meritorious exhibit in the Standard of Excellence case

- Bernice Mott, Glenmore Park, NSW
- The RAS Award for Best Australian Working Rural related Exhibit**
Peter Richardson, Kangaroo Leather Snake Whip, Thora, NSW
- The Dorothy Evans Perpetual Trophy for the Best Exhibit in Cake Decorating and Sugar Art**
Eileen Scriven, Milton, NSW
- The Bernice J Vercoe Cash Prize for the most successful exhibitor in Cake Decorating and Sugar Art Classes**
Niki Van Leeuwen, North Curl Curl, NSW
- The Most Successful Preserves Exhibitor Perpetual Trophy**
Barbara Goldman, Normanhurst, NSW



The Australian Gas Cooking School Perpetual Trophy for the Most Successful Exhibitor in Perishable Cooking Classes

- Leeanne Dyer, Ourimbah NSW
- The Heather Gibson Perpetual Trophy for the Most Successful Exhibitor in Non-Perishable Cooking Classes**
Barbara Goldman, Normanhurst, NSW
- Johanne Holt, Urangan, QLD
- The W H Davies Memorial Perpetual Trophy for the Most Meritorious Exhibit in Under 20'S Hand Knitting and Crochet**
August James, Koolewong, NSW
- The Ena & Keith Stuart-Wright Memorial Annual Trophy for Most Successful Exhibitor in Under 20's Perishable Cooking**
Annabelle Nash, Harrington Park, NSW

AQUACULTURE

- Champion Prawn**
Gold Coast Marine Aquaculture, Woongoolba, QLD
- Champion Sydney Rock Oyster**
Tathra Oysters, Tathra, NSW

AVIARY BIRD

- Grand Champion African Lovebird**
Brian Holdsworth, Toongabbie, NSW
- Grand Champion Budgerigar**
Andre Ozoux, Gladesville, NSW
- Grand Champion Canary**
Jim Flood, Merrylands, NSW
- Grand Champion Finch**
Gerry Portelli, Sans Souci, NSW
- Grand Champion Parrot**
Karen Glossop, Greenacre, NSW



CATTLE (BEEF)

- The Hordern Perpetual Trophy for Supreme Beef Breed**
Angus
PC Great Northern R061, Pine Creek Angus Stud Pty Ltd, Woodstock, NSW
- The Michael Arnott Perpetual Trophy for the highest number of points for display**
Southern New South Wales District Exhibit
- The Gordon Maitland Perpetual Trophy for the District voted best by the public**
Southern New South Wales District Exhibit

The RAS Supreme Beef Interbreed Heifer

- Flemington Fleur S69, Mount View Orchards Batlow, Adelong, NSW
- The Gordon Fuller Memorial Perpetual Trophy for Interbreed Breeders Group**
Angus, CL Fuller, Cowra, NSW

CATTLE (DAIRY)

- Supreme Champion Dairy Female**
Bluechip EV Shesaawesome Apple-ET-Red, J Gavenlock & B Gavenlock, Tallygaroopna, VIC
- Supreme Intermediate Champion Dairy Female**
Q-Bee Oliver Gin P, Rebekah Love & Andrew McRae, Newry, VIC
- Supreme Junior Champion Dairy Female**
Cedar Vale Oliver Countess, Cedar Vale Jerseys, Tongarra, NSW
- The Dairy Farmers Perpetual Trophy for the Pen of Three Females, any age**
Wilson Family Shirlinn Jerseys, Westdale, NSW

CATTLE (STEER & CARCASE)

- Grand Champion Steer**
Scots All Saints College, Bathurst, NSW
- Grand Champion Carcase**
W Davis & J Davis Livestock, Goolgowi, NSW
- Most Successful School Exhibitor**
Scots All Saints College, Bathurst, NSW

CATTLE (TRADE HOOF & CARCASE)

- Champion Trade Steer/Heifer**
St Stanislaus College, Bathurst, NSW
- Champion Trade Carcase**
Calrossy Anglican School, Tamworth, NSW

DISTRICT EXHIBITS

- The District Exhibits Perpetual Shield for the winner of the District Exhibit Competition**
Northern New South Wales District Exhibit
- The Michael Arnott Perpetual Trophy for the highest number of points for display**
Southern New South Wales District Exhibit
- The Gordon Maitland Perpetual Trophy for the District voted best by the public**
Southern New South Wales District Exhibit



DOG COMPETITION

- Best Exhibit in Show**
Ch. Piccino King of Bling, Italian Greyhound, J Hardwicke, Tennyson, NSW
- Best Puppy in Show**
Calahorra A Walk on the Moon, Whippet, N A Snerling, Aldavilla, NSW
- Best Baby Puppy in Show**
Taejaan Moon Over Georgia, Siberian Husky, M Burton, N J Rule-Steele, A J Taylor & S G Turay, Wallalong, NSW



FLOWER & GARDEN

- Most Successful Exhibitor of Show**
Janet Hill & Peter Hill, Farrer, ACT
- The Banksian Medal, for the Exhibitor gaining the highest number of aggregate points**
Janet Hill & Peter Hill, Farrer, ACT
- Bronze Medal, for the Exhibitor gaining the second highest aggregate number of points**
Edward & Meryl Morphet, Emu Plains, NSW

The John Thomas Baptist Memorial Medal, for the Exhibitor with the greatest number of firsts

- Janet Hill & Peter Hill, Farrer, ACT
- Most Successful Exhibitor in Decorative Section**
Michael Cordeiro, Leichardt, NSW
- National Floral Designer Competition**
Lawrence Kwong, Cronulla, NSW
- Supreme Champion Children's Exhibit**
Angelina Smithson, West Pennant Hills, NSW
- Supreme Champion Children's Decorative Exhibit**
Sophia Jade Hickie, Pymble, NSW

GOATS

- Best Angora Goat in Show**
Cullbookie The Rock, Debbie Scattergood, Bungendore, NSW
- Grand Champion Mohair Fleece**
Cullbookie, Debbie Scattergood, Bungendore, NSW
- Most Successful Angora Goat Exhibitor**
Debbie Scattergood, Bungendore, NSW
- The Nico Botha Perpetual Trophy for Best Boer Goat in Show**
Pacifica Q26, Brad Taylor & Vanessa Taylor, Gadara, NSW
- Most Successful Boer Goat Exhibitor**
Brad Taylor & Vanessa Taylor, Gadara, NSW
- Best Miniature Goat in Show**
Zodiac Lilibet Nd87.5 Zodiac Mini Goats, Malua Bay NSW



ON THE LEFT: Mr Ken Cameron, steward, life member and Show legend.
ON THE RIGHT: Mr William Picken, OAM, past Ring Master, Honorary Councillor.

GREAT BACKYARD PUMPKIN CHALLENGE

Champion Giant Pumpkin
Penelope Groen, Newport, NSW

HONEY COMPETITION

Best Exhibit in Show

Rod & Lynda Kay, East Lindfield, NSW

Supreme Champion Exhibit in Open Honey classes

Andrew Bardsley, Baulkham Hills, NSW

Supreme Champion Small Producers Exhibit

Rod & Lynda Kay, East Lindfield, NSW

Most Successful Exhibitor in Open Honey Classes

Norman Webb & Ashley Webb, North Rocks, NSW

Most Successful Exhibitor in Small Producers Classes

Michael Graham, Springfield, NSW

Champion School Exhibit

Girraween High School, Girraween NSW



HORSE

R.M. Williams Most Versatile Australian Stockhorse Exhibit

Brandwood Stockhorses, Goulburn, NSW

Brandwood Orlando

The Col A V Pope Best Gelding Hack over 15 HH

Christopher Lawrie, Balhannah, SA
Royal Blu

The F L Crane Best Mare or Filly Hack over 15 HH

BR Show Team, Pakenham South, VIC
Lyndam Park Touch the Clouds

Australian National Champion Gentleman Rider

Tyler Kelly, Scone, NSW

Australian National Champion Lady Rider

Alexa Ward, Gruyere, VIC

Fancy Dress Horse Competition

Liana Deiri, Annangrove, NSW

Champion Pony Club Rider - 18 & Under

Allie Palmer, Warrah Ridge, NSW

Showjumping Horse of Show

Diamond B Farm Pty Ltd, Freemans Reach, NSW

Diamond B Vivienne

Most Successful Rider in Jumping Contests

Thomas H McDermott, Mulgoa, NSW

Sydney Royal Easter Show Grand Prix Winner

Diamond B Farm Pty Ltd, Freemans Reach, NSW

Diamond B Vivienne

The Schmidt Family Argyle Perpetual Trophy for the highest aggregate score in the Wrangler Federation Rodeo Challenge

Jarrold McKane, Wodonga, VIC

World Championship Campdraft

Matt Moffatt, Kabra, QLD

Tentpegging Teams Challenge

Hunter Valley Tentpegging Team, Merriwa, NSW

The Allen Perpetual Trophy for the Most Successful Individual Tentpegging Competitor in the Tentpegging Teams Challenge

Todd Carey, Loomberah, NSW

PIGS

Best Pig in Show

Gumshire Pig, MC & ML Blenkiron, Keyneton, SA

Supreme Champion Boar of Show

Gumshire Pig, MC & ML Blenkiron, Keyneton, SA

Supreme Champion Sow of Show

Riverglen Rose J30, Heather Cole & Richard Cole, Forbes, NSW

Most Successful Exhibitor of Show

Tembar Partnership, Walmer, NSW

POULTRY

Grand Champion Bird of Show

P & L Tisdell Dingovalley, Black & Red Bantam Cockerel, Wherrol Flat, NSW

Champion Hardfeather Bird

P & L Tisdell Dingovalley, Black & Red Bantam Cockerel, Wherrol Flat, NSW

Champion Softfeather Bird

Rachel Condon, Black Pekin, Brocklehurst, NSW

Champion Field & Forest

Shane Moss, Bourbon Red Turkey, Wollar, NSW

Champion Waterfowl

Akersflock & Akersflock, Australian Call White Duck, Tallygaroopna, VIC

Grand Champion Egg Exhibit

Hamish Stanford, Leadville, NSW

Champion School Poultry Exhibit

Peak Hill Central School, Peak Hill, NSW

Youth Poultry Showmanship Competition

Harrison Mayhew, Castle Hill, NSW

Champion Racing Homer Exhibit

Bryce Bachner, Ellis Lane, NSW

Champion Fancy Pigeon

Phillip Dew, Baulkham Hills, NSW

Champion Utility Pigeon

Phillip Bachner, Ellis Lane, NSW

R.M. WILLIAMS RAS RURAL ACHIEVER AWARD

Keiley Noble, Narromine, NSW

SCARECROW COMPETITION

Champion Scarecrow - 16 & Over

Sandy Tebbet, Gloucester, NSW

Champion Scarecrow - 15 & Under

Aaryan Shah, Annangrove, NSW

SHEEP & FLEECE

Supreme Merino Exhibit

Conrayn Merino Stud, Berridale, NSW

Supreme Merino Ram

Bocoble, Mudgee, NSW

Grand Champion Merino Fleece

Moray Pastoral Co, Guyra, NSW

Supreme Prime Lamb Exhibit

Tattykeel, Black Springs, NSW

Grand Champion Schools Exhibit

Macarthur Anglican School, Cobbitty, NSW

THE LAND SYDNEY ROYAL AGSHOWS NSW YOUNG WOMAN AWARD

Florance McGufficke, Cooma, NSW



WOODCHOPPING & SAWING

325mm World Championship Tree Felling Contest

Daniel Gurr, Deloraine, TAS

375mm World Championship Standing Block

Laurence O'Toole, Doncaster, VIC

The Manny McCarthy Memorial 375mm World Championship Underhand Contest

Laurence O'Toole, Doncaster, VIC

375mm World Championship Sawing Contest (Single-handed)

Robert Dowling, Mount Gambier, SA

600mm World Championship Sawing Contest (Double-handed)

Nathan McDonald & David McDonald, North Island, NZ

Endurance Event

Jason Lentz, West Virginia, USA

Champion of Champions (Most Successful Competitor in Single-handed Championship Events)

Glen Gillam, Toongabbie, VIC

Most Successful Competitor in Ladies Events

Martha King, Pennsylvania, USA

YOUNG FARMER CHALLENGE STATE FINAL

Goulburn Show Society Team, Goulburn, NSW



YOUNG JUDGES

RAS/AgShows NSW Beef Cattle Young Judges State Final Champion

Samuel Parish, Forbes, NSW

RAS/AgShows NSW Dairy Cattle Young Judges State Final Champion

Macs Rubain, Camden South, NSW

RAS/AgShows NSW Merino Sheep Young Judges State Final Champion

Lindsay Brown, Armidale, NSW

RAS/AgShows NSW Merino Fleece Young Judges State Final Champion

Monte Barnes, Hay, NSW

RAS/AgShows NSW Meat Breeds Young Judges State Final Champion

Michelle Fairall, Harden, NSW

RAS Poultry Young Judges State Final Champion

Kollah Cannon, West Pennant Hills, NSW

RAS Alpaca Young Judges State Final Overall Champion

Grace Nesbitt, Illawong, NSW

RAS Pig Young Judges State Final Champion

Emily Capra, Umina Beach, NSW

RAS Angora Goat & Mohair Young Judges State Final Champion

Adam Moloney, Thornton, NSW

RAS Boer Goat Young Judges Competition State Final Champion

Ben Kavanagh, Middle Arm, NSW

RAS/Australian Stock Horse Society Australian Stock Horse Young Judges State Final Champion

Holly Burgess, Mulbring, NSW

RAS/Australian Stock Horse Society Australian Stock Horse Young Judges National Final Champion

Maddison Collins, Onkaparinga Hills, SA

RAS/Australian Pony Stud Book Society Young Judges State Final Champion

Madison Walters, Kearns, NSW

RAS Horticulture Young Judges Competition State Final Champion

Ben Kavanagh, Middle Arm, NSW

The RAS/AgShows NSW Fruit & Vegetable Young Judges State Final Champion

Sam Batten, Ramsgate, NSW

The RAS/AgShows NSW Grain Young Judges State Final Champion

Lachlan Haynes, Gooloogong, NSW





Celebrate to Educate: It's Not Just for Show

Across the world, people take part in celebrations that recognise and connect diverse communities and shed light on different cultures, traditions, innovations, and successes.

While many feel that there is a growing divide between metro and rural Australia, not all hope is lost in closing this gap of understanding. Year after year, the Sydney Royal Easter Show brings us together for a celebration of Australia and agriculture as its backbone. People from all walks of life share the paths with creatures great and small and learn about life both off and on the land. But amidst the fun and festivities, it's easy to forget how it all serves as quite the education.

Celebration, it seems, is key to getting us back on the same wavelength.

When Duncan Kendall was brought on board as the RAS Head of Education, he knew from his classroom experience as a teacher and school principal how important experiences of joy, acknowledgement, and celebration are to learning.

We best remember and value the lessons taught in the classes we love the most.

Published in *Frontiers in Psychology*, a 2017 paper on 'The Influences of Emotion on Learning and Memory' concluded that emotion plays a key role in our cognitive processes – our attention, learning and memory. It is this research that Duncan cites when he explains why the RAS continually uses a hands-on and multisensory approach to education. For students he has worked with who are most engaged in agricultural education, Duncan concludes, "the enjoyment factor is through the roof."

"Celebration and education work hand in hand. It is an awakening of [people's] interest – their curiosity," Duncan says. "For a lot of people, agriculture is a celebration because it generates that love of learning and curiosity as well."

Each year, the Sydney Royal Easter Show brings together educators and students from across the country for the largest celebration of Australian agriculture in the world. **Even for those not seeking to get an agricultural education, learning often happens incidentally for curious visitors through**

conversation, interaction, and exposure to the industry in a way that is, above all, a lot of fun.

"You don't get passionate about something if you don't enjoy it," says Jody Lamph, an agriculture teacher at Glen Innes High School in northern NSW, who made the 570-kilometre journey to this year's Show with 9 students and 11 head of cattle in tow – just one of the many schools who come to compete each year.

In her experience, Jody says hands-on learning and modelling enthusiasm as a teacher is essential. These approaches help students find an interest in what they are learning about and experience, what she calls, "that light bulb moment".

"If you ask most kids: 'Is there celebration and joy in a school every day?' They're probably not so good at identifying it themselves," Jody says. "But then you look around the faces and the ones that have locked on to what you're saying, and interacting with you, and asking questions... There is a definite happiness."

Jody was originally from Southport and grew up with limited exposure to farm life until she started at Glen Innes High School as a year 7 student. It is the fond memories of lunchtimes spent working with the school's cattle and the infectious enthusiasm of her teachers that stuck with her – sparking her love for the industry and for agricultural education. She became a permanent agriculture teacher at Glen Innes High School in 2017.

This year marked the school's first-time bringing cattle to the Show, which Jody says is the ultimate culmination and celebration of hard work and determination for any agricultural class.

Over their time in Sydney, Jody witnessed her students becoming more interested and confident in sharing their agricultural knowledge – a trend that's carried through after their return home. "That joy that the kids are seeing at Shows like Sydney and in the classroom is definitely translating to our younger students," says Jody. "The ones that went [to the Show], they're so passionate with the other students now ... their confidence is so much better and they're stepping up to help others."

Sharing a love of agriculture is a generational effort. Just as Jody was inspired by her agricultural teachers to educate the next generation about life on the land, celebrations like the Show provide a key chance for people to share their knowledge and passion.

It may just take one experience to spark that life-changing 'lightbulb moment'.

Chairperson of the RAS Youth Group Committee, Tasha Hurley said, "There are just a lot of people who are so eager and keen to get agriculture out there in a positive light and make everyone love it as much as we all do." Comprised of young professionals passionate about the mission to educate, entertain and engage youth in agriculture, the RAS Youth Group members volunteer their time to coordinate events, competitions and programs throughout the year.

Education, and getting to celebrate the industry she loves, was central to Tasha's decision to join the group. "I was so passionate about people that grow up and have no idea where their food or fibre or anything comes from," she says. To her, the Easter Show is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for people to celebrate and see "a whole summary of Australian agriculture in one place".

This year, the education arm of the RAS had three 'activations' at the Show: the animal nursery that allowed visitors to interact with more than 700 free-range animals; the Rural Student's Café, run by rural and regional hospitality students who gained practical experience while fundraising for their schools; and the Woolworths Ag Discovery pavilion, which offered hands-on experiences and interactive displays to put the future of agriculture and ag-tech on show.

Tasha says that the Show provides a unique opportunity for people to get to know farmers and producers, and "to learn and appreciate what agriculture is and that it's not just everything that's on social media and the news".



I would love if every single child that grew up in a metropolitan area would go to the Easter Show for a day and try to learn about agriculture. You could walk home with a completely different point of view.

While at the Show with her agriculture students, Jody Lamph encouraged them to talk with the Sydney-sider visitors to help bridge the city-country knowledge divide. "There's a pretty steep learning curve for these kids. They grow up knowing where beef, milk, and eggs come from... and then realising that maybe there are other people that have no idea about this stuff," she says. "I think that's an education for them too, that there are other people living differently."

"We're losing that connection between city and country," she reflects. "I think it's important to connect [country students] with the city students ... they're just kids like them."

The magic question for educators is, of course, what the actual impact is of taking part in the Show and the activities designed to teach people about agriculture through fun and celebration. Do they better understand food production? Is there a higher chance of pursuing an agricultural career? Duncan Kendall acknowledges, "It's hard to track, but you still have what I call the 'canary in the mine' with ticket sales, especially for our school programmes," Duncan further points out that the increasing number of signups to attend RAS events, workshops and expos, and to receive RAS teaching resources, has been "profound".

"That's a real good indicator that the pulse is starting to increase, so to speak," he says.

Following last year's Easter Show, the RAS distributed a survey to determine people's key motivations to attend the Show. The top answers are: to enjoy the animals at the Show, to visit the variety of exhibitors in the Pavilions, and to enjoy and experience the entertainment performances. Isn't that amazing? It's not the show bags, it's not the rides, it's not what the media will tell you. The main reason they come is for their agricultural experience," Duncan says. "That focus on agriculture is the reason why the Royal Easter Show is the largest ticketed event in Australia."

Education and celebration are inseparable. Just as celebrations provide opportunities to learn, learning through joy and festivity is far more likely to stir curiosity and spark interest in the long term.

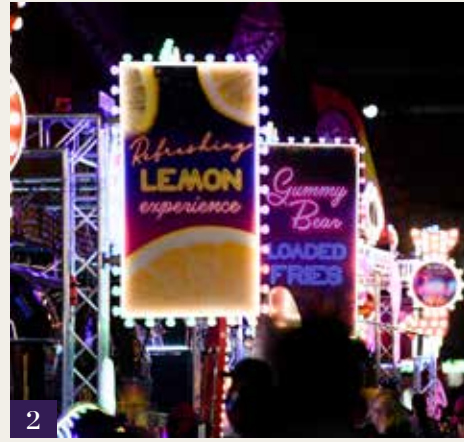
For country and city people, young and old, the Show is one of the best opportunities to learn about the different ways people live and work across the country. It brings us together, fosters understanding, and allows people to meaningfully engage with agriculture and recognise the value it brings to Australia.

That, in itself, is something worth celebrating. •

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT
Having fun at the Show; Rural Student's Cafe dishes up a dessert.



1



2



3



9



10



11

2023 SRES IN REVIEW



4



7



5



6



8

Play is the highest form of research. *Albert Einstein*



12



13



14



15



16



17



18

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT (1) Winning entries, perishable cooking; (2) Neon Alley, 2023 SRES; (3) Winner Best Staff Photo in RAS Staff Photo Competition (Photo Credit: Jodi Woods. Pictured: Mel Herbert); (4) Winner Best Carnival & Entertainment Photo in RAS Staff Photo Competition (Photo Credit: Bec Smith); (5) Robert Dowling, South Australia, Winner 375mm World Championship Sawing Contest (Single handed) (6) Participants in RAS Youth Competitions (7) Winner Best Ag Photo in RAS Staff Photo Competition (Photo Credit: Murray Wilton) (8) Mother & Daughter at the floral workshops.

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT (9) Easter show carnival (Photo Credit Vannary Yoth); (10) Table-side Chef at The Loft Restaurant; (11) Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, inspecting the Naval Troops, Official Opening Ceremony; (12) On the Cattle Judging Lanes; (13) Furry friends in the Sheep Pavilion; (14) Young dancers, Little Big Top Amphitheatre; (15) Campdrafting, Evening Entertainment; (16) Pat-a-Pig Activation; (17) RAS Staff Members Natalie Luzi, Lilli Batten, Shannon Green and Jodie Sayre; (18) Emma Irene singing the National Anthem to begin the Evening Entertainment.

Spotlight: RAS Future Ag Leaders

The 2023 Young Woman & Rural Achiever Awards

The Land / Sydney Royal Ag Shows NSW Young Woman Competition

Winners of the Young Woman Competition serve throughout the year as ambassadors for rural women of NSW. Their job involves both official and informal duties at the Sydney Royal Easter Show and at events in regional NSW and interstate.

THE LAND / SYDNEY ROYAL AG SHOWS YOUNG WOMAN competition plays a significant role in the development of rural women and their communities, and boasts incredible support from its sponsors.

The 2023 finalists all had great insight and knowledge of the issues facing rural NSW. They are involved with their communities and are confident, fitting ambassadors. These young women of purpose and aspiration are ready to face the challenges and rewards offered by the agricultural show movement and each are deserving of the role and title: The Land / Sydney Royal Ag Shows Young Woman of 2023.



2023 WINNER OF THE LAND / SYDNEY ROYAL AG SHOWS YOUNG WOMAN IS:
Florance McGufficke
Cooma - Zone 3

Florance McGufficke is a strong communicator and leader, who welcomes the opportunity to bring positive change to regional and rural NSW. She looks forward to continuing the legacy of the Ag Shows movement, with a particular heart for the wool industry.



R.M.Williams RAS Rural Achiever Award

The R.M.Williams RAS Rural Achiever Award is a state-wide leadership program run by the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW to recognise young future leaders (20-29years) who are working hard to make a significant contribution to their community and to rural Australia.

The R.M.Williams RAS RURAL ACHIEVER program facilitates unique networking opportunities among rural leaders and ag-industry principals, hosted by the RAS during the Sydney Royal Easter Show. This creates opportunities for the participants to strengthen their stakes in careers in rural communities and related primary industries.

Congratulations to our Young Woman & Rural Achiever finalists and winners! The future of Australian agriculture is secure in your hands!



THE 2023 R.M.WILLIAMS RAS RURAL ACHIEVER REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE 2024 NATIONAL RURAL AMBASSADOR AWARD IS:
Keiley Noble, Narromine:

Like most rural leaders, Keiley has practical farm and government/policy engagements. Her practical ag business is in contracting and hay sales that Keiley and her husband operate together. Additionally, Keiley applies her double degree in Agriculture & Business to her work as a Policy Officer with the NSW Government, working on drought policy and economic strategy.



FROM TOP Florance McGufficke, winner of the Young Woman award; Young Woman finalists; Keiley Noble, winner of the Rural Achiever award; Rural Achiever finalists.



Crafted for life

R. M. WILLIAMS

EST. 1932, AUSTRALIA

The RAS Foundation

Building a strong, vibrant and skilled NSW through investment in education, training and development of rural communities.

As the charitable arm of the RAS, the RAS Foundation is the avenue through which scholarships and community infrastructure programs are funded and distributed. The RAS and the RAS Foundation understand that by strengthening NSW's regional and rural agricultural communities, all Australians benefit.

The annual Sydney Royal Easter Show is the RAS Foundation's main fundraising opportunity, during which it also showcases and publicly awards scholarship and grant recipients. Benefactor, Mr JB Fairfax AO, and Patron, Mr Dennis Wilson, contributed to the success of the events by speaking at the RAS Foundation's Morning Tea, where they recognised and encouraged award recipients.

The RAS Foundation enjoyed significant success in this year's Show events, including the Charity Brunch, silent auction, raffle, and sales of the AG Bag.

SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW CHARITY BRUNCH

In the past two years, the Charity Brunch hosted at the Sydney Royal Easter Show (SRES) has been revived by the RAS Foundation, generating significant success for its recipients.

The primary fundraising campaign of the 2023 SRES Charity Brunch was for the benefit of the Eugowra Community Children's Centre (ECCC), which suffered catastrophic losses during what has become known as the inland tsunami of 13 November 2022. During a short, 12-hour period, Eugowra suffered from 100mm of local rain and the inundation of

floodwaters from areas as much as 80kms away, which flowed with unprecedented force and velocity resulting in devastating flash floods that nearly wiped Eugowra off the map.

With a population of only 860 people, 240 of Eugowra's population are under the age of 18, and 110 are 5 years or younger. This demonstrates why the Children's Centre is so important to the town as it serves and touches nearly every family.

The Charity Brunch fundraising goal was to raise \$25,000 to replace ECCC's outdoor play equipment that was either washed away or damaged in the flood. **The Charity Brunch was a run-a-way success with over \$58,000 raised!** ECCC lost over \$160,000 worth of resources in the flood, so the extra funds will be put to good use, buying books and educational toys.



A pretty little town nestled on the banks of the Mandagery Creek, **Eugowra** is known for many things including being a village of murals, and growing some of the country's best food and fibre. A humble town but proud of what it has been becoming—full of shops, facilities and amenities that not only meet their local community needs but also those of visiting tourists whom the town had been attracting.



ABOVE Eugowra after the inland tsunami inundated the entire town. Circled is the Eugowra Community Children's Centre.

As the RAS Foundation often finds, there is something far deeper being accomplished than fundraising. The funds that have been raised and distributed, while an undeniable necessity for ECCC, only scratches the surface of the deeper need. It's not just money, and it's not just play equipment or children's books, it's the restoration of hope that funding and practical support bring.

Traumatic events such as this kind of catastrophic flooding, wipe out much more than just physical buildings. The representatives of ECCC who attended the Charity Brunch told those in attendance that their goal is not so much playground equipment or books or toys, but to restore a sense of normality back for the children and the community. **This is what the RAS Foundation has raised—charitable funding, hope and a much-needed opportunity for the children and families to return to normality.**

RAS FOUNDATION GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

The RAS Foundation is positioned to provide vital funding across a spectrum of grants and scholarships for the immediate

and direct benefit of individuals and communities in regional and rural NSW through the Community Futures Grants, Rural Scholars and Wine Scholarship programs.

COMMUNITY FUTURES GRANTS PROGRAM

The Community Futures Grants Program (CFG) assists with funding and supporting locally focused projects that have the potential to provide long-term social or economic benefits to regional and rural communities in NSW.

CFG funding is the practical distribution of development and redevelopment funds that enable rural communities to maintain and update facilities, the result of which is the potential for increase in both ongoing, self-sustaining local support and the attraction of tourism. Projects that involve collaboration between townspeople, and that deliver broad, sustained community benefits, are given priority.

In 2023, the CFG program has seen \$132,780 distributed among these seven communities: Ardlethan, Barraba, Blayney, Bombala, Dubbo, Nambucca River District and Unkya.

RURAL SCHOLARS

Rural Scholarships are made to support individuals in NSW and the ACT, who demonstrate a passion for rural communities and a commitment toward any career that will ensure the future success of rural and regional NSW.

There is no limit on the type of courses that qualify, nor is there an age limit for applicants. The one thing all applicants have in common is the desire to play an active part in the future of rural and regional NSW.

The 2023 Rural Scholarships were granted to more than 75 scholars, distributing more than \$406,500 across NSW!

Applications for the 2024 Rural Scholarship round open in July. Go to <https://www.rasnsw.com.au/foundation/> for details.

WINE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Sydney Royal Wine Show was established in 1826 and has become one of the most prestigious wine shows



in Australia, annually attracting over 2,200 entries from 350 producers from across Australia.

In collaboration with the RAS Wine Committee, the RAS Foundation offers two scholarship programs: the Sydney Royal Wine Study Scholarship and the Sydney Royal Wine Professional Development Scholarship. The purpose of these scholarships is to encourage and support professionals who are passionate about wine and committed to forging careers that will contribute to the Australian wine industry.

Sydney Royal is proud to be the first Wine Show in Australia to commit to this form of support for the industry, and they hope this initiative continues to grow and evolve across the entire Australian wine community. **This year, 7 wine scholarships, for a total of \$33,810 were awarded.**

JB FAIRFAX AWARD FOR RURAL & REGIONAL JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATIONS

The JB Fairfax Award for Rural & Regional Journalism and Communications is a prestigious national award that encourages and supports a young student who is passionate about pursuing a career in rural and regional journalism or communications upon graduation. The Award was established through a private donation from Mr John B Fairfax AO.

This scholarship not only includes a generous \$10,000 cash award, but it is also an outstanding opportunity to gain a

diverse range of practical experience with three relevant internships that provide a launch pad to a career telling the rich stories from country Australia. They are:

- The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) Media Team at the Sydney Royal Easter Show
- Australian Community Media at The Land Newspaper
- Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) in their Brisbane newsroom

The 2024 round for the JB Fairfax Award for Rural and Regional Journalism & Communications entries open in July. Go to <https://www.rasnsw.com.au/foundation/> for details.

AG BAG

Every year the RAS Foundation puts together the most unique Showbag, filled to the brim with product donations from generous Australian-owned-and-made producers, the proceeds of which go 100% directly to the CFG program. **This year, the RAS Foundation sold all fundraising AG Bags which raised \$60,000, contributing to a total of \$133,000 raised for the 2023 Community Futures Grant program this year.**

Mission-purposed to build strong, vibrant and skilled rural communities through investment in education, training and infrastructure development, the RAS Foundation will distribute over \$600,000 in funding into rural and regional communities in 2023. ●



Students having fun at Farm Days

ENRICHING LIVES, CELEBRATING AGRICULTURE, DEEPENING EDUCATION

Celebration & Education in the Classroom and Beyond

Enriching lives through celebration and education is the heartbeat of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS). Purposed to celebrate excellence in Australian agriculture in order to sustain the nation for generations to come, the RAS' vision is to inspire a community that understands and values sustainable Australian agriculture and award-quality produce.

Integral to this mission are the RAS Education programs. From school room curriculum to on-site farm activations, the RAS Education initiatives are changing the nation's landscape of agricultural education.

The RAS' commitment to forge the future of Australian agriculture necessarily demands equal commitment to the future leaders of rural communities and agriculture. This begins with the next generation at the earliest stage. This is why the RAS is dedicated to raising the standard of agricultural education and curriculum

at all stages of the school experience, including raising the bar of professional teacher development and access to premium education resources throughout all of NSW.

By celebrating the joy and diversity of agriculture, and deepening the way in which ag education can be engaged – everything from good-ole “get your hands dirty” activities to entrepreneurial, ground-breaking ag-tech innovation career pathways, the RAS' education programs are breathing new life into and enriching the lives of students, parents and teachers alike.

SCHOOLS BASED EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Education is nothing if it is not personal and inspirational. The RAS classroom-based and hands-on oriented curriculum deepen both student and teacher engagement. Agriculture is the perfect theme to integrate into many mandated education requirements while at the same time raising the interest and awareness of how agriculture is critical for our great nation and for students' possible future careers.

In some ways, teaching agriculture can feel like cheating because it is so much fun! In what other courses can you play with dirt and with animals? What other classes have so many smiles and giggles involved? But play isn't cheating when it comes to learning, here are some great quotes from some great scientific minds:

Play is the highest form of research.

Albert Einstein

Play builds the kind of free-and-easy, try-it-out, do-it-yourself character that our future needs!

James L Hymes Jr, Primary School Educator, UK

Play ... activities [that] engage all the senses, help wire the brain for successful learning.

David A Sousa. "How the Brain Learns"

AgVision student



Here are the ways in which the RAS is encouraging learning through play and in doing so is inspiring the next generation of great Australian agriculturalists.

FARM DAYS

Tailored by educators specifically for the STEM curriculum for both primary and secondary students, Farm Days are an interactive and immersive hands-on experience. This ensures the benefits of experiential and multisensory learning experiences and create valuable sensory bookmarks for the students as they explore their STEM discovery.

Students get up close to farm animals, explore the amazing ways technology is used in agriculture, and learn about food and fibre production through round-robin workshops delivered by industry professionals.

Farm Days in 2023 are in the Paddington Pavilion where over the course of 5 days each month, 120 students a day enjoy hands-on experiences on topics including Dairy, Pollination, Poultry, Wool, Cotton, Indigenous Bush Tucker, Agri-Tech, and a Farmyard Nursery.

FARM DAY IN A BOX

The RAS is intentionally conscious of students who, due to their distance away from Sydney Olympic Park, miss out on Farm Days experience. Not wanting to

leave any student out, Farm Day in a Box was created and has been very successful, with teachers expressing how much they have enjoyed seeing their students learn and actively participate.

Each Farm Day presenter has been captured digitally, allowing Farm Day in a Box students to learn directly from an expert in various agricultural fields. Each box is filled with hands-on resources and stimuli, to create a multi-sensory learning experience.

Farm Day in a Box is free to schools and is the closest experience to actually being there!

AG IN A BOX

Lifting the lid on a world of agriculture for school students, Ag in a Box is the gift teachers have been waiting for!

Each box is made from recycled materials, is packed with hands-on learning for students, and pre-written programs for teachers. Ag in a Box aligns perfectly with the NSW school curriculum that recognises the need for students to be exposed to learning about agriculture, and importantly it doesn't cost schools or teachers a thing.

Co-funded by the RAS and the Australian Government's Building Landcare Community Capacity Program, Ag in a Box delivers on the RAS' mission to engage, educate and entertain our community on the value of sustainable agriculture, and it's the best way to encourage the next generation to get their hands dirty!

Lessons cover “Wicked Wool,” “Perfect Pollination”, “Healthy Horticulture” and “Delicious Dairy” all of which specifically compliment the required NSW subjects ‘Managing the Natural Resources that Support Agricultural Productivity’ and ‘Supporting Environmental Outcomes and Reducing Emissions’.

The success of the Ag in a Box initiative is seen in its being requested time and again by educators and schools across Australia. The Ag in a Box program has grown 71% since it began!

AG VISION

Ag Vision is the Agriculture & Agribusiness Career Expo that cultivates careers in every sector spanning the agriculture industry—there is no other expo like it in Australia!

The RAS has its finger on the pulse of Australian ag and continues to drive it forward, both in schools and at the Sydney Royal Easter Show.



Being an industry leader in agriculture is not limited to being a farmer but reaches across all agri-business areas. Many vocations transcend urban boundaries into the agricultural sector and can, in fact, be geographically based just about anywhere.

The RAS understand that 75% of students entering agricultural careers do so without any ag experience in school because of a lack of ag classes available. The Ag Vision Agriculture & Agribusiness Career Expo is changing that!

Ag Vision provides students with more than information and statistics. It is an opportunity for meaningful interactive engagement, in a highly personalised forum.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES AT THE SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW

School classrooms don't get all the fun, there's lots of education engagement opportunities available every year at the Sydney Royal Easter Show!

At the Show, the RAS celebrates Youth in Ag Day, a new initiative featuring three major events that support, encourage and honour the next generation of farmers,

while also providing a platform for participants to make new, meaningful connections for their future.

EVENT 1

'Youth Run the Show' pairs members of the RAS Youth Group with RAS executives and Councillors to gain a better understanding of what goes into running the Sydney Royal Easter Show.

EVENT 2

The RAS Youth Medal is presented to the individual who makes an outstanding contribution to an area of the Sydney Royal Easter Show, and to the mission and values of the RAS.

EVENT 3

A networking event like no other. 'Hats off at the Royal' brings together like-minded youth, industry professionals, and a stellar line-up of passionate speakers to discuss important topics for young people in Agriculture.

The RAS is proud of the participants involved in Youth in Ag and believe them to be the very best of NSW's next generation of agricultural leadership.

STUDENT WORKSHOPS AT THE SHOW

FLORA KULCHAS WORKSHOPS

Budding florists from ages 5-12 watch, learn and participate in hands-on workshops, crafting their very own floral headbands, terrariums and even floral cupcakes! Using fresh flowers and creative crafting techniques the free Flora Kulcha workshops are a fantastic way for kids to learn about the natural world and a beautiful way to make a unique Show souvenir.

WOOLWORTHS IMMERSIVE FRESH FOOD KIDS' AR & VR DISCOVERY TOUR

Kids can learn all about where fresh food comes from using AR and VR. Kids and families "jump-on-board" the Woolworths Fresh Food Kids Discovery Tour bus and "go on a journey" to a potato farm in Virtual Reality. Outside the bus, they can "bring fruit and vegies to life" using AR technology!



THE SWEET BEE HOTEL: HONEY WORKSHOP

The team from Bowral Bee Company, experienced beekeeper and honey enthusiasts, guide students through the process of honey production.

Presented as a 30-minute workshop, students learn how bees make honey and how different flowers affect the properties of honey. Then they apply their new knowledge to judge the quality of several honey samples.

ART OF CHOCOLATE:FOOD TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

Students have the delicious opportunity to create new connections with and gain a new appreciation for—Chocolate!

This new understanding is put into practice in a fun, engaging context as students explore the history of cacao. The journey from Bean to Bar (Plantation/Factory), regional variations in chocolate, and the crucial awareness of sustainability and ethics.

Students also learn firsthand the key skill of how to eat chocolate to get the maximum taste pleasure by engaging their five senses. Recommended for

Stage 4 and 5 students studying Food Technology or Agriculture.

These student workshops have been developed to ensure they meet curriculum requirements for students to develop proficiency in their practical interactions with and decisions regarding food, and to form a deeper understanding of sustainable and ethical practices that support exceptional agricultural experiences.

RURAL STUDENTS' CAFE

A true taste of the bush was on offer at the Rural Students' Café. Run by hospitality students from rural and regional NSW as they gain real world experience in the kitchen and front of house. Students are mentored by professional chefs as they prepare tasting plates of rural-locally inspired treats. Not only do the students gain practical knowledge and experience, they also take all proceeds back to their school for much-needed financial support!

AG AT HOME, THE AG EDUCATION SHOW BAG

The busyness in our lives can prevent families from engaging in special opportunities to share everyday activities

together, which activities can form stronger family bonds. The Ag @ Home bag can change that by providing fun group activities that not only encourage relational ties but also expand knowledge and skill base as well.

The Ag @ Home bag provides tools to explore the hidden treasures of cheese, to create your own beeswax candle or food wrap, to make your own pizza, and to learn about the significance of Australia's famous ANZAC biscuits--and how to make them!

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bush Tucker, a Teacher Professional Development Workshop with the experts from 'Bush to Bowl' based in Terrey Hills NSW.

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Education Team hosted a special teacher professional development workshop for primary and secondary teachers desiring to incorporate elements of agriculture into their classrooms. For 2023, the experts from Bush to Bowl created an engaging experience for teachers, designed to engage students with Australia's native plants and traditional Aboriginal knowledge and culture. ●

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT Tasting honey at the Bee Workshop; Rural Students' Cafe; making friends with a chicken at Farm Days; Youth in Ag students enjoying the woodchop competition; Agricultural Innovation in Schools award winner Skye Dedman and Bek Coddington from Hermidale Public School.

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT High school students at a milk production talk at Farm Days; The Bowral Bee Company presents to school students; learning about bush tucker from a Bush to Bowl expert; fun activities inside the Ag@Home bag; a native floral design; teacher and students opening up an Ag in a Box.

Woolworths Ag Discovery

The Sydney Royal Easter Show—the statistics themselves tell us that it is Australia’s most beloved event, attracting over 800,000 people annually. To someone who has never been, how could you explain it properly? It is all things to all people—showbags and carnival rides, fair food and elevated dining, exceptional arts, crafts and baking, thrilling family entertainment day and night, and of course more agriculture and animal exhibitions, demonstrations and competitions than you could poke a hot-chip-on-a-stick at!

Ultimately, it is a celebration of all things Australia! Her rich diverse people, her heritage and history as an agricultural nation, and the promise of her strong future.

Operating underneath all the fun and celebration is a rich educational experience. Perhaps the very best kind of education because with so much fun happening all around, you hardly even notice that you learn something at every turn!



The RAS’ commitment to raising up a community that understands and values sustainable Australian agriculture and award-quality produce takes full advantage of the Easter Show to showcase not only the importance of agriculture but also to provide an opportunity for Showgoers to personally engage with and become part of the heartbeat of Australia—her ag communities.

WOOLWORTHS AG DISCOVERY

One way the RAS showcased the importance and opportunity of agriculture at the 2023 Show was in the brand-new Woolworths Ag Discovery, a pavilion full of hands-on activities, interactive displays and the kind of educational fun the Easter Show is famous for.

Designed for kids but enjoyable for the young and young-at-heart alike, Ag Discovery boasted stall-after-stall of Australian food and fibre producers and emerging technology entrepreneurs. AR & VR stations enabled visitors to “take a tour” of farms, something the city kids may never be able to experience any other way. Every step through the pavilion offered glimpses into the importance of agriculture and the role that tech-innovation plays in the changing way Australians farm, embracing the future with viable, sustainability measures.

We can’t all go to the country and watch the harvest come in, or the spring lambs be born, or play with the robots and drones that fly over fields, but thanks to Ag Discovery we can all experience these things and learn how vital they are.

And, you never know, it just might be at the Woolworths Ag Discovery pavilion that something is awakened in you, a love for ag that you never even knew was there!



We’re supporting Australian dairy farmers by committing up to \$5 million in grants for on-farm innovation.



James and his father Chris McRae, Barrington, NSW

IN THE INAUGURAL YEAR, THE RAS WAS THRILLED TO HAVE THESE PARTICIPANTS:

- **MLA Good Meat**
240° Virtual Reality Show.
- **Woolworths**
Immersive Virtual Reality Discovery Tour with VR Goggles
- **RAS Show Pies**
Watch and learn how pies are made, using beef from specific breeds of cattle, such as the Speckle Park Pie, then buy one and enjoy!
- **XAG Australia**
Drones and unmanned ground vehicles helping restore ecosystems.
- **CASE Tractors**
Celebrating its 100-year anniversary of Farmall tractors at the Show!
- **Farm Bot**
Remote water monitoring used by farmers solving water challenges and increasing farm efficiency.
- **Cotton Australia: Here for Good**
VR tour of Australian cotton farmers who are global leaders in sustainability practices.
- **University of New England (UNE)**
Agricultural innovation, research and technology.
- **Department of Primary Industries/NSW Food Authority**
Keeping our oceans happy and healthy.

WORDS ELIZABETH A NIXON JD

James McRae from Raelands farm in Barrington, New South Wales received a \$70,000 grant from the Dairy Innovation Fund in November last year to boost the health and wellbeing of his herd using digital collars, and support land conservation through native tree planting and water quality management.

We’re proud to be helping James invest in his farm for the future. The Woolworths Dairy Innovation Fund provides grants up to \$100,000 to support on-farm improvements that deliver innovation, efficiency, greater resilience or enhanced sustainability. Our contribution to farms will fund new capital improvements or technology, and provide additional funds to help expand existing projects.

Want to learn more about the Woolworths Dairy Innovation Fund? Scan the QR code for more information.

Find out more



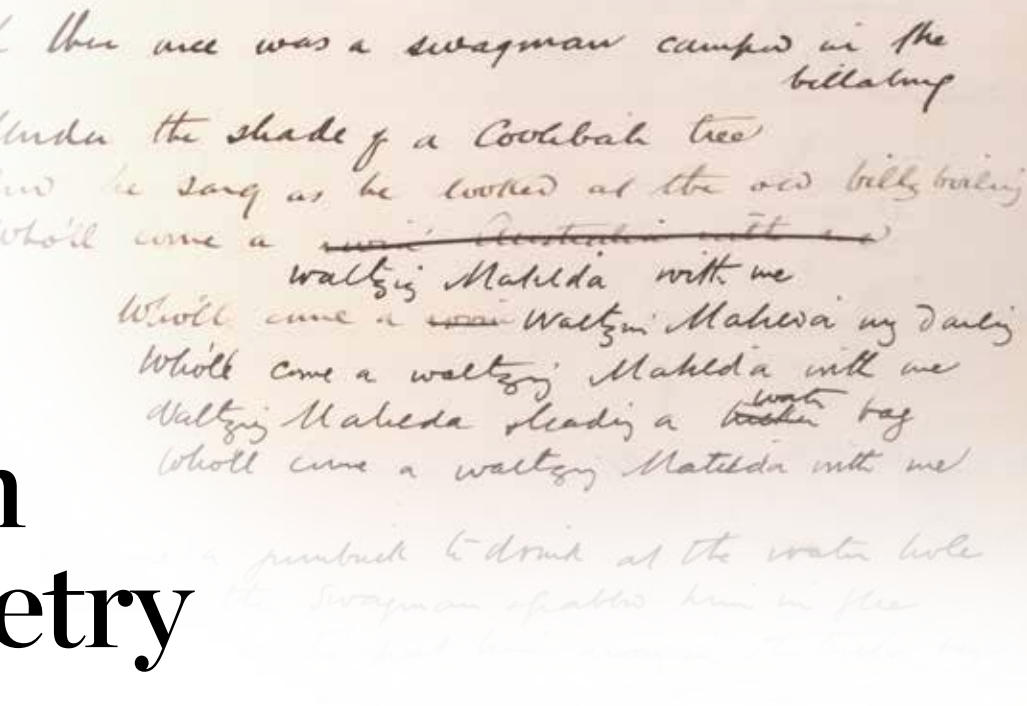
RAS AB Paterson Bush Poetry Award

For all the tough resilient personas we as Aussies portray to the rest of the world, “Aussie tough” may be the reality of who we are yet there is so much that lies beneath our battered and worn Akubra.

Survey the great poets of Australia, Henry Lawson’s *the heart of the man’s in the heart of his swag*, Dorothy MacKellar’s *I love a sunburnt country*, and of course our beloved Andrew Barton “Banjo” Paterson’s *you’ll come a waltzing Matilda with me*.

These poets speak to the heart of who we are as Australian’s. Tough, but not for the sake of being tough alone, but for the sake of our families and this great country that we get to call home.

It is surprising to learn that the original narrative line calling Australia “the lucky country” was a derogatory slur toward those who prospered here, inferring that Australians prospered



Oh there once was a swagman camped in the
billabong
Under the shade of a Coolibah tree
And he sang as he looked at the old billie boiling
Who'll come a ~~waltzing Matilda with me~~
waltzing Matilda with me
Who'll come a ~~waltzing Matilda~~ waltzing Matilda my darling
Who'll come a waltzing Matilda with me
Waltzing Matilda leading a ~~wool~~ ^{wool} bag
Who'll come a waltzing Matilda with me
... a punt back to drink at the water hole
The swagman spatted him in the
... had been ...

despite themselves, and only because of the rich nature of Australia herself who buoys those who live here. Well, those who live here know that we have to fight for our prosperity and yet, in true Aussie style, we have embraced a derogatory reference, turned it around and made it our proud emblematic song: we do live in the lucky country and our love for her is deep and true.

RAS AB PATERSON BUSH POETRY AWARD

The RAS carries this love on its sleeve, proud to champion those who work the rich soil and arid landscapes, and we embrace this poetic nature of Australian's love-affair with the lucky country. The RAS AB Paterson Bush Poetry Award is one way the RAS encourages the tradition of Australian poetry—the culture at the heart of our agriculture.

The RAS is privileged to enjoy a relationship with Banjo Paterson's descendant family. In fact, the RAS has been granted copies of the book *Banjo*

Paterson: A Life in Pictures and Words from the Banjo Paterson Family Archive, which was compiled by Banjo's great grandson, Alistair Campbell.

Alistair and his son, Tom, graciously travel to the Show to present the RAS AB Paterson Bush Poetry Award. Included with the award and the book, is a certified copy of Banjo's handwritten notes of the poem *Waltzing Matilda*.

In these handwritten notes we see where Banjo, in the actual process of writing the poem, crossed out a few words and inserted the now-illustrious and much-beloved “waltzing Matilda”. What a remarkable piece of Australian poetry and national identity-in-the-making this is!

This year the RAS AB Paterson Bush Poetry Award was open to both Primary and Secondary students with the challenge to explore the beauty, mystique, enchantment and characteristics of the Australian Bush in a new work of 50 lines or less. Here are this year's winners:

LOVE POEM TO THE BUSH

By Brooke Chapman, Secondary Student

The bush lays before me, she rests in silent majesty.
She wears a gown of leaves that spiral and dance towards the ground.
Atop her head, a crown of endless blue sky is perched.
The line of mountains surrounds; an outline of her physique.
Her shining eyes are the sun rays that dance across the shimmering waters.
Birds singing their sweet melody are the mere echoes of her voice.
The cracks and crevices that line her body are artworks of the places she's been.
Winding trees stretch into her delicate hands that reach towards the endless sky.
Kangaroos stand proud, arching their backs and flexing their paws.
Snakes slither and hiss, coiling their bodies and baring their fangs.
Spiders tip toe silently, preparing to wrap any threats in delicate silk.
These predators fortify, stopping at nothing to protect the bush, their queen.
The bush, my queen, my safety, my muse, my love.
Hold me always in your sovereign grace and breathe life into me.
If you promise to remain in your perpetual beauty I will protect you forever.
Though my words may try, they will never capture what sights and feelings my eyes can.

THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH

By Bree Wong, Primary Student

Trees dance to the rhythm of the wind as the clouds drift away,
Leaves fall slowly down, down, down, then on the ground they lay.
I inhale a breath of the fresh, damp air and grin,
The strong scent of eucalyptus wafts to my nose, around, then in.
I close my eyes for a second or two and observe all of the sounds,
Birds chirping, cicadas singing, these noises are all around.
The female tree, her bark smooth as silk,
Stands high above the clouds white as milk.
The male tree, his bark coarse and rough,
Looks like a strong bodybuilder, big and tough.
The bitter taste of lilly pillies makes me turn up my nose,
But, make it into a cordial and the appeal grows.
The bush is so peaceful as the trees swing and sway,
It's a place you can be yourself and I like it this way.

OPPOSITE PAGE Banjo Paterson's handwritten notes. This image captures the very moment when, the words now long etched into our national identity, were brought into being; Banjo Paterson - A Life in Pictures and Words from the Banjo Paterson Family Archive book **THIS PAGE, FROM TOP** Poem by Brooke Chapman, Secondary Student winner; Poem by Bree Wong, winner Primary student category.

A-maize-ing

A growing tradition within the District Exhibits

WORDS VICKI HASTRICH

Alison Kernahan's family have been growing maize for judging at the Sydney Royal Easter Show for over 80 years. During that time classes and criteria have changed, but enthusiasm for presenting that important crop hasn't waned.

When Alison Kernahan first held the Colin Smith Perpetual Trophy for Champion Maize this year as its winner, she simultaneously teared up and beamed.

'You couldn't wipe the smile off my face,' she says, recalling the moment. Even now, while we're sitting at a table out the back of Central's display at the District Exhibits, she says, 'It nearly makes me cry. It's what my grandfather did, and my father. I rang dad up and he actually started crying on the phone because he was so happy we did it. We came first with the green maize, we came first with the green sorghum, I won champion cob, and we got reserve cob as well.'

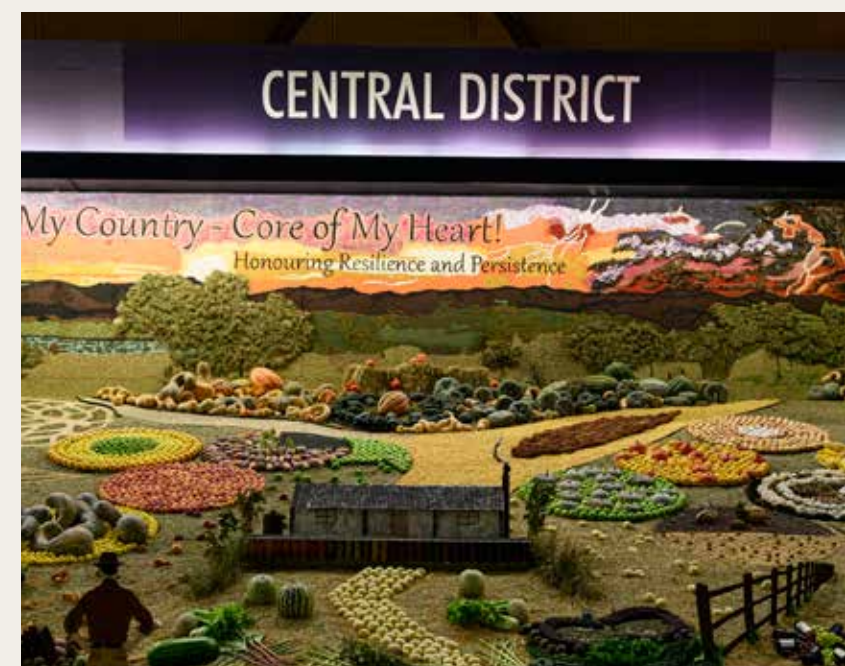
Alison is the manger for Central. At 42, she's thought to be the youngest court manager ever, but she's already clocked up loads of experience, serving as vice-president of Central for 14 years before taking on the presidency two years ago.

'You put just as much effort into everything you bring down here for everyone else, but to win something that you've grown and you've handpicked yourself, it's just that bit extra.'

It's a first-time win for Alison.

'My dad can remember the draught horses, planting the corn, and cleaning the corn. And he can remember wrapping it all up with his father and putting it on the passenger train to go down to Central Station, and then I started with my dad. And now I've got my six-year-old and my eighteen-year-old helping me.'

Part of the emotion of the win may also be to do with the tough run everyone's had in the District Exhibits over the last few years. In 2019, drought ravaged the country and quality produce was hard to come by. Central just managed to scratch together enough to mount a display, but not sufficient to be judged. So, they withdrew from the competition, leaving the other courts to battle it out. Then the



2020 Show was cancelled, and in 2021 lingering worries about COVID, mixed with the devastation of repeated floods, led to a display-only Show for all.

Getting going again in 2022 was a real struggle. Many producers closed down, or forgot about the Sydney Show as they battled to restore their properties. People fell out of the twelve-month routine needed to get things ready. It's still not easy, but individuals are finally starting to come forward again with offers to get involved.

While we talk in the work area behind Central, Alison's little boy Michael runs around, pausing to grab butter out of the fridge to make himself a snack – a hot cross bun topped with tomato sauce. The unflappable Alison shrugs and smiles. He ate one last night and survived. A bigger worry, but still not a huge one, is the brown snake shut inside her laundry, which she'll have to deal with tonight, after the four-hour drive home later this afternoon. Her father discovered the intruder and slammed the door on it, wisely deeming it something they'd need to manage together.

The Gloucester dairy farm that Alison has been coming and going from for the last three weeks while she juggles farm duties with work on Central's display, was bought by her grandfather, Gordon Ritter, in 1937. He began competing successfully in maize and sorghum classes in the early 1940s, continuing until his death in 1978, when son John took over.

ABOVE Central District were the winners of the the Colin Smith Perpetual Trophy. **BELOW** The Colin Smith Perpetual Trophy.



We grow five acres of corn just for Sydney Show. We grow Open Pollinated, which is Red Hogan and Manning White.

Back when Gordon started, nearly 30 maize classes were judged in the Agriculture section, in addition to those included in the District Exhibits competition.

Maize is an important crop, of historical significance in Australia for its role in sustaining Sydney's starving first colonists, but really coming into its own in the early 20th century when its suitability for stock feed and pit silage was recognised. Kernel, leaf and stem are all useful, and the high starch content makes it particularly good fodder for dairy cows.

Though the idea of silage is as old as the Egyptians, the practice was uncommon in Australia until the 1920s, when the RAS began heavily promoting the concept through a series of conferences and competitions, backed by the Department of Agriculture. With Australia's variable climate, the notion of growing crops to set aside in storage pits to draw on in hard times was an easy sell. Participation in competitions took off. At the same time, RAS field wheat and maize competitions were also well supported. By the mid-1930s, judges reported that farmers' knowledge of seed varieties, seed selection, and soil preparation had vastly

improved. During the period 1925-1935 maize yields almost doubled in some areas of the state.

Green maize has to be carefully handled for judging. Alison explains: 'We grow five acres of corn just for Sydney Show. We grow Open Pollinated, which is Red Hogan and Manning White. You need to get it right at its prime stage where the farmers would be chopping it and putting it in their pit. And you've got to try and keep it alive because we're judged on freedom from

She can remember going around with her mother, watching her pull up by the side of the road, collecting grasses for the Sydney Royal. 'I think I got the grass obsession from that.'

disease and green leafiness. So we've got to pick ours probably 24 hours before, so we can wrap it up, have a sleep, and leave early to get here by lunchtime.'

For cob and grain classes the offerings also have to be perfect. To get the three kilos of grain required for this year's champion sample, Alison and her kids sat on the lounge room floor handpicking kernels, grain by grain. 'They have to be identical. No black tip, full kernel, evenness. Three hours of sorting... But it was worth it, cos we got the trophy!'

Alison's daughter Jess joins us at the table behind Central's deck. She's at university studying agronomy, but wants to stay involved: 'I've watched Mum and Pop slave over this for years and I just want to do it and keep the family tradition alive. Then when I have my kids, I want to get my kids into this, because without the family traditions all this is going to shut down.'

She can remember going around with her mother, watching her pull up by the side of the road, collecting grasses for the Sydney Royal. 'I think I got the grass obsession from that.'

A young Alison playing in the corn fields on her family's property.



As part of the competition, each district has to present at least 30 different varieties of grass feed. Sourcing them is just another of Alison's jobs, on top of all the admin, organising trucks and deliveries, co-ordinating volunteers, getting passes and finding accommodation.

Jess hopes to continue collecting grass samples for the competition when she's qualified. She's already a handy young judge, too, reaching the state finals in Fruit & Veg, Grain, and Dairy Cattle. We joke that she can never move out of Central district – keen young volunteers like her are precious. Alison pipes up. Last year Jess started dating a boy from Northern when she was down for the Show and there were quips between the courts about keeping the kids separate. 'They say bring your kids down here, and then they find partners from another district!'

It's nearly time for Alison to hit the road back to Gloucester to help with milking, and face that snake in her laundry. She's tired, but very, very happy. People call by our table to urge her to drive safely – she's



Viewing the award winning grain at this year's Show.

clearly loved for all she is and does. One thing's for sure, the family won't forget to take home the champion medal. Little Michael's been sleeping with it under his pillow. Sister and brother – future managers of the court? •

P.S. Alison reports that despite a thorough search the snake could not be found, perhaps escaping through an old pipe hole in the floor. •

TYRRELL'S



FIVE GENERATIONS OF TYRRELL FAMILY WINEMAKING SINCE 1858



tyrrells.com.au



A pioneer of the region, Tyrrell's is the oldest continuously family owned and operated winery in the Hunter Valley and home to some of Australia's most awarded wines.

Sydney Royal Wine, Dairy & Fine Food

Nothing says “Welcome” or “Let’s Celebrate” better than being offered a glass of wine. When sending a gift basket, nothing pairs better with wine than a cheese or charcuterie accompaniment. If wine and cheese, beer and cider, and all things gourmet foodie are your style, then the RAS has an array of year-round offerings suited especially to you.

The Mission of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS), as it has been now for over 200 years, is to forge the future of Australian agriculture and to continuously improve Australian produce to award-quality levels. This is accomplished primarily through the time-tested approach of competitions because the very nature of competition drives innovation and excellence.

WORDS ELIZABETH A NIXON JD



The RAS takes competitions very seriously because they are the very metron that establishes industry benchmarks and by which success can be measured. The respective Committees work together to develop a carefully curated approach, especially in the Wine, Dairy and Fine Foods department. Not only are the categories themselves designed for the highest and most effective impact on an industry and its relevant markets, but the calibre of judges selected to preside over the competitions is reviewed with utmost care.

Judges of Sydney Royal competitions across the board are experts in their own fields, recognized nationally and internationally for their knowledge of product, knowledge of industry, and knowledge of consumer base. **The purpose and practical impact of high calibre judges means that a Sydney Royal win carries significant gravitas and credence, which impacts market values and establishes industry-wide benchmarks.**

An additional compelling benefit for entrants into all RAS competitions is that these highly influential judges provide feedback and insight, targeting areas where a competitor got it right, and ways in which they can focus to continue to bring product up to the next level. This feedback is available to all entrants, and for first time entrants with a lot to learn, this feedback is invaluable. Where else can you get a professional vigneron or brewer to assess or endorse your product? How else can competitors receive direction from internationally acclaimed professionals in their field? Year after year the RAS sees entrants come back armed with insight and guidance from prior years, rising through the ranks from first-time, non-placing entrant to medal winner.

For competitors, it is their heart and soul, their passion and drive, their pursuit of excellence and innovation that shapes the quality of their products. Entering competitions with product made from heart and passion is a very personal affair. But with no way to get product to market, the consumer base may never discover their art, their craft, their particular sensibility, that just may be the key to unlocking the next generation of innovation in produce.

RAS competitions, festivals and events are both industry-facing and



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consumer-facing, providing maximum breadth and scope for competitors looking to improve their product and get it to market in a profitable way.

The annual Sydney Royal Easter Show is the ultimate event that is both industry-facing and consumer-facing at the same time. For example, this year the aquaculture judging of oysters and prawns was held in the Dome where the public could observe the judging in process while being educated on the how and what the Judges were assessing. Competitions that continue outside

of the Show year-round include wine, beer and cider, cheese and dairy, and fine food, all of which culminate in the highly prestigious President’s Medal Award.

Outside the Easter Show, consumer-facing events and festivals include the exclusive Grape, Grain and Graze event which showcases Sydney Royal winners and trophy holders for wine, beer, cider, cheese, dairy and specialty fine foods. The public can purchase tickets to attend Grape, Grain & Graze where they can sample and experience the best-of-the-best of the Sydney Royal winners, including exclusive Trophy Wine Tasting sessions.

This is the opportunity for the public to “taste and see”, which is invaluable because consumers are less likely to buy a new product at the shop that they haven’t tried before. Grape, Grain & Graze gives them the opportunity to get to know new products, which they are then much more likely to seek out and purchase. It is a known fact among Sydney Royal winners that sales skyrocket after competition wins, often being sold out of winning product within hours of the announcement!

The industry-facing event hosted annually is Taste of Excellence, where in similar fashion the Sydney Royal winners and trophy wine, beer and cider, cheese and dairy, and specialty fine food products are showcased in an expo-tasting setting where industry buyers, restaurateurs, chefs, critics and cuisine innovators all gather to sample what’s new. Restaurant menus are shaped at this event. Grocery-store buyers prepare new inventories at this event. New food producers’ careers are made at this event.

All these competitions, festivals, expos and events are exquisitely hosted by the RAS Wine, Dairy & Fine Food Committees, working closely with the Officials and department staff.

Competition entrants have a lot to celebrate because of the Wine, Dairy & Fine Food Committees and team, and so do all Australians who host celebrations, from a casual Friday evening around a backyard fire pit to a high-brow, high-heel, Quay-side event where Sydney Royal winning products are served.

To the Committees, Officials and Team, in gratitude on behalf of all Australians who value award-quality produce, I raise my Sydney Royal Trophy wine glass to you! •

The RAS and Sydney Showground

Sydney Showground is the venue management arm of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW (RAS) that plays host to hundreds of events annually with world class facilities that cater for diverse event requirements.

As a large event venue located in Sydney Olympic Park, it is one of the city's premier event spaces, hosting a wide range of events including exhibitions, concerts, festivals, conferences and sporting events.

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



What's on

AT SYDNEY SHOWGROUND | SYDNEYSHOWGROUND.COM.AU

OUTDOORS SHOW

14 - 16 JULY

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

Including off-road camper trailers, caravans and tents, new model 4WDs and aftermarket accessories, camping gear and so much more - all in the one spot.

www.4x4show.com.au/sydney

SYDNEY DISABILITY EXPO

4 - 5 AUGUST

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.

www.sydneydisabilityexpo.com.au



SYDNEY'S ANNUAL WEDDING EXPO

6 AUGUST

The Sydney Annual Wedding Expo is one of the largest wedding expos in Australia, with over 120 vendors from the greater Sydney region. We love the local, creative and trendy vibe that our Sydney Bridal Expo brings. Full of colour, inspiration, fun and great live entertainment.

www.weddingexposaustralia.com/sydney-wedding-expo

HEALTH WELLNESS & FITNESS EXPO

6 AUGUST

The Health, Wellness & Fitness Expo is the place to go for the latest in fitness, wellness, nutrition, health, psychology, education and more. This is one of Australia's favourite showcases of wellness solutions and is a unique learning forum for thousands of health-conscious visitors.

Leading health, wellness and fitness companies are exhibiting at the show. Discover the latest technologies and practitioners who are leading the health and wellbeing revolution.

www.healthwellnessfitnessexpo.com.au

HYROX SYDNEY

12 AUGUST

The World Series of fitness racing is finally coming down under! This exciting fitness racing competition has been

making waves around the world, and we are thrilled to bring it to Sydney for the very first time.

HYROX is a competition for everybody. The HYROX combination of running and functional fitness invites athletes of all types to join the HYROX family at the Sydney Showground. So whether you're a seasoned athlete or a fitness enthusiast looking for a new challenge, regardless of your fitness level, come join us in Sydney for the first of many unforgettable experiences.

www.au.hydrox.com

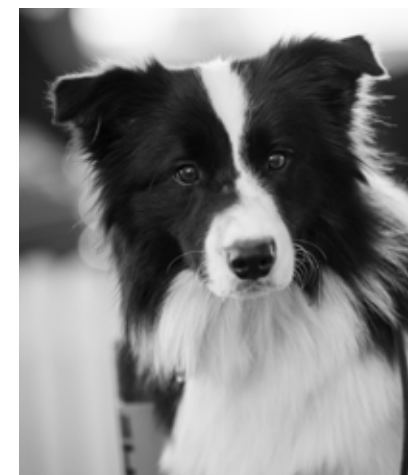
MARLO ALTITUDE: STRONGER TOGETHER

19 AUGUST

After a sold-out show to a crowd of 20,000 last year, MaRLo's ALTITUDE is returning to Sydney on August 19 for its next instalment- ALTITUDE: STRONGER TOGETHER.

MaRLo is ready to take over Sydney Showground with a mind blowing, one-of-a-kind production and massive 4-hour set, which includes the crowd favourite Tech Energy set.

www.symbiotic.net.au



SYDNEY DOG LOVERS FESTIVAL

26 - 27 AUGUST

Find fur-illment at the 2023 Sydney Dog Lovers Festival! It's one of the greatest events in the world dedicated to educating, entertaining and inspiring K9-fanatics.

Meet, interact, learn! Over 100 breeds and 800 beautiful dogs in the Pedigree Adoption Zone, Breed Showcase, Pat-A-Pooch, InstaPooch and SASH Ask-A-Vet.

www.dogloversfestival.com.au/sydney

SYDNEY CAT LOVERS FESTIVAL

26 - 27 AUGUST

Come celebrate everything that's cool about Cats at the first major festival in Sydney dedicated to educating and entertaining feline-fanatics in a truly memorable way. The inaugural Sydney Cat Lovers Festival promises to be the perfect fur-fix for every feline fan and purr-some fun for everyone!

Interact with 200+ rare, pedigree and companion breeds across an array of feline-inspired attractions including the Trouble & Trix Breed Showcase, Breed Information Stage, Pat-A-Cat, and the Whiskas Adoption Zone with litters of reputable breeders taking part too.

www.catloversfestival.com.au/sydney

REEFSTOCK - THE GLOBAL AQUARIUM SHOW

26 - 27 AUGUST

ReefStock Australia is an annual show that has been energizing the local marine and reef aquarium community for years.

From beginners to experts alike, we welcome everyone to join us this August at Sydney Showground for a coral show you won't forget!

www.reefstock.show/australia

CAKE BAKE & SWEETS SHOW

22 - 24 SEPTEMBER

Join us for a day of indulgence and discover the best pastry chefs, bakers and chocolatiers from around the world.

Explore interactive workshops, demonstrations and tastings featuring everything from macarons to show-stopping cakes. With so much to see and do, don't miss out on the chance to satisfy your sweet cravings.

Check out the star studded line-up of celebrity chefs who will be sharing their top tips and tricks for sweet success in the kitchen. Get ready to discover a world of sweet delights at Cake Bake and Sweets!

www.cakebakeandsweets.com/



OZ COMIC-CON

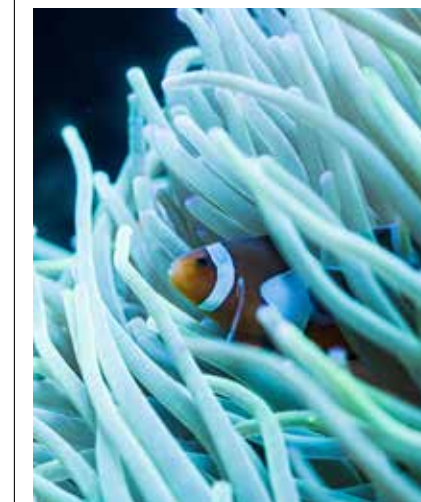
23 - 24 SEPTEMBER

Oz Comic-Con welcomes 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!

Oz Comic-Con truly connects fans with their pop-passions and fosters bonds and lifetime friendships across pop culture fandoms in Australia.

www.ozcomiccon.com/sydney



2023 AFL SEASON

GWS GIANTS VS HAWTHORN
SATURDAY 8 JULY

Round 17

GWS GIANTS VS SYDNEY SWANS
SATURDAY 5 AUGUST

Round 21

GWS GIANTS VS ESSENDON
SATURDAY 19 AUGUST

Round 23





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

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

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

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



THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF NSW WOULD LIKE TO THANK ITS 2023 SPONSORS FOR SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE IN AUSTRALIAN AGRICULTURE AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Grand Champion

Strategic Sponsors



Champion



Blue Ribbon



Red Ribbon



